

Stratfield Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan

Steering Group Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 24th October 2014 at Ashfield, Kiln Lane

Present: Mike Dennett (Chairman)

John Cornwell

Dudley Ives

Patrick Wingfield

Tennant Barber.

Apologies: Danusia Morsley

Neil Kiley

Minutes of 10th October 2014

1. The minutes were approved

Matters Arising

2. Website

a. The creation of the website has been delayed due to personal circumstances.

3. Recruitment of Administrator/Research Assistant

a. The Chairman advised the Steering Group that approval of Mortimer Parish Council was required prior to the appointment of the administrator. This will be sought at the November Parish Council meeting. **Action Mike Dennett**

b. A contract needs to be drawn up in readiness for the interviews and prior to appointment. **Action Mike Dennett**

c. It was emphasised that this is now a matter of urgency. It was agreed that we should advertise, interview and select so that when the Parish Council give their approval the appointment can be made immediately. **Action Mike Dennett**

4. Approach to Doctor's Surgery and Schools

a. The letter to go to the Heads of St John's and St Mary's is ready for delivery. It was agreed that a copy should also be sent to the Chair of Governor's.

5. Meeting with Developers

a. The date of 6th of November 2014 at 2.00 pm in the Methodist Hall has been agreed with Barton Willmore (who act on behalf of Hallam Land Management). **Action Mike Dennett.**

6. Funding

a. The grant programme has been fully subscribed and is closed for the rest of the 2014-15 year. A new programme will be available from April 2015. In the meantime the Parish Council will be approached to ask them to agree to expenditure on the assumption the NDP will be successful in its application for funding in April 2015. **Action Mike Dennett**

b. The approach to the Parish Council is to be supported by a statement of need for funding the Administrator/Researcher and the hire of consultant advisors as required. **Action Patrick Wingfield**

7. Response to West Berkshire Countryside Consultation

a. A letter was agreed that highlighted the concern that though there was a general use of a 'Presumption in Favour' in the proposals these were so hedged

with caveats they substantially undermined the stated 'Presumptions in Favour' principle.

Development Site Strategies

8. Patrick Wingfield's email (attached) was discussed at length. It was agreed that
- a. Options similar to those outlined in the email should be put to the community in a formal consultation; other options might also be considered for inclusion if they were forthcoming.
 - b. A planning consultant should be employed to prepare ideas for the development of the St John's School site including a new St John's school (if agreed by the Head), a new surgery if agreed by the doctor's representative and the development of the village centre. The consultant could also advise on the probable number of houses that could be accommodated on the smaller sites. To progress this option
 - i. A briefing document shall be put to the Parish Council for its approval at the November 2014 meeting. **Action Patrick Wingfield**
 - ii. Four potential planning consultants shall be approached for them to tender for the work. John Cornwell agreed to suggest four names. **Action John Cornwell**. These will be approached and briefed to determine their interest or not in the work, and if interested to submit a proposal. **Action Patrick Wingfield**
 - iii. For the St John's School site to be viable the issue of access to the site has to be addressed. Englefield estate will be approached to pursue the issue to give the Steering Group confidence they can proceed with the option. **Action Mike Dennett**. Similarly a positive interest in the relocation of the Doctor's surgery and the schools is required.
 - iv. The planning consultant will be asked if they can ascertain ownership of the potential smaller sites identified on the map attached to the email. Englefield will be asked if they own any of the smaller sites.

Development of Policies and Development Site Options

9. It was agreed that an evening meeting be arranged for either 17th or 18th November 2014 in the Methodist Hall for the Steering Group and Volunteers to meet to review proposed policies and development site options to be put to the community for consultation early in January 2015.
- a. Check availability of Methodist Hall. **Action Mike Dennett**
 - b. Invitation to volunteers. **Action Tennant Barber**

Briefing West Berkshire Planners of Progress

10. It was agreed that the planners should be given an update. Arrangements will be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.

Next Meeting

11. The next meeting will be held on Friday 7th November 2014 at 10.00 am in the Parish Office.