

Datchet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Meeting Minutes

Date & Time	Tuesday 4 th February 2020 4.00 – 6.10 p.m.
Venue	Datchet Parish Council Office
Attendees	Fiona Cryle, Marjorie Clasper, Alison Crampin and Ewan Larcombe
Secretary	Jane Simpson

Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for absence and announcements</u> Apologies received from Janet Kennish and Jo Stickland	
2.	<u>Extra meeting convened to discuss the Green/Blue Environment</u> AC had collated all responses regarding policies for this section and is attached below. It was agreed that all are thinking along the same lines and this document (when finalised) together with The Green and Blue Environment are almost ready to be sent to Chris Bowden for his input. Issues raised at this meeting included:- (a) Need to find out from Katy what protection the recreation ground (and any other parish council lands) receive and what the Parish Council are planning with regard the planting of 175 trees. This, it was agreed, needed to be a planned approach involving us and the Wild About Datchet group. (b) We need to identify where we think tree planting is possible and the enhancement factors and ensure that native trees are used. (c) We need to map significant trees and if possible protect more. (d) It was agreed that a broad brush policy plan for hedgerows was needed. (e) MC felt we needed to speak to the Crown Estate and Highways England about their parts of the green environment. (f) We need to establish where appropriate wildlife sites in the village can be identified and what designation could be afforded to them. It was mentioned that Wild About Datchet were proposing to have wild flowers on the HaHa in Horton Road. EW advised of the 3 filbert trees being planted there and on the land opposite Tescos. Therefore it was agreed that a planting plan should be produced for Datchet. (g) We need to find out from Robert or Chris how far we can go with respect to pollution issues/climate change and also about what we can do if policies already exist.	

Agenda Item		Action
	<p>(h) Attenuation Ponds were discussed and the possibility of having a Wildlife Pond on the Willowfields site. Needless to say health and safety aspects would have to be considered.</p> <p>(i) All agreed that all approaches to Datchet should remain green. The new blocks of flats along Slough Road falls foul of this and the planting of trees should be recommended there so to retain the green environment along Pockocks Lane.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Update on Datchet Design Guide</u></p> <p>The public consultation begins on 25th February 2020 and continues for 6 weeks until 7th April 2020. It was agreed to have a drop in session in the Village Hall either on 26th February or 11th March. Date to be confirmed at next meeting after speaking to Vicky Gibson.</p> <p>FC enquired about having a banner on The Green and all were in favour. FC to raise at next Parish Council Meeting.</p>	<p>FC</p> <p>FC</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>The Link article</u></p> <p>AC had put together the latest report for the Link and it was agreed that AC would circulate it for any comments before sending it off. AC had further produced a leaflet stating the same for circulation and the drop in session. AC advised 1000 leaflets would cost about £62 (EL could do it for about the same).</p>	<p>All</p> <p>AC</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Next meeting with Robert Paddison</u></p> <p>FC had circulated a list of question for RP and asked for any additions before forwarding to him. We need to ensure that we are going in the right direction; how we deal with mapping; and whether we need more consultations with the village.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>FC</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Character Assessments</u></p> <p>Whilst it is understood these have been completed for the majority of Datchet it was thought that may be we need to undertake one on land on the north side of the M4 e.g. Ditton Park, Riding Court Copse etc.</p>	

7.	<p><u>River Thames Scheme</u></p> <p>Following on from the meeting with Scott Salmon the plans were further discussed with regard to how it will affect what is already there and the vistas; how Liquid Leisure are going to react and EW confirmed that they now owned Windsor Lakes. EL advised of the Chilli Festival being held there on 30/31 May and referred to the outstanding enforcement issues.</p>	
	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>4.30pm on 12th February 2020 at the DPC Office.</p>	

Comments colour code

Mje / Jo / Jane / Fiona / Ewan / Alison

Landscape character and views

- Views – identify and preserve.
- The Neighbourhood Plan will preserve its special views, including those across the Thames to Windsor Castle and beyond
- Views, whether of a building or a natural feature, should be maintained or if possible enhanced.
- Protect landscape character and views

Local green spaces/open spaces

- Preservation and conservation of present green open spaces, the main areas as listed in our evidence document. This could include registration as open spaces and local listing. In addition we should add smaller areas which are key to built-up areas e.g. Talbot Place and area opposite Tesco's
- Protection of the Green Belt, in order to keep Datchet as a separate entity.
- Creation of new public open spaces and maintaining the public open spaces will bring health benefits for Datchet community and opportunity for recreation and leisure.
- The Neighbourhood Plan will protect and enhance its green spaces, surrounding countryside and Green Belt.
- The Neighbourhood Plan designates Local Green Spaces in the following locations and as shown on the local green spaces maps. Development will not be supported within these spaces.
- Retain, protect and enhance our existing green/blue open spaces and create, where appropriate, new space that "adds value in terms of planting, facilities and wildlife habitat
- Designate and protect local green spaces/open spaces
- The Neighbourhood Plan will safeguard and enhance the conservation area and protect heritage assets throughout the village. (G&B or Community/Heritage Assets?)

Pollution

- Encourage reduction in pollution level to improve air and water quality and so improve our physical/mental wellbeing and that of all living creatures.
- Green/Blue environment and air quality is current hot topic and a good place for the NP to be.

Green routes/corridors

- Identification of new green areas, by use of derelict land or in new developments to create green corridors.

- Recreation – to improve the current network of pedestrian and cyclists’ routes to the open space,
- Encourage the creation/enhancement of cycle paths and footpaths, be they green or tarmac, to increase accessibility and connectivity to all our green/blue assets.

Identify green routes/corr **Trees and hedgerows**

- Preservation of green verges, the trees and hedges along green routes and gardens to keep the built up areas as green as possible.
- To promote additional/retention of trees, hedgerows and encourage wildlife areas.
- Protect and improve existing trees and hedgerows and encourage new planting

Wildlife and biodiversity

- Enhancement of existing G&B areas for bio-diversity: tree planting, hedges, green corridors, wilding the ditches and mown grass areas.
- New developments should increase the amount of greenery, off-setting any hedge and tree removal, establishing wild areas , community gardens and open plans as well as providing play areas.
- Habitat creation – commitment to plant trees and hedgerow plus other vegetation to support not just clean air but habitat for wildlife.
- Protect the biodiversity of the area, ensuring local people have access to nature.
- Biodiversity. On no account, should what already exists be reduced or harmed. We should encourage bat boxes etc. but also other additions that benefit wildlife such as specific trees, hedges, shrubbery or other planting. (we need to ask WAD about this.)
- Promote opportunities for wildlife and improve biodiversity (including verges).

***In all above categories we should prioritise and name G&B areas at risk.**

Development and the environment (G&B or Sustainability?)

- Encourage and support appropriate flood protection.
- If built, RTS will have a significant impact on Datchet during construction and for the foreseeable future. Maybe mention ‘Currently investigating conflict between NPPF and Permitted Development on flood plain’
- Consider the shortcomings of SuDs in flood zones and quality standards of new homes. NP group should aim for/insist on/demand high quality [sustainable] new homes.