

SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RECORD OF SUB-GROUP MEETING

Topic sub-group - Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Date of Meeting 10/01/2018

Time of meeting from 19.40 **to** 21.10

Location of Meeting Springbank, Plaisters Lane

Present: Katrina Blee, Colin Marsh, Jack Winsper

Apologies: Huw Llewellyn

Key Discussion Points

- CM summarised the action points agreed at the previous meeting held on 2nd November 2017. Actions 1 and 2 had been completed. Action 3 required further follow up with Graham Cox of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to try to ascertain the precise information to be contained in a tree survey that would assist the decision making process with regard to future tree preservation decisions.

JW considered than one approach would be to identify trees for which there was public responsibility although it was recognised that most were located on private land. CM felt that the tree preservation question was best left until the results of the Stage Two Survey were known.

- KB updated JW on the background and decisions that had been taken by the Steering Group with regard to the stage two survey questions on local green space, heritage assets and key views with emphasis on the former. Principal outcomes were the decision by the Steering Group to remove private gardens from the list of potential green space, and the decision following objections by some residents to remove the tables of potential locations from the question on green space (in addition to those on heritage assets and key views).

- Resulting from the above decisions CM proposed an approach as outlined in an e-mail sent to the Steering Group earlier in the week.

It was suggested that the decision on progressing with the identification of green space should be informed by the general responses from the first survey supported by the response to the 'in principle' question included in the stage two survey, once the results of the latter were known. It was agreed that if the community supported the principle of local green space creation then an initial assessment should be completed by an independent consultant in order to generate a short list of possible sites. It was proposed that community consultation to include landowners, for example through open days in the Mission Hall, would then help to identify those sites of special value to the community resulting in a final short list as a basis for defining policy.

It was agreed that a suitable consultant would need to be identified, for example through contact with Brian Wilson or Nick Cardnell (Weymouth and Portland Borough Council). The appointee would be able to determine the

most appropriate methodology which aligned with best practice for assessment and consultation.

KB commented upon the benefits of an independent professional assessment in providing greater integrity to the final Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that the precise definition of the Green Corridor could form part of the assessment process, particularly with regard to biodiversity. JW noted that non-biodiversity factors would also need to be considered in the assessment of green space.

With regard to the collaborative approach suggested by LB in her earlier e-mail it was felt that a good starting point with regard to key views and local heritage assets would be to adopt a similar approach of a review of the results of the first survey and use the responses to part (a) of the respective questions in the stage two survey to further inform this process.

- CM reported that several members of the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group had expressed disappointment at the absence of significant ecology information in the draft Place Appraisal. He has produced and circulated an outline of possible content to address this concern and was awaiting feedback. A discussion took place as to where the biodiversity maps would best fit into the Place Appraisal/Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that at the very least some of them would be located as appendices in the appropriate document. The list of Section 41 species had been circulated to Biodiversity Group members for review since this would be a key element to be considered in future planning decisions.
- It was agreed to focus on enhancing the Place Appraisal ecology content and develop an introduction (but not policy) for the draft Neighbourhood plan section on biodiversity whilst awaiting the processing of results from the stage two survey, It was agreed to meet each 2 to 3 weeks in order to address this.
- The provisional date of the next meeting is Thursday 25th January 2018 at Springbank at 19.30 hours.
- The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

Actions

- 1. Contact Graham Cox of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to further clarify the specific information in a tree survey that would best inform future tree preservation decisions. Action: KB**
- 2. Prepare a note for the next Steering Group meeting on a collaborative approach to progress of the issues of Local Green Space, Local Heritage Assets and Key Views. Action:KB**
- 3. Co-ordinate responses from the Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Group on improvements to the ecology content of the Place Appraisal and review of the Section 41 priority species information. Action:CM**