

STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP

Minutes of virtual meeting held on 30th March, 2022 at 7.45pm

1. **Present**, Margaret Arger, Chairman (MA), Cllr. Joan Buller (JB), Tom Burnham (TB) Robin Oakley, Secretary (RO), Colin Love (CL), Robin Kenworthy (RK). Cllr. Paddy Riordan (PR), Cllr. Adele Sharp (AS).
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Colin Bowden (CB). It was noted that Cllr. Bowden and Cllr. Perry have recently had some health issues and the meeting passed on their best wishes that both would soon be feeling better.
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 16th February, 2022:** Agreed, with no matters arising, apart from the fact that the Group had been unsuccessful in achieving help from the Government Pilot Scheme for the preparation of the Staplehurst Design Code.
4. **Suggested Revisions to Neighbourhood Plan Objectives O1 to O7, for approval before passing to Parish Council.** On O1 after some discussion and a vote it was agreed that the safeguarding of the suggested railway crossing west of the existing Maidstone Road crossing should be retained. On O3 it was agreed that whilst cul-de-sacs might be acceptable within new housing developments, any new development should have at least two connection points to main roads, i.e. one long spine road from a main road in cul-de-sac form must not be allowed. JB suggested, and it was agreed that Objective O3 should become a Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan and she offered to write the Policy clause. Some discussion took place on the suggested new pedestrian crossings outside the Community Centre and opposite Hallwards on the Cranbrook Road, and it was agreed that perhaps these could be funded by the new housing for the elderly, proposed for the former Texaco filling station site. It was pointed out that it would be necessary for there to be a reduction in the speed limit to 30 miles/hour in Cranbrook Road before a pedestrian crossing could be sited there. It was noted that the amount of traffic on the A229 is much greater than at the time when the present pedestrian crossing in the High Street was placed there following the death of a pedestrian hit by a vehicle. It was agreed that subject to the foregoing changes being made the recommended revisions should be passed to the Parish Council for consideration.
5. **Review of Neighbourhood Plan Section VH1 and Objectives O8 and O9.** It was agreed that VH1 was satisfactory and did not require amendment. O8 requires the provision of a pedestrian crossing outside the Community Centre to encourage linked walking trips in this area and the maps on Page 41 needed updating and revision. More dropped kerbs are needed in the central area of the village to enable everyone to move around safely. The expression 'Village Centre' needs to change to 'Community Centre' throughout the document where it relates to the building. In O9 the present text in para. 10.8 is mainly fine but in line 2 'church' should be 'churches'. Add to para 10.8 'Provision of a cycle rack in the Parade area would encourage cycling' and RK suggested that these could be located under the stairs which lead to the flats above the shops. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should be asked, by way of these minutes, to add the provision of cycle racks to the Parish Council's next meeting agenda.
6. **Any other business(A)** RK pointed out that he had forwarded to all members of the Group, the following suggestions for future work for the group:-
 - (i) Consider Egerton's Neighbourhood Plan Policy P2 – Trees, hedges and Woodland, 5.2 onward.
 - (ii) Consider whether the Parish Council should ask it's 'Greener Staplehurst Group' to review what might be done in Staplehurst, or whether it should be suggested that the Parish Council should set up a new Environmental Act Group with a wide remit.

RK also drew attention to his recent E-mail about a KCC consultation document, entitled 'Have your say on Kent's new tree establishment strategy', which can be responded to by 2nd May, 2022, and given the short timescale for responding, the Group asks by way of this minute, whether the Parish Council should consider responding.

RK also mentioned a consultation on Biodiversity Net Gain regulations and implementation to which he had drawn attention of members by E mail, but the Chairman felt that this was outside the scope of the

NPRG as it needed consideration by someone with scientific knowledge on biodiversity. PR said that the Greener Staplehurst Group do consider biodiversity and the parish council is mindful of the need for biodiversity.

- 7. Any other business (B)** JB said that it was important that the Group progresses its revision of the various sections of the NP and suggested that at the next meeting the agenda should include consideration of Policy GW1, Objectives O.10 & O.11, and Policy E1. This was agreed.

8. Dates of future meetings.

Wed. 20th April

Tues. 17th May

Wed. 15th June

Wed. 20th July

Wed. 17th August

Tues. 20th September

Robin Oakley 31st March, 2022