

Stonehouse Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015

1. Present: Nick Chase (NC), John Jeynes (JJ), Ollie King (OK), Gary Powell (GP), Rachel Russell (Minutes), Claire Sheridan (Chair)
2. Apologies:, Chris Cowcher, Hugh Garai, Carol Kambites, Alastair Shankland, Vicky Redding, Terry Webb, Rob Waite.
3. Declarations of interest: None
4. Accuracy of the minutes and Actions: The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Working Group meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were approved with one addition under item 8, Neighbourhood Planning Consultancy Proposal:  
**ACTION:** RR to ask Stuart Todd if tasks outlined in his fee proposal of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 include undertaking research and evidence gathering as well as reviewing research and evidence gathered to date.

SDC, Sustainability Appraisal and SEA/HRA

RR met with Ricardo Rios, Neighbourhood Planning Officer, SDC at Ebley Mill on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Ricardo was interested in the progress of Stonehouse NP and offered to help with any queries, draft checking etc. Thinks Stonehouse the only group to meet with GFirst so far.

- Sustainability Appraisal: The NP must contribute to sustainable development. As a starting point, a draft Stonehouse NP can be assessed using the sustainability appraisal checklist used by SDC for their Local Plan
- SEA/HRA: Screening to see if these are needed will be done by SDC. Need to have some detail in draft to make an assessment. Location of any sites important. The screening can be done more than once.
- NP guidance on SDC website: coming soon.
- Referendum timetable: Referendums can be held in January, February, July and August. It will take up to 6 months from submitting draft NP to SDC to holding referendum (6 weeks for publication/notification, maximum of 8 weeks for examination, put before at least one and possibly two SDC Committees).

Call for sites:

One response received. Site plan received and circulated. There have been previous planning applications for housing development on the site which were refused on appeal. RR asked for guidance on how to proceed. JJ suggested NP working group need criteria to assess any sites which come forward.

**ACTION:** RR to ask AS for guidance on protocol.

**ACTION CARRIED FORWARD:** CC and VR to arrange meeting with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to discuss possible environmental work for the NDP.

5. Budget Breakdown: An update from VR is needed.
6. Project health check: RR unable to find the latest GANNT chart updated by NC.  
**ACTION:** RR to check messages from [n.chase@acre.org.uk](mailto:n.chase@acre.org.uk).  
**ACTION:** RR to chase GRCC for possible completion date for housing needs work.

7. Feedback from meeting with GFirst LEP 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015:

- JJ and NC gave some brief feedback on this meeting:
- LEP is small, not for profit organisation; 9 employees.
- Just capital funding; LEP acts as bankers.
- Little involvement with transport which is GCC's remit. Suggested parishes work together to bring forward transport proposals.
- Town Council could put in bids for infrastructure.
- Skills/education funding largely goes to FE colleges.

**ACTION:** RR to circulate JJ/NC notes on meeting.

**ACTION:** RR to put infrastructure grant on Regeneration Committee agenda.

8. Neighbourhood Planning Consultancy proposal:

NC explained that quotes for consultancy support were being sought now as they are needed to support a grant application to Locality. There is also around £3,000 underspend from the previous tranche of grant. VR had circulated information on grant applications showing the group needs quotes and a clear work plan in order to apply for the next grant.

RR advised the group that the fee proposal from Stuart Todd is not for writing a draft plan; detailed tasks include advising on an approach to policy drafting and checking draft policies produced by the steering group. After meeting Stuart Todd on 28<sup>th</sup> May, working group members had thought that the consultancy work would include drafting the document.

**ACTION:** RR, NC, VR to meet to agree action plan for applying for grant to be put to next NP working group meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

**ACTION:** RR to begin drafting an outline draft plan in order to collate work that has already been done and to help with identification of gaps in evidence.

**ACTION:** RR to send OK link to Neighbourhood Plan folder on google drive.

9. Neighbourhood Planning Consultancy Support: Transport:

James Hunter of Helix Transport Consultants Ltd contacted Gill Jennings offering assistance with the NDP; he has done consultancy work for Eastington NDP group. CS contacted James who confirmed he is interested in both voluntary and commissioned work and sent a copy of the report he did for Eastington as an example.

**ACTION:** RR to invite James Hunter to next NPWG meeting.

10. Workshop session: Questions and answers with Jim Dickson (JD) of Stonehouse History Group

**Design Statement:** Stonehouse History Group were very involved in developing this and in extensive public consultation. JD disappointed with the implementation of the document. It was not given Supplementary Planning Guidance status and doesn't seem to be used in planning decisions. The Town Green and the High Street are historically important and important to the public, as evidence from public consultation shows.

**Significant buildings and structures:**

- St Cyr's Church and Stonehouse Court are both listed GII\*. There are 38 GII and 12 GII\* monuments in the churchyard. The canal section from Nutshell bridge to the

Ocean is valued and much photographed. Pill box near Bond's Mill now listed at JD's request.

**Smaller but significant structures which are listed include:**

- Mile post in front of pharmacy on Town Green.
- GWR property boundary marker at station. Stonehouse station was saved by public action in the 1970s; a compromise was reached with listed station buildings being demolished and the parish council contributing funds of £20k.

**Important non designated features:**

- Laburnum Recreation Ground; given to town by JCC Kimmins as a Peace Memorial in 1919 (recorded in parish minutes by Jack Anderson, Town Clerk).
- Park Infants School, founded in 1832, a very early example of a National School.
- Horse trough, given in 1914 by the Congregational Church, in hope of peace.
- School playing fields, greens on Park Estate.

JD offered to meet with RR to give more detail if necessary.

11. Any other business:

Next agenda to include Ship Inn site, consultancy work action plan and updated GANNT chart.

12. Date of next meeting: 6.30pm, 9<sup>th</sup> July