

SUTTON POYNTZ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RECORD OF SUB-GROUP MEETING

Topic sub-group - Biodiversity and the Natural Environment

Date of Meeting 25/01/2018

Time of meeting from 19.30 **to** 22.10

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 10th January 2018.

Action 1- KB was still trying to contact Graham Cox of Weymouth and Portland Borough Council regarding information in a tree survey that would assist the decision making process with regard to future tree preservation.

JW referred to his recent communication with the local authority regarding TPO's and the apparent lack of willingness of the relevant committee to enforce its own policy in this respect. This raised concerns as to the effectiveness of any future policy that may arise when the results of the stage two survey are known, although JW felt that a tree replacement policy if endorsed would help, particularly if supported by an adequate survey. KB noted the comment from Brian Wilson that the local authority conservation area appraisal was weak and this impacts on tree decisions. Any work the Steering Group undertakes may help to strengthen the CA appraisal, but it was regrettable that the Local Authority had not done more work of its own in updating and strengthening the appraisal

Action 2 - CM updated JW on the decisions taken at the recent Steering Group meeting with regard to a collaborative approach on local green space, heritage assets and key views identification and assessment. He reported that this would probably be undertaken by an independent consultant should the principle be agreed when the responses to the stage two survey were known. KB noted that Nick Cardnell (Weymouth and Portland Borough Council) although unable to recommend consultants had provided the details of a firm which the local authority had used for this sort of work in the past; this will go forward for consideration by the Steering Group. It was hoped that a single consultant could be appointed but this would require a broad range of expertise.

Action 3 – CM reported that John Newbould had agreed to set aside time to review the Place Appraisal and Priority Species list over the next few weeks. CM had also met with Dave Emery who had provided some very helpful suggestions regarding additions to the Place Appraisal draft section on ecology. The inclusion of 'green mind' policy within the Neighbourhood Plan which aligned with current local and national research and initiatives was also

discussed along with some action points related to how the Biodiversity Group could advise residents on improving biodiversity in their gardens and working with landowners on joint projects as a natural extension of the work undertaken with Wessex Water.

- General discussion took place on an outline structure for the Biodiversity section of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was felt that the main section would consist of a chapter in the plan with an introduction, objectives and policies along with a map and key references. KB suggested that one option would be to provide supporting evidence documentation such as surveys in a separate document cross referenced to the Neighbourhood Plan; the latter also linking to the Place Appraisal.

It was agreed to use the template provided by Brian Wilson and Associates to help collate relevant information and draft an outline chapter on biodiversity within the plan. It was further agreed that detailed reference to national and local planning policy would not be required in the main body of the plan but cross-referencing to specific sources would be beneficial. Based upon a first draft outline provided by CM it was agreed that each member of the sub-group begin the collation of information on specific topic areas in preparation for policy writing once the results of the stage two survey were known.

- The meeting closed at 22.10 hours. It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm.

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 and seek any examples of effective policies from other authorities in this respect. Action: KB**
- 2. Further 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**
- 3. Prepare an introduction to a chapter on biodiversity for the Neighbourhood Plan and collate evidence and references in relation to potential policies which will be subject to feedback from the stage two survey.**

Introduction	Action:CM
Protection of AONB and Flood Protection	Action:JW
Protection and Enhancement of Wildlife Habitat	Action:KB

**Green Space – any action be deferred pending Steering Group Decisions.
Tree Preservation Policy – any action be deferred until the outcome of the Stage Two Survey questions and information from Graham Cox is known.**