

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STAPELEY AND DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STEERING GROUP

HELD ON 8 JULY 2015 AT BROAD LANE METHODIST CHAPEL

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors:

Matthew Theobald (Chair), Jo Hillman, Martin Malbon

Volunteers:

Pat Cullen, Noel Wagstaff, Sue Pritchard

Consultant:

Andrew Thomson

Also in attendance until item 7 was Rachel Giles.

- 1) Jo Hillman appointed as note taker
- 2) Apologies for absence: John Davenport, Peter Groves, Val Ingram, Mary Hennessy-Jones.
- 3) Conflict of interests (non-Parish Councillors) – None
- 4) Declarations of interest – None
- 5) Approval of minutes of previous meeting held on 25th June 2015
Approved (It was noted that Matthew's surname was spelled incorrectly and needed changing).
- 6) Wildlife and Habitat Survey

Rachel Giles from Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) came to talk to us about the proposed work and what it entailed, and their relationship with CES.

Rachel explained that she is currently involved in between 8-10 neighbourhood plans including Sandbach, Kelsall and Bunbury.

The information she uses to compile her report includes information from: Natural England, habitat data, and agricultural grading of land, as well as their vast database of information.

They would produce for us, a layered map showing our parish defined as areas using their habitat distinctiveness scores to rate the areas as red, orange or pink depending on their wildlife significance.

This would constitute a map that may be able to be used to pre-empt planning applications and also to highlight areas that we may want to protect such as wildlife corridors. She showed us an example of a map that she had produced for Sandbach.

She mentioned a no net loss policy as a method used to assess different habitats. Within the map, the red areas will show areas that really should be protected, and the orange areas will show areas that we may want to protect.

It will also contain a land assessment which will show physical features as well as ecological networks.

CES (Cheshire Ecological Services) is completely separate from CWT although its profits feed back into CWT as a charity. Rachel Giles assured the Group that she has spoken with her Chief Executive and they are keen to work with us. If it came to a choice between CWT working with us on the Neighbourhood Plan and CES working with Muller, they would choose the work for the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was noted that they would not assess the site physically unless specifically asked to do so. She mentioned that as a timescale, the work would be completed by sometime in September but that we could have the map much earlier to go through to begin informing our green spaces policies.

It was decided that any worries regarding a potential conflict of interest between CWT and CES had been allayed and that the Parish Council should formally accept CWT as the supplier for the habitat and wildlife survey.

7) Housing Needs Survey

Unfortunately, we were not privy to the information received so far from proposed suppliers and so cannot make a recommendation as to which supplier may best support us.

We need to be able to ask certain questions such as “Is the 36,000 housing number proposed by Cheshire East realistic?” and so we would need to see the proposals to see if they differ from the brief, or the methods that they propose to use in order to fulfil the brief.

It is likely that we will need to go back to the companies for clarification as to what they propose to do, bearing in mind the changes that are likely in the Local Plan.

8) Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The draft Housing Policies were again discussed with emphasis on the revisions made by Andrew Thomson.

Transport policies were debated and amended to better reflect the responses received in the second round of consultation, as were Amenities and Well-being policies.

Action: JH to look up the statistics for the number of cars per household from the neighbourhood profile.

9) Any Other Business

- Publishing Information – Action: That Matthew Theobald send the press release to Jo Hillman for update so that it can be forwarded to Carol Jones for publication.
- Sue Pritchard mentioned that a company at Stapeley House was producing software for Conway Council which is going to be used to support all of Conway’s Neighbourhood Plans.
- The situation with the Muller appeal was discussed briefly and Pat Cullen gave an update.

10) Dates of next meetings

Tuesday 21 July 2015, Tuesday 28 July 2015, Monday 10 August 2015.