

# **SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

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

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

**Date of Meeting** 26/10/2017      **Time of meeting from** 20.25 **to** 22.32

**Location of Meeting** Springbank, Plaisters Lane

**Present:** Katrina Blee, Colin Marsh, Jack Winsper

**Apologies:** Huw Llewellyn

### **Key Discussion Points**

It was agreed that the primary purpose of this meeting was to finalise the draft questions for the next public consultation survey in preparation for the Steering Group meeting on 31/10/17.

- The first question to be dealt with was that on Flood Risk submitted earlier by HL as a 3 part question. The consultants had suggested that the first part alone was sufficient. In order to make the question more specific it was decided to amalgamate parts 1 and 2 and a draft outline was agreed. It was further agreed to omit part which related to water run-off from paved areas and address this as an action point at a later stage.

It was also agreed that a preliminary statement to support the question needed to be prepared. Key words to be included were village location, springs, catchment, climate change, proactive.

- Minor changes were suggested to the question on green corridors which would need to be supported by a map in the final survey. A preliminary statement of one or two sentences would also be required in order to define a green corridor.  
JW and KB suggested adding a space for respondents to add other suggested green spaces.
- The original question on green space was retained with a minor amendment to add the words “for protection” as per the consultant feedback. After brief discussion it was agreed to include the proposed list (with the addition of the Village Pond) as part of the question and leave a final decision on the composition of this to the Steering Group. A preliminary statement would also be required to put the question into context based upon what constituted a green space.
- Question 1 from the previous meeting which had covered biodiversity assessments and verification of measures was discussed. JW questioned whether it added anything significant to the policy contained within the local plan and feedback from the consultant had considered ‘verification’ to be outside the scope of an attainable policy.

After some discussion it was agreed that a reworded question be adopted based upon the need to enhance as well as protect biodiversity in relation to future planning. It was agreed that the questions should apply to all planning issues rather than simply new development.

- The question on tree policy was discussed. CM explained that the aim of the multiple parts was to provide an option for respondents to agree to some measures and not others if they so desired. The feedback from KB was discussed and it was agreed to revert to the original shorter preliminary statement ensuring that the point on 'character' was included and to emphasise financial reasons for the less pro-active approach taken by the local authority.

Several changes were agreed as follows:-

- a) Replace "consult" with "notify and consider the views of".
- b) JW was concerned as to what constituted native indigenous trees and some discussion took place as to whether the legal terms should be removed. It was finally agreed to reword the question as " Felling or ... be avoided. Where unavoidable ...replacement with a species appropriate to the location and general area shall be planted."
- c) Minor amendment to remove any mention of 'veteran' or 'native species'.
- d) No changes to the part question on preserving orchards.

It was agreed to defer any other actions or matters arising to the next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at Springbank, Plaisters Lane at 19.30 hours.

### **Decisions/Actions**

**1. Write up each of the five preliminary statements and questions as agreed and circulate for comment.** **Action: CM**

**2. Identify information that other sub-groups would wish to include on a common map and agree a format for inclusion in the public survey.**

**Action: KB/CM**