

STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP

Minutes of virtual meeting held on 24th November, 2021 at 7.45pm

1. **Present**, Margaret Arger, Chairman (MA), Cllr. Joan Buller(JB), Tom Burnham (TB) Robin Oakley, Secretary(RO),
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Paddy Riordan (on Training Course), Colin Love(CL) (delayed by work), Cllr. John Perry (JP) (attending MBC meeting), Cllr. Colin Bowden (CB) (family illness), Robin Kenworthy (RK) (unwell), Cllr, Adele Sharp (AS) (family illness).
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 27th October, 2021:** Agreed, with matters arising.
4. **Matters Arising.** JB asked that the document setting out the SNPRG's comments on Neighbourhood Plan Policies C1 to C6 should be amended by removal of the final sentence on C5 which reads as follows:- ' The existing policy supporting test will need discussing and probably re-wording'. It was agreed that this should be deleted. It was noted that the traffic survey was now under way.
5. **Staplehurst Conservation Area Review.** The Parish Clerk has reported that she had met with the Conservation Officer and his team at MBC and they have told her that there is no prospect of a review in the foreseeable future and that a review would cost between £7000 and £10000. It was suggested that JP should be asked to try and ensure that the MBC's Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee is aware of the need for Staplehurst to be at the head of any list for future Conservation Reviews.
6. **Government Pilot Scheme to develop a Design Code.** The Chairman advised that she had received two E mails from the Government Department dealing with this, advising that there is a further delay, for which it apologises.
7. **Kent Design Code.** After some discussion it was agreed that the Code was rather disappointing and was really only a copy of the National Design Code.
8. **Tunbridge Wells Local Plan.** It was generally considered that this Plan was difficult to follow. Concern was again noted that the proposed new housing in the towns and villages to the south of Staplehurst would add to the traffic and have a huge impact on the A229 though Staplehurst. It was also noted that there is a proposal to build houses on the old Outpatients' Department building, now redundant, at Benenden Hospital which will add to traffic through Sissinghurst on to the A229.
9. **Any other business.**
Maidstone Borough Local Plan.
JB has produced a set of comments on the Plan and this will be discussed at the next full Parish Council meeting. RO had made some suggestions as to some changes which might be made to the part listing items of Staplehurst Infrastructure which are lacking and JB said that she will consider the suggestions before the comments are offered to the full council.
Future work of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that the work of the Group should continue with a review and comments on Objectives O1 to O7, with Group members familiarising themselves and noting any suggestions as to changes and additions which might be considered, before the next Group meeting. In response to an E mail from RK,TB informed everyone that there is a Kent Historic Environment Record on line.
10. **Dates of future meetings.** It was agreed that there would **not** be a Group meeting in December 2021. The dates for the next meetings are in 2022 on January 19th, February 16th & March 16th.