

STOKE FLEMING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on 20th November 2014

Present: Bob Bennis, Barry Clark, Struan Coupar, Simon Dowden, Jenny Farmer, Katie Franks (Chair), Martin Judd, Mary Newman, Sophie Rae, Nick Wood.

Apologies: Mark Malley, Barry Morris, Sarah Simnett, Nick Teage, Charles Wreford-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th September were approved, and there were no matters arising.

Working Party Reports

Working party reports had been circulated in advance and were taken as read. BC gave a verbal update on behalf of the Planning and Development WP. As far as he could ascertain around 150 people have so far been contacted.

Stoke Fleming School

A draft letter from SS seeking the views of the parents of children at the school was circulated and approved for distribution.

Core Group Recommendations

At its meeting on 12th November the Core Group made a number of recommendations to the Steering Group:

1. That the Housing and Development and Roads and Transport WPs advise the Evidence Base WP of the key topics under consideration by them, and of the information that would be required to support their proposals. **Agreed.**
2. That all members of the Steering Group are able to have open discussion on all elements of the Plan, and that someone from Housing and Development speak on Housing at this meeting. (Since that time it had been suggested that the Consultation WP also speak on developing the website (See below).
3. That the notes of the Evidence Base meeting with SHDC be circulated (which was done as an addendum to the written WP reports).
4. That the draft timetable be reviewed and updated by WPs. **Agreed – Action All.**
5. That matters falling outside the remit of individual WPs be identified and responsibility for them allocated. **Agreed – Action SC.**
6. That the Steering Group should consider whether it is in a position to apply for interim funding, and if so for what purposes. (See below).

Housing

JF referred to the SHLAA documents covering Stoke Fleming and Dartmouth, which are available on the SHDC website, which identify the areas that have been offered for development.

She does not foresee the provision of any link roads, or any further development on School Road beyond what has already been raised. The Parish Council has said it cannot agree to further development without additional infrastructure, and that will not be provided. What SHDC are saying – what they said at the meeting with Evidence Base – does not stand up. They have said 35% affordable housing is the target, yet at West Dart it is 14%. What, in any case, is affordable housing? The properties at West Dart are likely to sell for £250,000 - £300,000, beyond the reach of young families. There was a general discussion on the subject of affordable housing.

JF foresees small-scale development throughout the parish. The Parish Council has argued that there is a need for one-bedroom and live/work accommodation

SC said he had thought that a link road could be a requirement of any future development on School Road, which then would be provided by the developer, instead of cul-de-sac access.

The principle of keeping things simple was reaffirmed.

Website

SC circulated a number of visuals for a website Home Page. Consultation WP members had met with parishioner Emma Dixon, who has offered assistance. The WP is due to meet her again on November 29.

There has been a further meeting with Bob Eaglesfield, who has produced an updated Home Page. That meeting had also drawn attention to need for the website to be accessible in all formats, a feature that had not previously been considered.

Four outside companies had also been asked to submit proposals. KF and SC are due to meet one of those next week.

MM and SR have set up a Facebook page. SR explained the way in which it will help spread the message, linking with the Facebook pages of the Green Dragon, Post Office and others.

SR said the display at the school parents' night had been well received. However, there is a need for one A4 sheet outlining the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and one with contact information.

Steering Group membership

KF said that Amanda Wiltshire had resigned. SC is aware of one person who may be interested in joining. It was agreed that whichever of the two prospective parish councillors was selected would automatically join the Steering Group, and that the other could also be co-opted.

Funding

JF said that the £750 for the website had been received, and the £1,000 that had been applied for previously had now also been approved.

SR wanted to know if some of the money could be used to fund an event for school parents. JF thought that was doubtful but KF suggested a tea party.

SC said that new interim government funding had been put in place to cover the period up to the end of March 2015. A major new support programme for Neighbourhood Planning will

start in April. In each case the money applied for must be spent within the period, and NP Steering Groups must apply in respect of specific needs.

Draft timetable

SC circulated a paper highlighting milestones in the Stoke Fleming NP process. People have been inclined to think that we are at the beginning of the process, and that it will end when the plan is submitted to the parish council, but that is not the case. It is now 13 months since the parish council agreed the area that would be covered by the neighbourhood plan, and by the time it goes to SHDC, the independent examination takes place and the referendum is carried out it will as things stand have been 27 months from start to finish.

Members expressed the view that extending the timetable could lead to people losing interest in the process. It is important to maintain momentum.

It was agreed that the February 25th 2015 date for the next Steering Group meeting, to consider the first draft, should be adhered to. There will be Core Group meetings on 21st January and 18th February. The first of these should be to determine that progress is on track; the WP drafts should be ready in time for the second meeting.

The intention is that the First Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan should set out the Steering Group's proposals in response to the expressed wishes of those who have responded to consultation. The Consultation WP will design a detailed survey, and plan public meetings, to be carried out as soon as the draft is published, and the feedback from that should help shape the Second Draft, due late April. The same procedure would apply in respect of later drafts.

Chairmanship

The Evidence Base WP will assume responsibility for the period January to March 2015.

National Scene

SC said that more than 100 NPs have now been approved, and 1,000 more are now in the pipeline. It seems likely that having a Neighbourhood Plan will become the norm.

Next meetings

As detailed above. The February 25th meeting is dependent on the availability of the Ron Harris Room. The meeting will be at 7.00pm.