

Minutes of Meeting of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee
held on Tuesday 20th June 2023, at 7.33pm
Online via Zoom

Present: Councillor A Fletcher (AF) (Chair), J Fletcher (JF), R Sheen (RS), S Oxley (SO) and S Waller (SW)

In attendance: J Balaam (JB), Director of Development, The Greensand Trust

Minutes: C Callen (Clerk, Barton-le-Clay Parish Council) (CC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

AF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from N Day, J Irwin and A Knight.

3. Declarations of Interest

AF reminded members of the procedures regarding declaration of interests. There were no new declarations.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

AF to contact the dental practices in the Village regarding their provision.
CC to contact the Clerk at Silsoe Parish Council regarding medical provision.
S106 funding update was discussed.

5. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2023

The minutes were approved.

6. Update from the 'Big Help Out' event on 8th May

A good turnout was seen at the event, with people coming and going throughout the morning. JB reported that 60 people visited the Neighbourhood Plan/Green Infrastructure stall, with 38 actively engaged in dialogue regarding the Plan. No further consultation is required for the GI Plan.

7. Update regarding the Green Infrastructure Plan

The Greensand Trust have completed the fieldwork around the Village and have now completed the first draft of the GI Plan and Local Green Space review. The documents were shared on screen for members to discuss.

The Local Green Space lists 40 sites which have mostly been assessed in line with the set criteria. Land at Orchard School and Lively Land (Ramsey) need permission for access to review them. A copy of the latest map will be provided to accompany this document. It is recommended that the Group now have a dialogue with the landowners (not necessarily to seek permission) ahead of any public consultation, regarding the designation of their land. It is important to understand the landowner's thoughts on use of the land in the longer term.

ACTION – Clerk to send a copy of the Luton Road Sports Field earmarked land for 3G pitches to JB.

JB to provide a letter template to send to landowners.

The draft Green Infrastructure document was then reviewed. This incorporates the new guidance from Natural England on GI Framework.

Using data collected from consultations, the key views from Barton have been included. The urban fringe of Barton-le-Clay and the neighbouring land re tranquillity were considered, particularly in view of the proposed developments North and East of the Village. The CBC scoring process for its data was questioned.

ACTION – Clerk to provide JB with a copy of the Greenwood Development assessment and objection documents.

JB to review CBC data re tranquillity and see if any other data is more appropriate to use.

Biodiversity features were considered. It was noted the recent purchase of Hexton Estate land by Natural England will benefit the land East of Barton. The Chalk Streams are recognised as an important feature around the Village. Whilst there are several green spaces, these are largely sterile and not necessary areas promoting wildlife.

ACTION – Clerk to provide JB with contact details for the Barton-le-Clay History Society so that their input can be added around archaeological features.

Accessibility to the Green Infrastructure has been considered, noting the recreational need for residents. This includes Rights of Way, which are sparse in the area North East of the Village, where the new development is proposed.

ACTION – JB to check the ‘Chilterns Beechwoods Levy’ impact for Barton-le-Clay. Clerk to provide JB with a copy of the feedback from the Community Garden consultation on 8th May.

AF thanked JB for all the hard work he has put into drawing up the draft plan.

ACTION – Clerk to send copy of the draft plans to all members for them to review in greater detail and send any further comments or questions via the Clerk by 21st July (concurrently with the Design Code document). These will then be agreed at a meeting by 4th August with JB.

Clerk to send copy of the draft Design Code to JB.

8. Review of the draft Design Code

A copy of the draft Design Code was provided to members ahead of the meeting.

Several questions were raised for clarification, including terminology, mapped areas, etc.

RS expressed a desire to see minimum garden sizes included, depending on the size of the property. Tree planting and natural habitats were also discussed.

ACTION – Members to feedback any comments/questions via the Clerk by 21st July.

9. Review Plan – carry forward to next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed to meet again on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 7.30pm online via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm