

SHERSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in Sherston Village Hall

PRESENT:

Mr J Matthews (JM) - Chairman

Mrs Sarah Wood (SW) - Admin Support

Representatives of the following Groups/Organisations

Mr Freeth (NF)	Sherston Churches
Mr G Morris (GM)	Sherston Parish Council
Mr M Rea (MR)	Sherston Village Hall
Mr A Price (AP)	Sherston Scouts and Youth
Mr M Johnson (MJ)	Sherston Old School Committee
Mr R Johnson (RJ)	Sherston Businesses
Mrs J Curson (JC)	Green Square
Mr K Smith (KS)	Sherston Sporting Associations
Dr L Harris (LS)	Tolsey Surgery
Mr J Knight (JK)	Sherston Allotments
Mr M Llewellyn Palmer (MLP)	Sherston Pre-School

Two members of the public were at the meeting.

Definitions: "NHP" means Neighbourhood Plan

Item

66. Apologies for absence: Mr J Thomson and Mr Steve Harvey.

67. Approval of notes from last meeting

The notes were approved.

68. Matters arising

JM reminded the steering group about the event planned for 23rd March. There will be two facilitators provided by CABE and the Design Council. One is the chief town planner of Birmingham, Mr Geoff Wright. The other is Ben Hamilton-Bailey, National and International expert on parking and traffic. Mr Hamilton-Bailey will only touch on these issues on Saturday but will be coming back to the village another day to discuss parking problems. JM and MJ have met a UWE graduate who has offered assistance. She has already helped with Chipping Norton's NHP and will be at the event on Saturday.

The workshop will be split into presentation time, Q&A and working groups. These groups will develop ideas and then present them at the end. There will be information boards set up asking the public to add their views with sticky notes. Stickers will also be up for Sunday papers with a ballot box asking for views. JM asked that the steering group members speak to their friends and groups informing them of the event.

69. Reports from other Steering Group Members.

Youth - AP reported that a subcommittee should be formed to discuss how best to identify formal sports, clubs, scouts and other groups of youths in order for an event to happen. After discussion it was decided that the event would not involve children under 12 years old. JM suggested that one of the members of the steering group go to the school and talk to the children about the NHP and possibly set a competition which would raise awareness. AP suggested holding an event on 15th April, 6.30 - 8.30, in the British school rooms if possible. The key is to get a good facilitator; JC believes she can provide some experienced young facilitators. AP and JC will talk after the meeting.

Local Businesses – RJ sent 80 letters to local businesses. Unfortunately only 5 responses were received which RJ circulated. RJ wondered if during Saturdays' event there could be a board asking people who had a business to complete a form.

The Churches – NF informed the group that Reverend Christopher Bryan intends to come to the event on Saturday. NF has been keeping his group informed with the NHPs progress. The Diocese is very keen to start talking about the NHP which is very encouraging. JC, NF, the Diocese and WC are to arrange a meeting to discuss the plans regarding the vicarage.

Seniors – The afternoon tea event held on 12th March went well with 40-50 people attending despite the bad weather. One of the issues mentioned was the lack of sheltered housing in the village. Notes by MJ on the event have been

circulated.

Village Hall – MR reported that the Village Hall Committee are happy that the hall remains where it is within the centre of the village and will seek to improve existing facilities. MR also informed the committee that there are building opportunities at the back of the village hall.

Pre-School – ALP has spoken to the committee and it believes the ideal site is near the school.

The surgery – No real progress since last meeting but is still working on its wish list and needs for the future. JM knows of a contact that specialises in building surgeries. JC has spoken to someone at Wiltshire Council about the land behind the school possibly including a new surgery along with houses. They are happy for a feasibility study on the site.

70. Strategic Environmental Assessment

The consultation period ends on 5th April. So far there has been no response which CM explained was a good thing. JM thanked MJ again for all his immense work on not only the SEA but the forthcoming event. JM explained that after the event other members will need to get more involved.

71. Site Identifications.

Allotments – JK informed the group that the allotments in Sherston are one of the earliest in the county; previous allotments have now been developed on. JK would very much like to see the site protected for future generations and does not want the allotment site to be considered for development. JM explained that although very unlikely to be chosen for development it must be put up for discussion along with other sensitive sites.

The Recreation Ground – MR informed the group that the land belongs to a trust created in 1932. In the 1950s one of the trustees left and handed it to the parish council to be used for recreation. If no longer needed there was a covenant on this site, where it has to be sold to the Stroud Brewery for £80. Legal advice would be needed before negotiations began. If the land was chosen as stated in the core strategy an alternative site must be sought. The recreation ground is another example of a very sensitive site; yet it must be considered.

Land behind School – JM spoke to the owners who are happy to consider discussing a form of development on their land.

JM has been in contact with the landowners who responded to the letter sent in February. Initial indications are of western and northerly possibilities. Land at Easton Town, previously discussed, is a no go as all owners want nothing built on the land. Other sites that need to be considered are the sports field and village hall fields.

72. To discuss village presentation planned for Saturday 23rd March

JM encouraged all to come to the event on Saturday and again thanked MJ for the work and effort he has put into the event, SAE and scoping reports. After the event the work must be shared equally amongst all in the steering group.

73. Future Actions

JM asked for all groups to spread the word about Saturday and help on Friday to set up the hall.

74. To confirm date for next meeting

The next event will be on 15th April and the next meeting will be on the 14th May.

The meeting closed at 9.30m. Notes were taken by Sarah Wood, Admin Support to the Steering Group.