

SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RECORD OF SUB-GROUP MEETING

Topic sub-group - Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Date of Meeting 06/09/2017 **Time of meeting from** 19.40 **to** 21.21

Location of Meeting Springbank, Plaisters Lane

Present: Katrina Blee, Colin Marsh, Jack Winsper

Apologies: Huw Llewellyn

Key Discussion Points

- KB suggested that the first priority was to identify questions for the Steering Group consultants in readiness for the meeting on 23rd September and went on to explain the background and purpose of this meeting following preparation of the Place Appraisal draft document in order to ensure that Jack Winsper was fully informed. This raised a number of questions in relation to how much onus for biodiversity protection and enhancement could be placed on developers, the need to align with the intent of the Weymouth and Portland Borough Council Local Plan and possible modification of the tree preservation policy.
- Suggested questions were – How far can we go regarding the biodiversity protection and enhancement obligations placed on developers; Could the requirement to seek permission for tree works within the conservation area be relaxed to exclude specified non-indigenous species; How can enforcement be strengthened; Ability to influence/strengthen biodiversity mitigation criteria for new development; Example schemes where voluntary groups have worked with residents to encourage biodiversity on domestic premises.
- It was agreed that we need to establish the scope of current biodiversity protection criteria at the planning stage and seek to enhance this appropriately.
- In relation to the impact of development on biodiversity CM presented an initial map he had prepared of the priority wildlife species and habitat locations within the Neighbourhood Plan area. It was agreed that this was a useful way of presenting such data. JL expressed concern that the content should not be taken as absolutely definitive of what was present and where, since there will inevitably be omissions and KB suggested inclusion of the garden bird survey sites on the map along with the addition of other species such as bats. KB also suggested a colour key for different genera e.g. birds, reptiles, flora. CM identified the option to include land within 'Stewardship' and similar formal schemes and KB suggested obtaining the agreement of the Steering Group that we approach landowners in this respect.
- JW reported back on the review of the 2008/2009 Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group reports and concluded that much updating was required. KB suggested that these reports be referred to in the final Neighbourhood Plan from an historical perspective along with any sources of updated information.

- JW raised the issue of ensuring that the intent of the final plan is carried through in terms of actions and by way of example noted that the status of the AONB was “moderate and declining” and questioned what action was being taken as a result. JW further noted the possible role of the Dorset Local Nature Partnership plan in terms of a possible monitoring function; KB agreed to seek more information about this.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 11th October 2017 at Springbank, Plaisters Lane at 19.30 hours.

Decisions/Actions Taken

- 1. Prepare questions for the meeting with the Steering Group Consultants on 23rd September aligned to those in the second bullet point above – KB**
- 2. Speak to Nick Cardnell of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council about Planning criteria in relation to biodiversity and a list of species that trigger surveys etc. - KB.**
- 3. Seek the permission of the Steering Group for the Biodiversity sub-group to approach landowners regarding biodiversity initiatives that have already been undertaken or are envisaged in the future.– KB**
- 4. Research example biodiversity plans as part of development applications (e.g. Hunts Timber Yard development) - KB**
- 5. Research information on the function of the Dorset Local Nature Partnership – KB.**
- 6. Add Garden Bird Survey sites and key species such as bats to the biodiversity map – CM**
- 7. Review the biodiversity content of the local plan and suggest enhancements from a local perspective – CM.**
- 8. Further develop the draft biodiversity objective for the Neighbourhood Plan - JW**

The meeting finished at 21.21 hours.