



TENTERDEN

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Tenterden Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee Meeting 4 March 2020

Present:

Irene Dibben
Joseph Franklin
Richard Masefield
Sue Quinton
Samantha Reed
Stephen Sidebottom
Helen Whitehead

Apologies:

Cllr J Crawford
Cllr J Curteis
Cllr Kate Walder
Siggi Nepp
Graham Smith

1 Minutes of 5 February 2020 were accepted and approved

2 Matters Arising

Richard thanked the committee and working groups for all the work carried out so far. The committee in turn thanked Richard for his leadership and hard work.

Richard noted the offers of additional help from residents to be taken up when specific ideas emerge. He also commented on changes suggested by Tony Fullwood on the format for green space description.

3 Tony Fullwood proposals for NP

Tenterden Town Council have approved Tony's appointment and the fee. Irene was asked to contact the Town Clerk to formally approve the contract in response to Stephen's email.

Richard outlined the correspondence with Tony regarding the various types of character assessments. Another issue covered was the possibility of seeking further funds from Locality. The cost of further consultancy was discussed in terms of what it might contribute to the Neighbourhood Plan.

There are 3 appraisal/assessment areas to be considered for the NP. After debate it was agreed that there was sufficient information on Character Area Assessment not to require a separate proposal from Tony Fullwood. On the subject of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, further information should be sought by Irene from Councillor Justin Nelson about the Council's focus group. It may be that information and costs can be shared. It was agreed to ask for a proposal from Tony Fullwood for Landscape Character Assessment [to be renamed for clarity Local Landscape Study], seeking clarity on content in relation to

other studies, the level of detail required, and the essential contribution and availability of mapping predominantly focusing on green spaces.

It was agreed that additional help might be considered from identified landscape architects on a limited basis, if appropriate.

4 Proposal for Economic Development of Tenterden;

Stephen spoke of the circulated paper, which he had given at the Civil Society meeting on 28 February. He was thanked for an articulate and important statement. There was a wide-ranging discussion about the broader economic case for Tenterden which can inform the NP. Tony Fullwood has identified a number of points of possible of relevance to the NP; the success of agribusiness, the heritage landscape, thriving markets, shared working environments, attracting new people to the town, and the wellbeing of residents. The discussion ranged around the relevance to the Plan and management of the Civil Society work without delaying the NP. The opportunity to enhance the plan through collaborative working was agreed.

6 Working Groups

- a) **Green Spaces** Sue outlined the feedback from Tony about the proposed comments on the template. The main discussion focused on his question about support from landowners. The importance of landowners' involvement was emphasised. A discussion on further public engagement followed and the possibility of taking a stand at the May Fair raised
- b) **Landscape** Helen reported on a meeting in February and the work being carried out with the Green Spaces group. The importance of mapping was raised again. This group have divided the Parish into 5 along the pattern of roads. It was agreed to seek Tony's view on whether this was helpful.
- c) **Routeways** Stephen summarised his conversation with the residents of Sandy Lane and his subsequent speech at the Planning Committee as an individual resident. Various conflicts of interest were noted. Sue stated that Sandy Lane had been included in the list of green spaces for potential LGS designation, rather than simply as a routeway. The Committee supported Stephen's statement to the residents in line with previously agreed TORs. 1) The Committee cannot comment on planning applications. 2) The Routeways group recognised that Sandy Lane is a valued routeway. 3) Individual members of the NPSC are free to support or object to planning applications as long as they do not represent their comments as being on behalf of the NPSC. 4) If a conflict is disclosed they may still participate in discussions but not in decisions where such a conflict exists. 5) Sending an email to residents about this issue is both outside the remit of the committee and against GDPR commitments.
- d) **Biodiversity** Richard reported on the survey of Homewood School farm meadows. The Committee agreed that they should be added to the list of green spaces. He also reported on the 2 presentations at Kench Hill. He noted the importance of The Environment Bill and its requirement to consider biodiversity gain or loss. Kent Wildlife Trust [KWT] will support this work. The second presentation by the Education & Engagement Manager of KWT involved community engagement work that might be used in Tenterden as a test area. The Committee supported an official approach to

Cllr. Alan Sugden requesting involvement with native species planting on the recreation ground. The group will assist with the current Town Council management of Kiln Field by conducting a habitat survey there

Finally, Richard reported that Mankind International are hoping to plant 8-10 trees in Tenterden in September. The working group will assist the Town Council in deciding where. Also mentioned was the appointment by the Town Council of Matt Summerfield to carry out gardening in the town.

- e) **Communications** Joseph was thanked for his presentation at the Civil Society conference. It was a succinct and interesting report. The importance of young people and their interests in the NP and wider Tenterden environment was emphasised. He regretted the small attendance of young people and is considering how to increase involvement. He suggested a presentation at the school with the support of staff, students and the Head Boy. At the conference, a survey of young people revealed their view of the importance of affordable housing, biodiversity and local employment. It was agreed that Joseph would talk to Kate on the subject of the May Fair.

6. Expenditure to year end and locality Invoices are to be submitted for Routeways, Kench Hill and Biodiversity. Tony Fullwood's initial charge needs to be presented by 23 March.

7 AOB

- a) The importance of representation on the committee of a younger person was agreed. Joseph hopes to continue to liaise with the School Trust during his gap year.
- b) Sam Reed asked when the site data was going to be written up and wondered if we needed this for Tony's draft NP.