

SAFFRON WALDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM MEETING

TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2017

Cllr Mike Hibbs* (Chair)	Sue Flynn
Paul Gadd*	Cllr Sam Goddard
Douglas Kent	Cllr Sharon Morris*
Stephen Rapkin	Coby Richardson*
Dan Starr*	Isabella Warren*
Tom White	

*Present

In attendance: Sue Belo, Saffron Walden Town Council (taking minutes)
Derek Jones, Saffron Walden TRI and Chair of Saffron Walden Organisation for Sports
David Barrs, Saffron Walden Cricket Club Apologies for Absence
Mark Hayes, Saffron Trust

Apologies were received from Lisa Courtney, Sam Goddard, Douglas Kent, Stephen Rapkin, and from Sharon Morris and Coby Richardson for late arrival.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Sue Belo still needs to write to Sarah Nicholas concerning de Vigier Avenue

Gladman application – The UDC Planning Department is recommending approval – Alison Hutchinson is the planning officer and is well-regarded.

Isabella's suggestion of a workshop day was agreed for July 15th 2017. Dan Starr suggested trying to get a facilitator such as Rachel Hogger.

Action: All to confirm availability for 15 July.

A RCCE Coffee Morning and Policy workshop was held recently and Sue and Isabella attended. They both found it very useful talking to other local NP groups. The policy examples have been circulated to everyone as these are relevant to the SWNP as well.

3. Sports, Leisure and Community

Sharon Morris presented objectives and draft policies for Sport, Leisure and Community.

Derek Jones said it needed to be put into context to show the severity of the situation. He has said what Saffron Walden needs but UDC have yet to respond to this even though the UDC report says that there is a shortage of sports facilities across the district.

Sharon said that UDC's Local Plan will not cover this so it is essential that we cover this in the Neighbourhood Plan. The draft SWNP does go beyond the UDC plan in this area.

Sharon and John Reddy have had a meeting with Nigel Brown about the housing (Persimmon) at Lime Avenue. There is still scope for a community building with parking at the site even if some of the houses so ahead as planned by Persimmon.

SLC1 Mike Hibbs said that the number of 250 homes was too high and should apply for much smaller sites.

SLC2 – Lime Avenue – Persimmon put social housing relating to Tudor Park because they did not want it to be on the Tudor Park development as it would devalue it. Sharon is trying to get a copy of the agreement with Audley End Estates and UDC as the land is still in the hands of Audley End.

SLC3 – New hotel – possibly suggest other sites too that are near Saffron Screen, and provide a positive tourist experience of the heritage of Saffron Walden. Reword.

SLC4 – New cinema.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is relevant to activities like Nordic Walking.

Sharon Morris said that she had recently spoken to Lesley Wells who said that the H&WBS would be going to Cabinet in May.

Derek Jones said that the team have dealt more with areas where capital expenditure is required, but the Neighbourhood Plan is only concerned with matters of land use in any case. Derek Jones has spoken to Great Chesterford about cycle routes as they would like to see a cycle path from Chesterford to Saffron Walden. Derek said that the biggest issue for cycling is safety but Isabella said she thought it was more the perception of safety.

David said that there is a need to emphasize the importance of clubs and also the health agenda which is important. Sometimes separate facilities are needed for both in order to avoid an outcome that satisfies no one. With sports facilities for cricket and rugby this is no doubt true although indoor sports such as badminton could be shared more sensibly with other community activities.

Isabella Warren said that there is a need to include dance.

Sharon Morris said that Tim Atkinson had several ideas for Fairycroft in the future such as use for dance and related activities and that he intends to talk to Sport England. David Barrs said that Fairycroft is a massive source of pride for Saffron Walden.

Coby Richardson said that she was waiting to hear the word 'spa' or 'hydrotherapy pool' (which are good for chronic fatigue and other similar symptoms) and would be welcomed by tourists – She asked whether this could be achieved via a Community Right to Build order?

Mark said he thought that there was scope to do more to promote Saffron Walden in terms of integration, presentation and marketing etc. Apparently, a high proportion of people coming to Saffron Hall are local.

There is a need to look at what we can do as part of the Festival Calendar and more cross communication is needed. We need to look at the gaps and decide how to fill them. Mark said that he has been involved in both setting up Saffron Screen and then Saffron Hall. There is the question of Saffron Screen moving – how then do you deal with parking? SWCHS has a lot of parking available which is a plus point.

Derek said that Saffron Walden had a lot to offer e.g. heritage, the maze, and sports. He asked whether or not we have got the vision right? There is a lot of raw material. Need an integrated approach but the importance of organised sport must be emphasized. He has also been talking to David and Martin about other sports. e.g. the outdoor gym in Saffron Walden. Ultimately, an integrated effort required.

However, the monkey on our back is the lack of interface with UDC and their responsiveness!

Action: All to send comments to Sharon by 20th May.

4. Education

Primary Education: Mark Hayes said that Manor Oaks is more likely to open 2019/2020. He said that there is a Section 106 agreement with the development. They have to make the site available nine months after an agreed stage of development.

DoE have a requirement for a 2FE school. There is a document showing the 2FE site but this shows an extension on a separate site next to the Linden Homes development (but not Keir Homes). Mark said that he suspects that the DfE would want to see how it could become a 2FE school before agreeing the go-ahead. Saffron Trust has suggested a way to achieve this but it ultimately cannot influence the decision because it is the responsibility of DoE and Essex. Essex originally planned for a 1FE school. Essex formula is 800 homes to one primary school (NB East Herts is 500 dwellings.)

For this September, every child has been allocated a primary school place in Uttlesford. Anecdotal evidence is that people have applied to village primaries because they cannot get a primary place in the town. Some people living on Ashdon Road are choosing to send their children to Ashdon primary.

Free schools are part of the Academy system. Essex can invite a specific provider of schools to bid or there could be a free bid system. The regional commissioner gets involved in both.

Katherine Semar school is full for September

Monks Hill – This is SWTC land.

Saffron Academy Trust would not want to end up with a school that was too small. Saffron Primary should open comparatively soon at the Manor Oaks site but it is dependent on Essex building the school.

Secondary Education – Mark said that there is no shortage of secondary school places in SW if you include JFA. At the last count, there were 2,026 in SWCHS but there are now more. Over 300 pupils in each year group. People moving into the town cannot get their children in. But Joyce Frankland Academy, Forest Hall School and Helena Romanes School have spaces. There are students on the waiting list. Also, some parents in Saffron Walden are now applying to Sawston and Linton. There used to be a rule that siblings could attend the same school but for children starting in September, siblings will only get in if they live in the priority issue area. Only around 25 pupils per year are affected.

Mark said that a stated objective for SWCHS is to open another secondary school in the Saffron Walden area as there is a need for a further secondary school in Uttlesford. SWCHS would prefer a separate school for 11-16 year olds.

Dan Starr asked whether the Walden School (Friends) could flip to become a state school as, apparently, they are struggling. There are rules on doing this but Mark said that it could be done. David Barrs said that there are also state boarding schools.

At the moment, any new housing in SW will mean that new people will need to send their children to schools outside SW.

There has been talk about relocating Helena Romanes so that the existing site can be used for housing. Mark is involved with a Housing Association based in Enfield which is a unitary authority so Education and Planning departments there tend to talk to one another.

Mark Hayes said that he would be keen to attend further meetings and Sue Belo agreed to send him the dates of future meetings as well as a copy of the next agenda.

5. Community Engagement Programme

Consultation Days: The consultation will be held on 5th, 6th and 7th May at the Town Hall at the following times:

- Friday 5th May am (set-up)
- Friday 5th May 2pm to 5pm – open to public/businesses to be invited from 4pm to 5pm
- Friday 5th May 5pm to 7pm – Reception
- Saturday 6th May 10am to 2pm
- Sunday 7th May 10am to 12 noon

Paul Gadd said that he had a number of amendments to make to the NP FAQs which included some additions and suggested deleting questions 12 and 16. He also suggesting adding a question on Air Quality. He agreed to advise these by the following day.

6. AOB

Mike Hibbs said that Keith Eden has resigned from the team and expressed his gratitude for his contribution which has been from the very beginning. Paul Ainscough has been invited to join to the Core Team as team lead for Business and Local Economy.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 23rd May 2017 when feedback from the consultation days will be discussed and actions agreed, and Isabella will make a presentation based on the policy writing workshop.