

## **SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

### **RECORD OF SUB-GROUP MEETING**

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

**Date of Meeting** 24/5/2017                      **Time of meeting from** 19.30 **to** 20.52

**Location of Meeting** Springbank, Plaisters Lane

**Present:** Katrina Blee, Colin Marsh

#### **Key Discussion Points**

- Ways were discussed to increase the sub-group membership and involvement. CM suggested that Jon Campbell, Dave Emery and John Newbould would be extremely useful contacts for sources of evidence in a support role. KB suggested inviting the garden bird watch group members to join the sub-group.
- In summarising the initial survey results on biodiversity it was agreed that there was strong support for promoting and protecting biodiversity and at least one related comment on co-operating with farmers and landowners.
- Possible sources of evidence were considered including a list of protected trees (actioned by KB), designated areas (AONB, SSSI etc.) on Dorset Explorer and a walkabout survey to identify the impact of development and changes in land management on habitat.
- CM identified the need to specify the types of evidence required and KB referred to the Cuckfield Neighbourhood Plan which contained a useful mapping representation of biodiversity 'sites'.
- KB suggested a village ecological survey. CM identified the existence of much of this information in the Sutton Poyntz Bird Report 2008 and Sutton Poyntz Biodiversity Report 2009.
- It was agreed that a key strategy was the need to raise public awareness and demonstrate the importance of biodiversity and the impact on the Neighbourhood Plan vision and other aspects of community life.
- Moving forward the key areas to consider are statutory and non-statutory biodiversity sources, residents impact through what they do in their gardens and the identification of landowners and the related biodiversity issues. It was also important to consider biodiversity issues covered in the Local Plan.
- Some questions for Julie Tanner (consultant) –  
Examples of schemes where communities have worked effectively with landowners on biodiversity issues?  
Primary sources of information on biodiversity?  
Biodiversity consultees in respect of planning applications?

## **Decisions/Actions Taken**

- 1. Prepare a list of potential sources of information - KB**
- 2. Follow up with local authority on list of Tree Preservation Orders – KB**
- 3. Identify within the Neighbourhood Plan area key biodiversity features such as parish boundaries, ancient hedgerows, features to be protected – CM**
- 4. Research biodiversity conservation features which can be incorporated into new buildings eg. bricks to assist bird (Swift) nesting - CM**
- 5. Research through bodies such as ‘Locality’ examples of Neighbourhood Plans’ incorporating best practice in biodiversity – KB**
- 6. Contact Sutton Poyntz Garden Bird Watch contributors and invite them to join or contribute to the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Biodiversity sub-group – CM**

**It was considered that the long term aim was to provide a local biodiversity management plan within the policy as a basis for monitoring change relating to development.**

The meeting finished at 20.52 hours.