

## **Neighbourhood Plan – Open Spaces, Sports & Leisure**

Notes of a meeting of the **Topic Group- Open Spaces, Sports & Leisure** held on **15<sup>th</sup> March 2017** at **2pm** in the Town Council Chamber: -

Present: Cllr Sheila Lister (Chairman), Tony Abel (Vice-Chairman), Rob Parsonage, Vic & Gwen Farrant, Ian Pilcher, Cllr Paul Darby

NP Consultant: R Morfey  
Town Clerk: R Bishop  
Office Administrator: Mrs H Duggan

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Ray Ewart – Swaffham Football Club  
Pat Welsh – Garden Science Trust

### **2. Introductions and Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the group and outlined the progress so far, that an initial meeting had identified some of the issues. The group introduced themselves around the table and gave a brief comment on their background and/or interest in the neighbourhood plan.

- Tony Abel – long term memory of culture of Swaffham, shared home town with Watton, 20+ years as a house builder, best contribution is planning and town planning
- Rob Parsonage – background is finance, specifically electronic and web support.
- Vic & Gwen Farrant – new to Swaffham last year, took on new allotments. Background is in allotments, previously helped on a delegate site and Mrs Farrant was a treasurer.
- Ian Pilcher – previously had his own company in sports management and promotion. Sports being a great enhancer for people, great opportunity to promote Swaffham as a short-term weekend place to visit, very keen to involve the bird watcher and walking communities more.
- Cllr Paul Darby – Cllr & Mayor of Swaffham as well as Breckland District Councillor, substitute on the Breckland Planning Committee; looking for joined up thinking
- Cllr Shelia Lister – passion in the Recreation Ground and play areas of Swaffham. Fully involved in new the Sk8 & MUGA now being built in the town. Keen to encourage more children to use outside areas.

### **3. Vice Chairman**

Cllr S Lister proposed that Tony Abel be appointed Vice Chairman; all were in favour.

**It was agreed that Tony Abel would take on the role of Vice Chairman for the group.**

### **4. Discussion Points**

Site for consolidated Sports & Leisure area - it was suggested a large site – approx. 20/40 acres is looked at to hold a consolidated sports & leisure facility for the town, with ease of access and incorporating existing sports facilities.

Various options were discussed:

- 1 - Shouldham Lane Allotment site
- 2 - Mr Dennis field at bottom of Brandon Road
- 3 - Land immediately adjoining the Swaffham Rugby Club.

This would be in addition to existing and new play areas around the town within housing developments.

Updated Maps of Swaffham – The Town Clerk to obtain up to date maps of Swaffham.

Sports & Leisure meeting – it was suggested that a meeting with representatives from local sports, leisure facilities is organised, like the Education meeting held in Nov 2016 as it would be beneficial to help gather more thoughts and ideas from locally interested parties.

**It was agreed that a meeting would be organised with local Open Spaces, Sports & Leisure representatives for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm in the Town Hall.**

**5. Date of Next Meetings**

- Sport & Leisure meeting – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 4-6pm, Town Hall
- Formal meeting – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 2pm Town Hall

Meeting Closed at 3.05pm