Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	Thursday 23rd April 2020 4.30 – 5.45p.m.
Venue	Video conference meeting
Attendees	Fiona Cryle, Marjorie Clasper, Alison Crampin and Jo Stickland Chris Bowden – Navigus
Secretary	Jane Simpson

Agenda Item		**Action**
1.	**<u>Apologies for absence and announcements</u>** Apologies received from David Buckley, Ewan Larcombe and Janet Kennish.	
2.	**<u>Green and Blue Environment – Update</u>** It was agreed to go through CB's comments dated 21.4.20. CB thought we should be concentrating on the built area of the NP. 2.1 We advised CB that AL39 was on green belt and that the main issue with new developments in Datchet was flooding. The decision whether or not to take land out of the Green Belt or leave it in was for RBWM. CB said that that was the big hurdle for a developer to get over first but an NP can't add more protection for the green belt than it has already. Also, NPs can't change flooding issues so small sites (like Captain Seddon's house/Sopwith Court) had to follow existing regs. DNP should focus on where development will happen. If a developer was successful in getting planning permission then the NP needs to set out what is required on the site. 2.3 CB suggested it would be a good time (due to less traffic) to take pictures of the views the NP wishes to preserve and advised us to draw a map of views with arrows and send with a description of what the feature is and why it is important, e.g. a specific building or outlook, to him and his team will create a document. 3.1 CB explained the difference between Local Green Spaces (an NP tool which gives a higher level of protection to local green spaces, similar to Green Belt designation. The designation has to be justified, as a community asset, for example) and sites of Open Space value (important green spaces without as much policy protection – usually smaller areas which need saving as they break up the built area). So we need to identify the Local green spaces which are demonstrably special and the open spaces, map and photograph them and describe why they are valuable assets bearing in mind the NPPF criteria and the comments from the community. We should make the descriptions locally specific, look at the language used in responses to the survey, and ground policy in what the community says.	

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	MC's document is a good starting point. It cannot be a 'significant tract of land', although NPPF does not define 'significant'. We cannot use this designation as a way to frustrate development. We should think about the function of the space. 3.5 Agreed to include an additional burial ground in the NP as evidence proves its necessity will be supported and is a priority. We could suggest an extension to the present cemetery or look at alternatives, or, propose it in principle but not actually identify a site. It can be a non-policy aspiration for land to be put forward but it is better if we can identify a site, e.g. the plot neighbouring the cemetery. 4. Corridors – Advised CB of the land north of M4 which is undeveloped and the M4 works that have removed trees/hedges/etc. CB advised of the difference between the built up areas and the outside settlements and a balance has to be found between what to protect and what developers should be doing regarding biodiversity. AC mentioned the trees taken down on Slough Road plot before even planning application had been submitted. CB advised that climate changing issues are a priority now, development has to prove 'net biodiversity gain', and said the Wild About Datchet is a really important group to talk to. We need to find good and bad examples of recent biodiversity projects (planting) with photos. CB said that developers have a 'get out clause' by using CIL payment to fund biodiversity gain off site, but that doesn't necessary help Datchet and if the NP can provide a good policy to ensure developers provide biodiversity and the highest possible standards of building and environment design then Datchet would benefit. 5.1 CB advised not to get bogged down with listing all the trees/hedgerows – find out which are protected and just add those which are significant. 6.2 CB was puzzled by the fact AL39 site allocation planning conditions mentioned it was partly on Grade I Agricultural Land as grade 1,2, and 3 is protected by planning law but its value is not usually recognised by LPAs. Given that biodiversity etc. are becoming more of an issue we should be protecting good agricultural land where possible. However as it was also Green Belt he didn't think a policy would have much practical use - in this case.	All
3.	**Housing and <u>the Built Environment and Green Blue Environment</u>** It was agreed that the Steering Group would go through these documents again, deal with CB's additional comments and send to CB who would compile an initial list of suitable policies/actions that may be used and send it to us. We would then establish the gaps and slot in the evidence we have gathered. CB also mentioned that the Locality Grant programme was open again for applications.	All

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4.	**<u>Getting About Transport and Parking – Update and the way forward</u>** CB was advised that we had started on this section. CB suggested that we just let him know what we wanted to achieve and he will make some suggestions. Compile a list including key movement routes – mapped to and from key local sites, e.g. doctor, school, – including important side routes and where the blackspots are for cyclists/walkers, e.g. narrow pavements, difficult places to cross roads. CB advised that a lot of highway issues can't be addressed in a NP but it can suggest actions. FC advised of RBWMs Cycling Action Plan suggestions and advised that a Borough Councillor has been invited to our next meeting.	
5.	**<u>Way Forward</u>** The Green and Blue Environment – SG to again go through document and list what needs to be done and send to CB for him to compile policies / actions. 1. The Housing and Built Environment – SG to again go through document and list what needs to be done and send to CB for him to compile policies / actions. 2. Getting Around – SG to focus on what we want to address effectively. 3. SG to compile a list of locally-listed buildings and significant areas. 4. With regards to Employment, CB said this is tricky in current climate which will change again. SG to establish specific issues to address. Look at the remaining sections and consider what needs to be undertaken.	All FC All FC All JK All All

6.	**<u>Any other business</u>** Before CB left the meeting he agreed to email his firm's proposed costings for consideration. FC thanked CB for his contribution and we all said goodbye.	CB
6.1	The following was then agreed as the way forward Deal with items 1 – 4 in Section 5 above**.** Getting About Transport and Parking - Make a list of wishes to discuss with David Cannon at next meeting. Think about what Policies will be required for the remaining sections so that these can be worked on and evidence sourced.	All All All

7.	**<u>Any other business</u>** **<u>Datchet Design Guide</u>** FC gave an update that Vicky Gibson had agreed to an extension of the closing date to 12.5.20 for DPC to give the parish councillors time to comment.	
8.	**<u>Date of Next Meetings</u>** 4.30pm on 13th May 2020 by video link	
	2020 second Wednesdays are: 10th June; 8th July; 12th August; 9th September; 14th October; 11th November; 9th December	