

# SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

## RECORD OF SUB-GROUP MEETING

**Topic sub-group** - Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

**Date of Meeting** 11/10/2017      **Time of meeting from** 19.30 to 22.12

**Location of Meeting** Springbank, Plaisters Lane

**Present:** Katrina Blee, Colin Marsh, Jack Winsper      **Apologies:** Huw Llewellyn

### Key Discussion Points

- KB suggested that the priorities for this meeting were the status of actions from the previous meeting, tree survey quotes and draft questions for the second public consultation survey.
- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and the following **actions** confirmed:-
  1. Questions for Steering Group consultation meeting on 23/9/2017 – completed.
  2. Biodiversity Planning Criteria – KB would provide a link to enable follow up on this. JW sought clarification on the difference between ‘should’ and ‘must’ in relation to planning policy and it was considered that they had similar meaning.
  3. Permission to approach landowners- To be ratified at the October Steering Group meeting.
  4. Biodiversity Plan examples – example documents from the Hunts Timber Yard development had been circulated for reference. CM reported on a conversation with Nick Tomlinson (ecologist) who confirmed that follow up on actual completion of biodiversity planning conditions was variable.
  5. Information on Dorset Local Nature Partnership – awaiting action by KB
  6. Garden Bird Survey sites and bat data – CM confirmed this had been added to the wildlife maps.
  7. Review of Local Plan biodiversity aspects – CM confirmed this had been completed and incorporated into a draft Neighbourhood Plan section.
  8. Draft Biodiversity Objective – JW has pre-circulated a draft for consideration at the meeting.
- The **tree survey** quotations obtained by Peter Dye had been passed to the sub-group with a request for a recommendation.

The discussion on this raised a number of questions including; *Why was a tree survey required, What was to be the scope of the survey (what trees and what type of information), What precise area was to be covered, How would access to private property be achieved, How is the information to be used?*

It was suggested that since much of the tree survey information exists in the 2009 Biodiversity report and other sources of information such as the hedgerow survey little would be achieved through an additional tree survey from a biodiversity perspective. KB asked, *What information is missing?*

CM felt that an aerial survey at a cost of over £4k would be of little value. JW noted that this would depend upon the information sought but felt this more

appropriate to large geographical areas. KB suggested that concerns as to non-compliance with tree protection policies could be a reason for the request and that in such a situation it may be more appropriate to address the enforcement aspects.

It was therefore resolved to revert to the Steering Group with a request for clarification and a response to the questions that arose before taking any further action.

- **Draft questions for the next public survey.** CM had pre-circulated a draft list of four questions which were each considered. These related to biodiversity action plans for new developments and their monitoring and verification, designation of 'green space', flood risk reduction measures, tree survey as a means of establishing priorities for protection. Initial thoughts were as follows:-

Q1 Define "new development" and change the word "should" to "will". Consider wording to ensure the use of ecologists who are independent.

Q2 Reword; for example as "Do you support the inclusion of the following green spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan?" and provide a list/map of these.

KB suggested that an explanatory note would be required and that consultation with other sub-groups would be needed. JW suggested a tick box so as to identify the frequency of use of each green space where these were publicly accessible.

Q3 Recommended that this question requires stronger words than "actively discouraged" and needs to be more positive in terms of emphasis on proactive flood preventative measures.

Q4 To be addressed once clarification as to the purpose of the tree survey was established.

KB suggested addition of a further question – "Do you agree with the 'green corridor' as defined on the map in the Place Appraisal document.

KB agreed to prepare a summary of revised questions and supporting notes for submission to the Steering Group and consultants.

- CM provided an **update on the mapping exercise** with reference to the hard copy of the electronic maps which had been produced with the help of Bill Egerton and confirmed inclusion of bat and garden bird watch sites. The maps covered Section 41 Priority species/Red data birds, important hedgerows and trees and land use types.
- The pre-circulated completed template produced by CM on **Recommendations for inclusion in the Place Appraisal** was reviewed and several minor revisions incorporated.
- The draft **biodiversity 'objectives' statement** produced by JW was reviewed. It was agreed to consider this alongside the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan Biodiversity section at the next meeting since some of the content had already been incorporated into the latter document.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 18th October 2017 at Springbank, Plaisters Lane at 19.30 hours.

### **Decisions/Actions**

- 1. Produce draft ideas for inclusion on a list of 'green spaces' from a biodiversity perspective - All**
- 2. Confirm the proposed extent of the green corridor – KB to consult Place Appraisal sub-group and Steering Group**
- 3. Review and amend biodiversity maps - CM/JW**
- 4. Re-draft the survey questions along with supporting comment and seek guidance and advice from Brian Wilson and Associates (consultants) - KB**
- 5. Incorporate suggested amendments to the Place Appraisal Recommendations document – CM.**
- 6. Review the Neighbourhood Plan biodiversity section first draft in preparation for the next meeting – All**
- 7. Research criteria and guidance on the designation of green space – JW.**

The meeting finished at 22.12 hours.