



STEERING GROUP MEETING/OPEN FORUM

Minutes of the meeting – 31st October 2018

Held in The George Inn, Upstairs Meeting Room, Maulden 20:00

Present:

Simon Barnes Chairman
Russell Aston Vice-Chairman
Lesley Illingworth Secretary
David Illingworth
Roger Ball
Cllr Philip Jackson Chairman, Maulden Parish Council
Cllr Phil Allen Maulden Parish Council
Alan Plom
Bill Edwards
Cath Benneyworth
Leslee Reynolds
Martin Wright

Apologies:

Sarah Michael - Treasurer
Nigel Coote

Guest – Sue Raven, Greensands Trust

1. WELCOME

SB opened the meeting and stated that the prime focus was the Green Infrastructure Survey (GIS) and resultant Plan (GIP).

2. DISCUSSION POINTS

Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP)

Sue Raven in attendance to answer questions and provide comment and advice to assist the NHP team understand and take forward the GIP. All thought the GIP was a good document and appreciation expressed to SR

The finalised GIP to be published so that the village could see it and comment. This was thought important as this process would validate the results of the survey and support the plan as the workshop was only 149 people. Final comments could still be taken into account but awareness that any additional work would have a cost to it. Suggestion that it be on the NHP and Greensands Trust websites and referred to in the questionnaire, thereby reaching all villagers. A mechanism to monitor and collate feedback/comment would be required.

Comments from attendees to be sent through to SR. Please do so as soon as possible so that it can be finalised. Comments made on the evening:-

- There was no established best practice in taking the GIP forward, different parishes did different things. Maulden was unusual in so far as it has been completed before the questionnaire.
- Appendix 2 - The Local Green Space (LGS) assessment was flagged as particularly important and an area where there could be pushback. The land behind Cobbitts Road is included and so could potentially be excluded from development; in this respect it could be important that the GIP has received widespread validation as per the point above. Cobbitts featured as it was a high profile area at the time of the survey and it was noted there may be other suitable areas. It was also pointed out that areas not included within a LGS assessment could be seen as less important.
- Biodiversity

- The 'Orchards East' project is mentioned, details are with the MPC
- Biodiversity Opportunity Network – Details are on the CBC website
- Nature Improvement Area - The expectation now is for there to be a net gain in biodiversity
- Policies - The accepted process is for the suggested policies to be considered by the NHP and then the MPC asked to develop an action plan to implement.
- Open Space, Access and Recreation (section 5.4)
 - Whilst Maulden has a lot of green space this is skewed by the presence of Maulden Wood and Abbey Lane in the parish and this should be borne in mind when looking at the figures and possibly mentioned in the NHP.
 - Map 5a) shows important gaps in access to green space which could be addressed.
 - Permissive paths highlighted as a possible mechanism to increase access. It was thought much of the land that could be used was CBC owned and could therefore be progressed. The Greensand Country Partnership may be a source of help/support. This would also help progress an idea of linking up the various footpaths in Maulden so that there was a circular route.
- Favourite Walks - The map of favourite walks in appendix 1 could be very useful (re above) but is too small to see. Larger version or a photograph to be sent through. **Action**

Planning Applications

PA went through the applications. Of note was Old Farm and the appeal due for 7th November at the Rufus Centre. 'Piggery' 50 houses – appeal withdrawn. Limbersley Lane, appeal lodged. Cobbitts Road, Conjecture that the 'garage' could be bought to gain access. MPC Land – Exploring Change of use from allotments to agricultural land.

Questionnaire

It was noted that for the village hall meeting some villagers (Hall End and Pine View Park) didn't receive leaflets. Apologies made and it was noted that for the actual questionnaire a different distribution method would be used so the problem shouldn't arise.

The feedback from the village hall meeting had now almost all been incorporated into new/revised questions which would be the focus of the next meeting.

A pilot to test out the questions further was still a possibility.

Finance

Detail deferred but all thought to be in order

NHP Progress

- Updates on the various workstreams deferred to the next meeting
- Chairman to 'touch base' with CBC and BRCC
 - CBC – Sally Chapman (Siobhan Vincent's boss). General update and to receive guidance/advice.
 - BRCC – Jemma McLean jemmam@bedsrcc.org.uk 01234 834931. Process and timescale re questionnaire and collation of the results.

3. AOB

The various surveys undertaken by CBC were mentioned such as the recent Small Farms Survey and the current Digital one. It may be that there is information relating to Maulden that could be available. This would add to the evidence pool. SB to enquire when speaking to CBC.

9. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 28th November at 8pm, Upstairs in The George, as usual.