

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	Wednesday 8 th September 2021 4.30 – 5.30 p.m.
Venue	Video conference meeting
Attendees	Alison Crampin, Marjorie Clasper, Jo Stickland, David Buckley and Ewan Larcombe
Secretary	Jane Simpson

Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for absence and announcements</u> Fiona Cryle	
2.	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</u>	
2.1	Minutes of the DNPSG meeting held on 11.8.21 (Monthly meeting) were agreed for accuracy and signed.	
2.2	Item 5 – MC’s perseverance has finally resulted in approval from RBWM to designate the Riverside Garden a local green space. Well done.	
2.3	Item 10.2 – MC confirmed RBWM had granted permission for tree works - underpinning might cause slight damage to the Wellingtonia’s roots.	
3.	<u>Housekeeping and Correspondence</u> There had been two spam letters which didn’t warrant a response.	
4.	<u>Policy draft revisions, next stage and timescales</u> AC had asked CB about next stages and timescales and it is hoped when he responds that this will be explained. Rebecca Raine, the officer at RBWM responsible for keeping an eye on Neighbourhood Plans, had asked MC about timings. MC to send a holding note and update her when we have more information FC had asked the following:- <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Was there enough about sustainable building? AC said we had done a survey based on CSE advice and included what they recommended and wasn’t quite sure what else we could add. AC will ask CB.2. Do we protect hedges enough? AC said that hedges are mentioned in the draft in DAT2 on boundary treatments, along with pollution mitigation, and also at 7.23 as wildlife-friendly features. Planning conditions for AL39 include planting of trees and hedgerows. There is also national policy to protect some hedgerows too. It was agreed to ask CB if we can ‘beef’ it up succinctly.	MC AC/CB AC/CB

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	AC had offered for us to have a zoom meeting with CB if that would be easier for him to address issues raised in the recent revisions.	
5.	<p><u>Datchet Design Guide/Conservation Area</u></p> <p>When commercial premises change hands in the village, it would be good if DPC would write to the owners/new tenants with a copy of the Datchet Design Guide, which perhaps would reduce inappropriate signage on shopfronts in the Conservation Area such as the Turkish Barber. There is a chapter on shopfronts in the DDG. It would also be helpful if estate agents and commercial agents were aware of DDG. AC mentioned that Flowerz and Enzo’s freehold was up for sale.</p> <p>AC thought that publicising the DDG is something DPC’s Village Centre working group might take on. JSt said DPC has a database of shops in the village which is used for hanging baskets. This could be used to circulate information about the DDG. DB said he would organise this. MC said the shops and agents were regularly contacted for DPC events.</p> <p>AC said she would send details of the objectives of the Village Centre working group to DB who was unaware the group was starting again.</p> <p>AC mentioned a few instances when the DDG has been or would have been helpful, including the wall on Ditton Road, planning applications for Swan Court and 18 Penn Road, etc.</p> <p>The building work outside Fitz was also mentioned. The walled garden areas have been removed.</p>	<p>DB</p> <p>AC</p>
6.	<p><u>Green Belt</u></p> <p>FC had asked whether we could give the Green Belt any more protection. AC said that we had tried when we were compiling information for Local Green Spaces but CB had explained that we couldn’t give Green Belt any more protection than it already had.</p> <p>The new Planning White Paper was discussed and the proposed zones – protected, renewal and growth. It wasn’t known what size the zones could be, but the current information, subject to change, suggests that ‘protected’ areas will include Green Belt, Conservation Area, Local Wildlife Sites, Important Green Spaces (are these LGS?), and areas at Flood Risk. The level of flood risk was not defined. Gardens were also mentioned. These ‘protected’ areas are all relevant to Datchet. The status of NPs in the new White Paper was also mentioned. It was agreed to discuss with CB.</p>	AC/CB
7.	<p><u>Flooding</u></p> <p>EL thought that the groundwater levels should be described as periodic or sporadic rather than seasonal. AC to make change to text when it is returned from CB.</p> <p>AC asked EL about the legal status of bunds. Sumptermead Bund is registered as a flood asset. Southlea bund was not similarly protected – there was nothing to prevent the landowner from cutting a gap in it to improve their river view (Poplars). EL said Riparian Ownership rights and obligations give clear information about who is responsible for maintaining</p>	AC

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	<p>watercourses and land drainage. EL had looked at the watercourse running alongside the golf course practice field and had been shocked at its poor state. This is designated as main river so it is the responsibility of the Environment Agency to unblock it. JSt. advised that the Mykre Stream, another designated main river, was also in an appalling state.</p> <p>RBWM needed to ensure all watercourses are maintained regularly. DPC should also be playing a part in this, working together with other parishes. AC said DNPSG had written to DC/EA about mapping all the watercourses, ditches, bunds, etc. AC said that she would write to DC asking for a response to DNPSG's letter about flooding.</p> <p>AC said that a Sustainability Appraisal Addendum prepared by Lepus consulting for the BLP predicted that Datchet would experience more groundwater flooding as a result of climate change.</p> <p>It was thought that DPC was setting up an action group which could also push to get the watercourses maintained properly. DB would look into this.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>DB</p>
8.	<p><u>DPC/Borough Councillors engagement</u></p> <p>AC had forwarded to DPC the latest Link article. AC asked DB and EL whether they thought there was anything else that DPC would like to know. Both said not but EL suggested that AC could offer, at a future DPC meeting, to give councillors an informal update.</p> <p>DB/EL were asked whether the DPC had given any response to the consultation about main modifications to the BLP and proposed development in Datchet at AL39. The consultation has now closed. DB was unaware of a response. This information might be forthcoming at September DPC meeting on Monday.</p>	DB
9.	<p><u>Project Planner</u></p> <p>Fiona had said she would update the previous version from February 2021. AC said it would be good to have it updated as when we leave it too long we are more likely to miss things, and have to search through our diaries, etc, for information.</p>	FC
10.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>10.1 AC had noted the no idling signs by the Mays Crossing Railway junction, put there by WVL. MC mentioned that signs were something DPC was going to pursue but hadn't done.</p> <p>10.2 EL confirmed that a 'road' through Captain Seddon's land has been concreted. JSt and AC had heard it might become a builder's merchants. EL said there had always been two exits from the plot, one into Horton Road and one into Holmlea Road.</p> <p>10.3 EL said the state of the land at Ditton Road/Major's Farm Road was appalling – some enforcement action is needed.</p>	

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10.4	<p>FC had been in contact with Brian Clews who advised that there are fish in the Jubilee River but that the growing mink population might have eaten all the water voles, and American Signal Crabs might have devastated the crayfish population. RBWM has recently revised its Biodiversity Plan to take account of water voles. FC had posed the question as to whether a 'Friends of the Jubilee River Group' could be formed to help maintain it. AC suggested that we alter the draft text to mention the mink and signal crabs but JR is already mentioned in DNP Green and Blue Projects as a biodiversity opportunity area. Non-policy action number 29 covers maintenance of watercourses and control of invasive species and AC suggested we could add a Friends Group as a non-policy action. It was suggested that other councils along the length of the JR might work together to do this.</p>	<p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
11.	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>If AC hears back from CB then she will try and arrange an earlier meeting – FC + JS will be away during September.</p> <p>Wednesday 13.10.21 @ 4.30 p.m. which could be in the Village Hall - EL has keys. If not available, EL will try to get keys to the parish office.</p> <p>Other meetings this year – 10.11; 8.12</p>	