

SHERSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Notes of meeting held on Thursday 31st January 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
Mr S Harvey (SH)	Sherston Primary School
Mr M Llewellyn Palmer	Sherston Busy Hands Pre-School
Dr P Petit (PP)	Sherston Tolsey Surgery
Mrs H Quirk (HQ)	Sherston Senior Club

Two members of the public were at the meeting.

Definitions: "NHP" means Neighbourhood Plan

Item

56. Apologies for absence: Mrs A Llewellyn Palmer, but Mr M Llewellyn Palmer is to represent Busy Hands Pre-School.

57. Approval of notes from last meeting

The notes were approved.

58. Matters arising

Senior Engagement – HQ and JC have met and discussed how best to engage with the seniors within the village. It was agreed that a lunch event would be the best method and JC is looking at organising an event with speakers. The Cliff-hanger will be used to advertise NHP and events. The village charity 1016 will be asked if they hold a list of people in the village over a certain age. JC recommended that if there is not enough representation, the steering group will need to communicate door to door. It would be good to understand what sort of housing is required within this age group as in the housing needs survey no real need was shown.

Youth Engagement – AP explained that professional assistance is required to enable the young to be properly engaged and there is funding available. It was suggested a separate meeting be held with different members of youth groups, schools, etc., to discuss ideas and to plan an event which will engage this age group. A meeting outside scouting activities needs to be set up to attract young people who are not scout members. JC will meet with AP to discuss ideas. Green Square has young advisors who are happy to support in a planned event but not lead. MJ is waiting to hear from CAGE regarding possible assistance in planning group activities/events.

The School – SH explained that the ideal situation is the pre-school being based nearer the school or on site. One of the main issues for the school is the travel to and from the site. The school council is already starting to engage the children in the process. SH posed the question: what are we asking the youth? JM explained that we need to engage them in the process, inform them what the NHP is and then ask for ideas.

The Church – NF said that the PCC want the replacement vicarage on the existing site and not on an alternative. The congregational church would like somewhere in the plan that the community church will be based in the Old British School Rooms and to include a small chapel in the future. CM explained that this will have to be explored at a later date. The question is: how could the NHP aid that plan coming forward?

Surgery – PP said that in April the PCT will be no more and as yet there is no body in place to take over this role. The surgery is exploring funding options for a relocation / new build and is seeking advice from surgeries that have relocated.

Village Hall – MR stated mention of a new building / site has been brought up in the NHP process. MR informed the group that within the lease it is possible that a new build / purpose built pre-school could be built; e.g., behind the hall

Busy Hands – No news at present; the same aspiration still stands.

Sherston Sporting association – JC has produced a draft budget estimate for new sports facilities at Knockdown playing field. This would include a new pavilion/sports hall, all weather surface pitch to include 5 a side/2 tennis courts, parking and fees. The budget gave an idea of how much would be needed and that funding would be required from sources other than any new developments. KS informed the group that in terms of interaction and engagement the Sports Association is a good body of mixed ages. JM thanked JC for providing the budget.

Sherston Businesses – No news as yet, however RJ has produced a leaflet and has worked on a list provided by Wiltshire Council of all the businesses within the parish. RJ said that although a good starting point, the list is a bit outdated. A letter will be sent to businesses asking for their views and a response box will be placed in the post office to encourage replies.

Allotments – Although JK was not at the meeting he wanted MJ to reiterate the importance of the allotment site and its central location. MJ explained that although the site has and will be up for consideration along with many other sites it was purely a discussion at this stage.

MR asked whether a survey be compiled before the NHP starts to take form to ask villagers what they really want: i.e. new surgery, improved sports facilities, etc and what they want to protect? JM explained that the consultation/presentation with the village will be asking people what they want, where, why and when.

59. Reports from other Steering Group Members.

Mentioned previously.

60. SAE – CM reported that the Neighbourhood Designation consultation has ended and a decision will be formally made next week. The draft environmental assessment has been compiled by MJ. It will be formally consulted with other groups and once amendments have been made, it will go on the website. The next stage in moving forward should address how these objectives are going to be met? There is no correct or wrong way. A public open event is the best approach and there is no harm in producing a skeleton plan so it can start to build momentum and move in the right direction. CM recommended using the funding available to seek professional assistance in the next stages of the process. CM and JM thanked MJ for all his help and time on producing the environmental assessment document.

61. Site Identifications.

Letters have been sent to all local landowners (noted in December meeting). 4 responses have been received. Details are confidential until JM talks to those who have responded. Then with the groups' agreement, JM will talk to each interested party about what kind of development they might be interested in. Once 'in the scheme', the information can go public.

At this stage the most obvious site for any future development is the Wiltshire owned land behind the school. JC explained that the bigger the site the more control the village has over development. The question was asked: could the surgery possibly be on this site? PP explained it could be, yet the surgery is cautious to be sited on any contentious site and would not want to relocate anywhere that might cause upset or unrest in the village, e.g. the allotment site or recreation ground.

62. Event planned for Saturday 16th February

It was agreed that the event which was planned for 16th February will need to be postponed to the week 11th – 16th March. Meetings to discuss specific events involving the young and old need to be arranged before the event.

63. Future Actions

(a) JC to arrange for an architect to visit the field behind the school to give an idea on space and how many houses or buildings could be considered for the site.

(b) PP to give details of approx square footage required of a new surgery.

64. AOB

None.

65. To confirm date for next meeting

There will be two meetings in March. Tuesday 5th March and Wednesday 13th March.

The meeting closed at 9pm. Notes were taken by Sarah Wood, Admin Support to the Steering Group.