

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC)

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Steering Group Meeting held at Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer on Tuesday 18th of October 2023 at 7:30pm

Notes

1. Present

Doug Overett – Meeting Chair (DO); Graham Bridgman (GB); Neil Kiley (NK); Tennant Barber (TB); Bob Coe (BC); Amanda Marsden, Sabina Netherclift (SN) – Meeting Minute Taker (SN)

2. Apologies

Joanne Emberson-Wines (JE) Nick Carter (NC); Ana Hernandez (AH)

Congratulations to Ana from the whole committee. DO to send flowers on behalf of SG

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Working Group Reports

4.1 Reserved Land Update

- DO PC to set up meeting TA Fishers – not yet done. LH (Parish Clerk) to pick up. GB DO and TB to be present at meeting between with TA and PC planning committee.

Action DO to oursue with LH

4.2 New Neighbourhood Plan

- BC and TB have developed a suggested approach to the Policy Development. (

- BC and TB presented 'Natural Environment' part of doc to SG for feedback

Biodiversity and geodiversity:

- Sg discussed issue of more trees. It was felt in any new development it would be important to have trees. Although we don't think Mortimer in particular needs more trees, when we get to design codes then we would need landscaping to include trees, particularly replacing felled ones. This might also include trees to provide shade should there be more development in the village.

Renewable energy:

-Discussion over the point as to whether we need the extra 10% biodiversity.GB suggested we should consider whether there was anything the Sg would want to add or take away from SP11. We agreed to leave where it is. Only point to consider is the last point regarding conserving environment for nocturnal species.

This will only become an issue if Mortimer stops being a dark village. However consideration should be given to whether low level lighting might be introduced in certain circumstances and then we would need to consider how this would impact nocturnal creatures.

Nationally Designated Sites:

- B1 should be carried over into new NP

Irreplaceable Habitats:

- TB suggested we should get a map to suggest which are ancient woodlands/hedgerows in the village /irreplaceable habitats and what the protections are currently in place. GB suggested we could seek advice from W Berks . AM suggested seeking advice from Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust.
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- Action: **AM going to talk to contact**

SP10

- Sg discussed where we need to add to current NP policies- we would like to keep our NP policies and make sure they are not duplicated in LPR. S
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SG wondered if the current SMPC are all conversant with NP as it stands. Suggestion from SG that SMPC planning committee should have training about NDP and that current / future development should be measured against it.

Action: **GB to advise SMPC on NP**

More Green Infrastructure –

- SG Agreed that SP10 and 11 cover this area.

DM15 Trees Woodland Hedgerows.

- SG again wondered how are existing hedgerows protected, do we know where they are etc.
- **GB to find out whether West Berks have a comprehensive survey, and whether they have pointers to any other regulations and ask Jo for any advice knowledge that she might have.**

Designated Green Spaces:

- SG looked at current list of Green Spaces and suggested areas with considering in addition Eg Lambton's Woods. We could nominate more, landowners might object but it would help be a further prevention from having these areas developed.
- Sg wondered wither Englefield land part of BAO 13 and whether it should it be designated as a greenspace?

Action: **AM** to contact specific members of Mortimer Greening to take next steps. SN to support.

5. AOB

JE has indicated that Tuesday nights are now increasingly difficult. SG feel JE is a good Chair with her considerable knowledge and experience and therefore would like to find out if there is a better evening for her.

Note: We did not discuss the Locality application

6 Agenda for next meeting

- Highways and Transport and Renewable Energy

Close

Meeting closed at 21.20 subject to jo

Next meeting – 21.11.2023 at 19:30pm – Methodist Church Hall, Mortimer