

STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP
Minutes of meeting held on 31st January, 2024 at 7.45pm

- 1. Present,** Cllr. Margaret Arger, (MA) Chairman, Robin Oakley, Secretary (RO), Richard Griffiths, Parish Clerk(RG), Cllr. Adele Sharp (AS), Alison Eardley, Planning Consultant (AE), Mrs.Joan Buller (JB), Mr. Colin Love(CL), Mr. Tom Burnham(TB),
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr. John Perry (MBC), Dr. Richard Smith.
- 3. Minutes of Meeting held on 15th August, 2023:** Agreed.
- 4. Matters arising.** None.
- 5. Introductions.** Alison Eardley, the Parish Council's appointed planning consultant for revising the Neighbourhood Plan, was welcomed and introduced to the members, who in turn introduced themselves to her.
- 6. Update.** MA gave a resume of progress since the meeting in August 2023. The Group's proposals for changes to sections of the 2016 NP had been sent to Tom Gilbert, one of MBC's planning officers and he had been to have discussions with members of the Group. He had subsequently forwarded a set of notes and comments and it is clear that the revised NP will have to go out to referendum. The Housing Needs Survey has been done and the consultant who was responsible for this will be attending the next group meeting on 21st February, 2024. The Residents' Survey has been finalised and is on the Parish Council Website and can be seen and responded to via the internet. It is also being sent out as an insert in the Village Update which will be delivered to every house in Staplehurst in week commencing 19 February, 2024, with a reply paid envelope.
- 7. Conservation Area.** RG reported that he had met with MBC's Conservation officer who has produced a Draft Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan dated December 2023. This has been examined by TB, MA and RO and a set of comments have been produced, dated January 2024. The Plan document contained many typographical and spelling mistakes, and showed one property which is not in Staplehurst parish. The Plan has now been sent out by MBC for public comment without any corrections being made. There will be an MBC Public Consultation Event in the North Hall of the Community Centre on Thursday, 22nd February from 2pm to 7pm which residents can attend.
- 8. The next Neighbourhood Plan.** Although she had only received MBC's comments earlier in the day, AE gave a Powerpoint presentation of her comments and preliminary advice on the MBC's response to the Group's proposed changes to the

existing NP. She highlighted things which were or were not acceptable and made suggestions as to what could be altered to meet MBC's comments and suggested additional items which the Group had not considered. It was agreed that RO and another Group member would take AE on a daylight tour so that she can familiarise herself with the parish.

9. Funding for production of the Neighbourhood Plan. RG reported that he has applied for grant funding for the first part of the revision process in the financial year 2023-4 and he will have discussions with AE regarding further funding applications for the year 2024-5.

10. Any other business. There was no further business and meeting closed at 10.20pm.

11. Dates of next meetings. 21 February, 2024 and 27 March, 2024.

Robin Oakley

1 February 2024