

SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RECORD OF SUB-GROUP MEETING

Topic sub-group - Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Date of Meeting 02/11/2017

Time of meeting from 19.35 **to** 21.30

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 following feedback from the Steering Group meeting on 31/10/17 and to revise the Section 6 Biodiversity summary of the draft Place Appraisal.

- Agreed that Action 1 from the meeting on 26/10/17 had been completed in respect of the five draft questions and their context statements. These would be further considered at this meeting.
- Agreed that Action 2 regarding information required on a map for the public consultation survey be addressed by the survey working party which had recently been established.
- **Review of Questions following input from the Steering Group**
 - Q1 No further action required. Confirmed that the word “additional” was to be included.
 - Q2 Agreed no changes to the context statement. Changed the word “adequate” to read “appropriate” in the original draft and then decided to reword the question to account for consultant feedback. Changed wording to read:-
“Would you support the designation of a Biodiversity Green Corridor? Yes/No
If yes, please include any comments on the suggested Green Corridor as shown on the map.”
 - Q3. Confirm removal of the word harmful. List to be retained in full with the addition of a Yes/No option against each proposed Green Space. Retain text box for further additions.
 - Q4. Confirm National Planning Policy Framework to be stated in full. Context agreed. In view of feedback from the consultant which was received after the Steering Group meeting the question was reworded to take account of this as follows:
“Would you support a Neighbourhood Plan policy that promotes the enhancement as well as the conservation of biodiversity?”
 - Q5. The Weymouth and Portland Borough Council tree officers response was discussed and it was agreed to contact him again in order to seek clarification on what information we could provide locally in order to best inform the decision making process on tree preservation in the neighbourhood area.

The Steering Group had raised no specific objections to the three-part question. Agreed to retain part a) and c) as per the previous draft. Slight rewording of part b) to read – “Where a significant tree is felled due to it being diseased, dying or dangerouslocal area ?

JW questioned whether we needed to address issues such as crown reduction as well as felling. It was felt that the focus should be on felling as other measures were at least an attempt at tree management and it was desirable not to overcomplicate the question.

- **Section 6 of the draft Place Appraisal on Biodiversity.**

CM sought clarification on what was actually required by the Steering Group. KB suggested that the two key areas of change were being more concise and re-ordering and reducing the headings so as to focus on Opportunities for Consideration by the Community, Potential Challenges, Possible Risks from Future Development and the Way Forward. KB also considered it important to explain what the first survey had told us. The priorities under Opportunities were those issues that could be transformed into policy.

CM outlined a similar approach discussed by the transport sub-group with the exception of a clearer division into action points and policy related issues.

CM suggested that all topics could be dealt with in a single page thumb nail format, one page for each heading and this could be considered later.

It was agreed that the draft proposal be reviewed and feedback provided to KB over the next few days.

- In response to a question from JW the planned arrangements and timetable for distribution of the consultation survey were explained by KB.
- It was agreed that the current priority remain the questions and Section 6 summary and that beyond this we would need to continue to build the evidence base and align this to the public feedback in the forthcoming survey..
- The meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

The date of the next meeting is to be agreed by e-mail round.

Actions

1. Produce the final draft questions as agreed and circulate for confirmation prior to forwarding to the survey working party.

Action: CM

2. Redraft the Section 6 summary for the draft Place Appraisal upon receipt of feedback.

Action: KB/CM/JW/HL and KB to produce draft.

3. Contact Graham Cox of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council to seek clarity as to the type of local information required that would inform tree preservation decisions.

Action: KB