

STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP
Minutes of meeting held on 8 February, 2023 at 7.45pm

1. **Present**, Margaret Arger, Chairman (MA), Robin Oakley, Secretary (RO), Cllr. Joan Buller (JB), Cllr. Natasha Davidson-Houston (NDH), Cllr. Joris Eerdekenens (JE).
2. **Apologies:** Richard Smith (Away), Colin Love (Unwell), Tom Burnham (Away)
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January, 2023:** Agreed
4. **Matters Arising.** None

5. **Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national policy.** The Group has been requested to respond as to their views in Questions 5 and 47 of the consultation. JB, MA & RO to respond to Question 47 by 22 February. JE & NDH did not feel knowledgeable enough to comment. A response to Question 5 was given.
6. **Discussion on documentation produced by the Group since April 2021.** A review of the Design Code for Housing in Staplehurst was completed and some amendments were made and noted by MA. Other documents were reviewed and amendments were noted by MA who will produce a final revised version.
7. **Water supply infrastructure, reliability and adequacy for any future developments.** RO said that he had been advised that a meeting had been arranged for 7 February, 2023 with South East Water, which was due to be attended by Cllrs. Reardon, Brice, Perry, Parfitt-Reid and Mrs. Helen Grant MP, to discuss the water company's service failures during the cold weather in December 2022. A report on this meeting is awaited.
8. **Expenditure of S.106 money at the railway station.** RO said that MBC had advised the Clerk that Network Rail were doing surveys/audits of stations on the line and would bring forward proposals. The Clerk has requested MBC to forward the following suggested items for consideration:-
 - Electrical vehicle charging points
 - Tourist Information Board for the local area
 - Environmental improvements to the boundary edge
 - Car port with solar panels (above existing car parking spaces)
 - Solar panels on station building
 - Instal wi-fi
 - Disabled parking bays (some already exist)
 - Disabled persons toilet (already exists but not always working)
 - Community shuttlebus to station from village areas AM and PM on weekdays

- JB and JE both drew attention to the road safety hazard which existed at the junction of Lodge Road and Station Approach which would become more dangerous if Lodge Road is eventually linked to the Dickens Gate site. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask MBC to add this to the list, although RO pointed out that the road junction is on Kent Highways owned roads which are not the responsibility of Network Rail. Road Safety Group to be informed of this request by way of a copy of these minutes to Malcolm Buller.

9. **Allotments at Dickens Gate Development.** JB confirmed that her meeting with the developers has been postponed to 22 February due to the wet ground conditions.

10. **Answer to FOI request to Southern Water.** It was noted that Southern Water have replied to the Clerk seeking clarification of what information is required and RO and the Clerk have revised the request which has been re-submitted.

11. **Provisional dates of future meetings, all to be held in the Youth Club:-**

Wednesdays, 8th March (Chaired by Tom Burnham), 12th April, 24th May.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Robin Oakley 9 February 2023