

Stoneleigh and Ashow Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee meeting

27 February 2023

Minutes

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies

Apologies received and accepted from Celia Baly.

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were reviewed and approved.

4. Funding

We have received the approved funding from Locality and YourLocale have submitted an invoice to the PC for payment.

The new funding round is likely to open around April. Gary to work with the clerk on a further bid which will support the next lot of work which will be an advanced part of the process.

Funding should remain a standard agenda item in case anything should need to be discussed.

5. Designation update

No update. Clerk to contact WDC for an update. There is a legislative requirement for WDC to provide us with the designation.

No more funding will be available unless the designation is established, so it is critical to get designated.

6. Vision Statement

No mention of employment land. Gary would like to build the vision statement into the display boards for additional comments. Gary suggests adding 'the parish is supportive of employment activity which is appropriate to the community and does not impact upon the character of the area.' If we have something in the vision statement it helps to then have a policy in the plan. There are boundaries to

employment activity and Gary would recommend replicating those boundaries within the plan. There are things that can be said and added alongside employment areas. There are residents that utilise the employment land.

Gary suspects that there will be something about employment land in the Local Plan so there should be something in the Vision Statement so that it pulls it all together. Gary suggests the following addition to the vision statement:

‘The Neighbourhood Plan is supportive of appropriate employment activities within the designated employment sites, which meet the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan and development outside of these areas, where they are in keeping with the character of the area and avoid harmful impacts.’

It doesn't need to be finalised now; it is a discussion point.

Richard asked what would be classed as employment areas. Gary confirmed that there are two areas in the local plan that are highlighted as employment land: Stoneleigh Park and Abbey Park.

Tony added that there is a huge employment land in our area. We need to ensure protection of the area from an increase in scale and development.

Gary would like to propose further restrictions to what is already in the local plan and added that the plan can be amended depending on the green belt review.

John agreed that if we want to stop it turning into housing, we probably need to support it as employment land.

Anthony questioned what had been discussed about Kings Hill, and how it sits in the plan. Gary replied we are still in an early process in the plan and will be discussed further down the line.

Gary explained that the Parish already has infil village boundaries and there are policies that state development outside of these boundaries will not happen, other than in very special circumstances. We could draw a settlement boundary outside of this new development. Can offer the developmental green spaces protection, this could protect against sprawl and encroachment.

It was agreed that the amendment suggested by Gary is added to the vision statement.

This conversation is a bit premature; we are at the stage setting part of the process. There will be opportunity to go through these issues in more detail at later stage.

7. Scoping paper

Gary went through the Scoping paper. He is hoping there will be up to date demographic data from the latest census (2021) within the next 2-3 months. A lot of the data is based on statistics from last census in 2011.

Gary will send source data for the scoping paper.

Richard asked if we could we include some of the data as questions in our questionnaire. Gary agreed that we could especially around Working from Home.

The purpose of the scoping paper is a discussion point, it will not be submitted. It informs people that a Neighbourhood Plan isn't just about housing.

Tony said that the scoping gives you a vibe of what the village is all about. Could that also drive positive things to the village, community needs etc.

Large scale development would incur developer contributions. The Neighbourhood Plan in addition to planning policies can have a list of community actions. Through the NP, open events, questionnaire, we can highlight and inspire a need for things such as play areas. In some areas once the plan has been made some groups have continued as a committee, a CIC and have been able to secure grants and put things into practice.

Gary added that policies from elsewhere include farm diversification and through support of a Neighbourhood Plan have developed farm shops and other activities.

Richard confirmed that we will send comments on various points on the paper.

8. Questionnaire

Richard felt that carrying out the questionnaire is essential, last time we got 27/550 responses.

Gary informed the group that other parishes have offered a cash prize/meal for two for completed questionnaires (names drawn out of a hat). Also, encourages people to put names on the forms. Gary would like us to go through the questionnaires and see what questions are appropriate. They can let us know what the main problems are in the community, if there was to be housing what type/form should it be?

Yourlocale have a licence with survey monkey which allows us to make to questionnaires online forms. Online doesn't prevent people responding and allows more than one person in the household to complete.

Timeframe for questionnaires. It will feed into the overall evidence base. Would be helpful if some people could get together before the next meeting. One of the examples could fix the bill or could have a couple of changes.

We would aim to give people three weeks to complete. Be good to get the questionnaires out fairly quickly. Feel free to contact Gary in between meetings or share thoughts in between meetings. This is one of a range of consultation measures undertaken as part of this process.

We can promote the questionnaire in the S&A newsletter, put on website and noticeboard.

9. Open event

Open event is to let people know that the Neighbourhood Plan is happening, invite comment and hopefully get some more volunteers.

Gary and John Martin (environmental lead) will be attending from Yourlocale.

We will transfer the materials from Stoneleigh to Ashow.

We ideally need someone on reception, then people standing with the display boards.

We will meet at 9.45am at Stoneleigh Village Hall for a briefing before the start of the meeting at 10am.

10. Display boards

There will be different exercises that people can interact with. Two map-based exercises, one housing related and one green space/view/recreation based.

Gary has sent through the display board designs but he would like to change some of the images which he has been sent.

11. Date of next meeting(s)

Open event at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Saturday 4th March 2023 at 10am.

Face to face meeting at Stoneleigh Village Hall on Thursday 27th April 2023 at 7pm.
