

Sandy Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Thursday 17 March 2022 at 7pm

At the Council Chamber, 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy

Meeting Minutes

Present: Nigel Aldis, Robert Baker, Richard Barlow, Anne Elliott-Flockhart, Joanna Hewitt (Vice Chair in Chair) and Anne Ramsay.

Apologies: Tim Gardiner, Amanda Gibson, Arnie Gilpin, Ruth Lock and Chris Patterson.

1. Review and approve the minutes from 17 February 2022

The minutes were approved.

2. Working Group Updates

a) Environment & Green Infrastructure

After the last full meeting Anne R had met with Cliff from BRCC and agreed to extend the consultation for an extra week which resulted in getting a total of 49 responses. However, this will have a knock-on effect for the next stage of the consultation.

Anne R will send out the initial report. Six new aspirations have been identified, including safeguarding the green space at Sandye Place and improvements to the Green Wheel. Other Green Spaces have also been identified.

The next phase will be to consult on the results of the first phase and ensure that everyone agrees with the aspirations and the identification of the Green Spaces. This will take place at the spring market event on 10 April. Someone from BRCC will be there to facilitate discussions and provide questions sheets. They will also provide updated maps – one detailing the aspirations, one detailing the identified green spaces.

Once we have the results from this and possibly a second face to face consultation, they will create a Green Infrastructure Plan. **Anne R** will ask BRCC if they will develop the aspirations into recommended policies that could become policies for the NP. This work will take place in the new financial year.

A member asked if we should be targeting specialist groups to take part in this consultation – such as the RSPB and walking groups?

Anne R will ask BRCC if the second consultation could be targeted.
Anne EF to identify potential groups to target.

Richard will draft a letter/email that could go out. We can advise them that we will be at the spring market and invite them to attend to have their say on the consultation. This would have the added benefit of providing evidence to show we have tried to consult as widely as possible.

b) Town Centre & High Street

Joanna will provide update on where this group is at, focused on a recent grant application.

c) Housing & Design Guide

Richard reported that Sandy has no standout features in terms of housing and design. There are about thirty different housing areas in Sandy with different characteristics. It was commented that perhaps a guide should identify specific areas in Sandy and that any develop in those areas should sympathetic to the style in that area.

It was noted that Central Bedfordshire Council are consulting on a new design guide.

We need to protect important buildings, but we also need to look to the future and what innovations should be included in new build housing to help with climate change etc.

d) Infrastructure

Rob reported that not much came out of the consultation regarding infrastructure, so the group is looking at other data available. For example, the results from a parking survey undertaken in 2019 suggests that parking is good in the town car park.

Locality provide grant funding for traffic surveys which might be useful. It was noted that Arnie and Richard have been undertaking a traffic survey to ascertain which lorries are accessing the High Street, to try and identify where they are heading and if the High Street is the only way for them to get there.

Rob mentioned that the group will try and contact the bus companies for their data for Sandy.

Chris had struggled to find the right people to contact at utility companies about capacity, but this has now been done.

The group had noted that other counties had brought things, like solar panels, in bulk so as to provide savings to residents to encourage take up.

e) Leisure & Culture

The group were due to have another meeting, but circumstances prevented this from happening.

3. Spring Market -10 April

Rob has designed a banner to go on the gazebo so we can be easily identified. The banner has been designed to be 3m by 75cm. **Joanna** will ask Brite Signs on Sunderland road for a quote. If they need a different ratio, Rob will need to play with the design.

We will have the green infrastructure information for people to consider, but we can also have some of the information from Barclays on show as well.

The event is on from 10am -4pm. Mike from BRCC will be available on the day. Anne R and Jon Balaam are unable to be present. Anne EF is away that weekend but will be coming back on that Sunday so will try and show up at some point.

Rob, Richard and Nigel are all available to help. **Joanna** will ask the other members about their availability.

Rob to create posters to say we will be at the spring market. Which can then be shared on social media, council website, in the Chronicle and on the Greensand Country website. **Ruth** to share with Sandy Secondary School.

We need to adopt a policy of letting all groups know when we have consultation events.

BRCC will provide guided questions for the event. Members would like to see these before the event.

We have pens and keyrings to give away at the event.

4. Any other business

A member asked where we are at with identifying a consultant to work with. Joanna reported that three consultants had been identified and the next step would be to interview them.

A member reminded the group that we previously discussed joining Sandy Historical Research Group at their event on 3 September to cash in on footfall from the Sandy Show. There is room if we wanted to share the hire of the Baptist Church.

A member wondered if it would be a good idea to invite the new clerk to attend a meeting at some point in the future. It was agreed to let her settle in a little first, but Joanna would discuss it with her.

5. Date of next meeting

Thursday 21 April at 7pm at Council Chamber, 10 Cambridge Road, Sandy

Items to discuss – Timeline, working groups and carnival event on 11 June.