



Ruishton and Thornfalcon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Notes of meeting held on 5th April 2017

In attendance: Mike Marshall (MM), Roy Bulgin (RB), Dave Duke (DD), Jim Claydon (JC) and Catherine Faulkner (Administrator)

1. Apologies

Doug Lowe (DL) gave his apologies.

2. Declaration of Interest

JC declared an interest as he is Chair of CCS.

3. Notes of last meeting (9th January 2017)

All agreed minutes were correct.

Update on action items:

- a. Administrator to source tear drop flags and liaise with JC regarding design – **to be actioned**
- b. DD to see if setting the new page up as a Group rather than Community will resolve the issues with posting comments and reviewing them – Not straightforward to transfer to a Group from a Community. Solution to set CF up as an Administrator so that her posts can be seen and, if a Visitor posts on the page, if an Admin like and shares it to the page it will move to the main page. **Action:** DD to set CF up as an Administrator on Facebook page
- c. MM to speak to Pat Pike re advising on footpaths – **to be actioned** 19/4/17
- d. MM to raise at the March Parish Council meeting to see if they agreed with a meeting being held with Persimmon Homes at this point in time – **Action:** this will be raised at the April meeting
- e. RB has spoken to Richard House and hopes to meet this coming week – **Action:** RB meeting Richard House 10/4/17
- f. The Administrator to instruct CCS to undertake the survey with Heathfield Community School students – completed and results will be available by Good Friday. **Action:** The Administrator to circulate Heathfield survey results to the SG when received
- g. The Administrator to try and obtain student numbers for our Parishes - circulated
- h. The notes of the meeting with CSM to be circulated to the Project Team by the Administrator - circulated
- i. The Steering Group to consider a meeting with Stoke St Mary at an appropriate time – on future agenda and will be discussed later in agenda
- j. The Administrator to bring the consideration of meetings with West Hatch and Hatch Beauchamp for review in July – on agenda for July and will be discussed later in agenda
- k. The Administrator to a review of the Project Timeline as a standing item on agendas of the Steering Group and the Project Team - completed
- l. The Administrator to contact CCS to see what questions other NP groups have used in their business surveys and to ask CSM for permission to share their business feedback with our Project Team – both actioned. Only very basic information was asked as per the CSM questions
- m. It was agreed for the Administrator to include Nexus 25 and A358 update, Workshop, Project Timelines and Project Group updates since last meeting on the agenda - completed



- n. JC and the Administrator to design a template for a future meeting, to enable gathering of information, which all groups will complete –**Action:** JC and Administrator to design a template
- o. The Administrator to draft the April Newsletter, for approval by MM, to include a Thank You for completing surveys and the contact details of the Steering Group and Project Team - completed

4. Feedback from Project Team meeting 13th March 2017 and date of next meeting (provisional date 26/6/17)

It was felt that the last Project Team meeting had facilitated a good discussion and JC would write up the findings from the SWOT information which the Administrator would then circulate(**Action**).

The Administrator advised that since the meeting she had been informed by SCC that accident data would cost £150 + vat or basic information could be accessed from the CrashMap website. **Action:** The Administrator to take CrashMap data and put onto excel spreadsheet which could then be circulated.

The bus passenger numbers had been obtained and circulated since the last meeting.

JC has received the Air Quality data and will review the figures (**Action**)

- The Administrator explained the timetable for the receipt of the final survey:
- SG meeting Wednesday 24th May to discuss edits of survey
- MM and Administrator meeting CCS Friday 26th May with final edits
- Copies of final survey to be with Administrator Friday 23rd June at latest to be hand delivered
- Meeting with Project Team Monday 26th of June to present final survey

Action: The Administrator to request 6 hard copies of the draft report for the SG to review and for hard copies of the final report to be printed by CCS for the Project Team and SG members. **Action:** The date of the next Project Team meeting to be confirmed as 26th June 2017 at 7pm.

5. Highways England's A358 proposal – possible implications to the Neighbourhood Plan

MM, DL and RB attended a meeting last week and were advised by Highways England (HE) that their intention had always been to put in a new junction and not join up with junction 25 and had included this in their costings. HE is saying that the new road will take approximately 30% of the existing traffic from the A358 ie 30,000 vehicles movements a day currently less 10,000 leaves 20,000 vehicles movements a day on the A358. However, it was noted that Nexus 25 will put back approximately 7,000 vehicle movements a day which takes the total back up to 27,000 movements a day.

At the meeting, it had appeared that neither SCC nor TDBC had known about the preferred route and had only just met with HE themselves.

MM and DL said to SCC and TDBC that they would like to see provision made for a road from Nexus 25 to the new HE road. TDBC advised that it was not in their scheme but there was no reason why a developer or SCC couldn't do it.

SCC are still planning to submit their scheme as before with approval expected June 2017. MM advised that they had asked SCC for information about capacity of Junction



25 roundabout as there will be traffic coming from the new junction and coming on/off at junction 25 which will make a difference to numbers. This is not currently available.

It was suggested by the Steering Group that HE could be asked to put in traffic calming to address the rat run through Ruishton but this is a PC matter.

It was reported that Stoke St Mary are very upset at the proposed HE route and West Hatch are holding an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday and have invited Stoke St Mary and Ruishton & Thornfalcon Parish Council representatives to attend.

The implications on the Neighbourhood Plan were considered, however it was noted that there is still a lot of information to come out and neither SCC or TDBC's responses were yet known. With the information currently available, implications were thought to be:

- There will not be a declassification of the A358.
- Henlade and Lower Henlade will probably still feel separate communities with the A358 still running between them and Ruishton/Thornfalcon.
- There will still be traffic and pollution problems along the A358.
- It may have implications for development along the A358.
- It may still be seen by SCC as freeing up some capacity on the road for use for development.
- As the Project Team is still at the data gathering stage, they will need to build in "what ifs" as previously discussed. The implications of the scheme will be built into the Neighbourhood Plan as we progress through the process.

6. Project Plan review - specifically

- a. Household Survey update – A 41% return rate had been achieved which was excellent. Once the survey results have been received information will need to be publicised as it is the Community's responses.
- b. Business survey – from Project Team meeting – **Action:** The Administrator to set up a meeting with JC, MM and John Capstick and Mike Hellings to discuss and agree the way forward for business consultations.
- c. Youth/School surveys update – 8 students from Heathfield had contributed to the workshop and results will be available by Good Friday. RB and Jasmine Riches had met with Chris Kamin at the Primary School. They have agreed to undertake a survey after Easter with their students. **Action:** The Administrator will collate the Primary School survey results and report on the findings once they have been sent to her.
- d. Village Day and Sue Sherry suggestion – Sue Sherry has suggested that she run a wildlife event making a large bug house and wildlife gardens alongside the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) stand. This would help bring people into the marquees and involve people from the community. Sue is prepared to source all materials and facilitate this part of the stand. RB advised that he has another marquee which can be used by the NP group. **Action:** The Administrator to book 2 adjacent spaces for Village Day and respond to Sue Sherry. **Action:** To discuss the NP stand at the June Project Team meeting to agree what information is to be gathered or imparted and who will be manning the stand.

7. Content for May Newsletter

It was agreed that only the Parish Council should submit an article for the Newsletter for the May publication as this will need to include the HE A358 bypass information. It was suggested that the article include links to the Parish website and Facebook page.



Action: The Administrator to advise the Clerk that there would be no Newsletter article and for the links to be included in the PC information.

8. Next steps/Any other business

Locality Grant: **Action:** The Administrator to see whether Locality Grant is still available and what the criteria is.

Printed Maps: **Action:** The Administrator to contact Anne Rhodes to see if 3 further copies of the Ruishton and Thornfalcon Parish Council boundary maps could be obtained at A1 size.

9. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held on Monday 5th June 2017 at 10.00am at Parklands.