

Tenterden Town Council

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

Meeting 30th July 2019

Present:

Cllr Jean Curteis [part]
Cllr Kate Walder
Irene Dibben
Joseph Franklin
Richard Masefield
Sue Quinton
Graham Smith
Helen Whitehead

Apologies

Cllr John Crawford
Barrie Arch
Adam Cooper
Siggi Nepp
Stephen Sidebottom

1 **Minutes** of the Meeting 25 June 2019 were accepted.

2 **Matters Arising**; The Committee agreed that the documents presented by John were helpful. The Committee supported the liaison with Gravity Global and were grateful for their offer of help with the visual presentation of the Plan, virtually gratis. The issue on safe/fireproof storage of NP data remains outstanding

ACTION: Resolve the issue on safe storage. Irene to forward to Joseph the TC Code of Conduct for signing.

3 Resignation of Adam Cooper

The Committee regretted the resignation of Adam Cooper whilst fully understanding its necessity. They thanked him warmly for his contribution; in particular for the Communications & Public Engagement strategy document he has recently submitted.

4 Cllr Walder report on 2 local developments

Kate reported on the recent Court of Appeal Gladman case concerning the interpretation of Local Plan policies and according them a higher statutory status. The Committee considered that this decision could be helpful. Kate also reported on ABC's TPO protection of a significant acreage of woodland in Newenden. This was considered relevant to perceived threats to trees in potentially designated green spaces. Kate to study the TPO and report further.

5 Structure of NP Report

To stimulate debate on the subject, Richard presented a preliminary draft illustrating a possible structure for the eventual TNP. He will forward digital versions to the Committee.

ACTION: Committee members to read and comment.

6 J Boot September workshop

The date of the workshop was agreed for 19 September 2019, when the majority of Committee members would be available

ACTION: Irene to email members with the date, time and venue, and confirm with Jim Boot.

7 Working Group Reports

- a) Green Space in Town: Graham and Sue reported. The Long List of sites currently stands at 115. The committee discussed the nature of sites and the selection process for deciding on a shorter list. It was agreed that the Long List should be discussed at the next SC meeting, using a 'traffic light' system to rate the sites for more detailed evaluation
Action; discussion to appear as a main topic the August Agenda.
- b) Biodiversity and Wildlife: Richard reported on evidence gathering within the group, which now has the full kit for species identification and pond dipping. It's increasingly clear that the parish has a wide variety of rare/endangered species of plants, birds and animals. Over the last two years 17 bird species on the British Ornithological Trust's 'Red List' for birds of conservation concern have been recorded locally, with 15 on their 'Amber List'.
- c) Landscape and Character: Helen reported that in a meeting 2 weeks ago the group had divided the Parish into 5 sectors. The group is working in pairs on desk research before proceeding to fieldwork. Helen has briefed Jerry D'Arts of the Tenterden Camera Club, who is already involved in photographing Tenterden landscapes. The Committee queried whether the group's parish divisions might be helpful to other working groups, the Green Space in Town group in particular.
Action; Helen to gain access to the St Mildred's church tower for Jerry D'Arts. Graham and Helen to meet to consider using the 5 parish divisions for mapping the Long List of sites prior to the August meeting
- d) Routeways: Richard referred to Stephen's written report. Members of the group are separately considering primary and secondary cycling routes identified by Sustrans. Circular cross-country routes relating to key destinations are also under study, including work by Sustrans on a Tenterden-Headcorn cycle-way.
Action; Stephen to draft a short route assessment framework and user survey. Committee members to read his full report, as below.
- e) Communications and Engagement: The importance of a website was again stressed. Later in the meeting it was agreed that Kate should seek quotations for the creation of a website. Adam Cooper was again thanked for submitting the strategy paper. All were asked to consider additional members for recruitment to this working group. In the meantime, it was agreed that Kate should take the lead
Action; Kate to study Adam's recommendations in detail (available as below); also to seek quotations for creating a website
(For details of Routeways report and Communications and Engagement strategy, see Dropbox Minutes folder)

8 Environmental Impact Assessment

The Committee's letter to the Town Council in favour of an EIA prior to a building application on Limes Land was supported by a majority and has since appeared on ABC's planning portal as a Consultee comment on behalf of the Town Council. All were thanked for the work involved in its preparation

9 Homewood super 6

Richard reported on his recent meeting with Gavin Mills, Director of Sixth Form at Homewood School, which was also attended by Jo Gandolfo for the Civil Society. Having noted the age demographic of Tenterden and the importance of engagement

with young people in the town, Richard has agreed to involve an interested group of sixth-formers, the 'Super 6', in a weekly teaching session on the Neighbourhood Plan (Period 6 on Thursdays at 2.00pm, starting early October). School publicity for these sessions invites students to take part in the democratic process of the NP and assist with one of its 5 working groups. A DBS check is required to lead a class unsupervised, which Richard and Siggie have already undertaken. The Committee approved the initiative as important and helpful.

ACTION: Committee to consider whether other individual members might assist. Helen volunteered to be DBS checked. Richard will arrange.

10 Treasurer's Report

In Barrie's absence, Richard reported that of the £11,000 allocated by the Town Council for the financial period ending April 2020, £2,773.98 has been spent so far, leaving a working balance of £8,676.02. A Locality grant of £9,000 remains available and accessible over more than one year. Following discussion it was agreed to consider application for a Locality grant if a significant need for expenditure could be identified above the minimum Locality requirement of £1,000. Lesser payments may be made out of the TC balance.

Action; Kate to seek a quotation for the creation of a website (as above).

12 AOB

The issue of green spaces within existing new developments was requested as an Agenda item for the next meeting. The loss of the BMX site in the Bells Lane wood was noted, and Joseph reported that although provision for students riding mountain bikes would be provided in the woods at Homewood, this would only be available in school time/termtime. More information is needed on the mud ramps in Knock Wood, while it was agreed that Local Green Space to be considered for the NP should take account of the leisure needs of the younger generation.

ACTION: New 'green space in new developments' topic to be added to the August Agenda.

Next Meeting, Tuesday 27 August at 4pm; location to be the Mayor's Parlour