

# Tenterden Green Space Steering Group

**Minutes for meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Attending:** Richard Masefield (Chair)  
Cllr. Nikki Gooch  
Cllr. John Crawford  
Siggi Nepp (Tenterden & District Residents Association)  
Vincent Ganley (Kent Wildlife Trust)  
Peta Grant (Weald of Kent Protection Society)  
Rebecca Hayward  
Samantha Reed  
Catherine Delaney  
Sid Marchant (part)

**Apologies:** Dr Chloe Davis (NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group)  
Rev. Lindsay Hammond (Rector: Tenterden, St. Michaels, Smallhythe)  
Sue Denton

## **Composition of Steering Group**

Cllr. Nikki Gooch confirmed the Town Council's view that the Steering Group should be resident-led with no more than two Town Councillors present at any meeting. The Group is to be composed of a broad spectrum of interested residents and representative local bodies, and is canvassing for additional members to represent the educational, sports and recreational interests of the parish.

## **Introductions/sites of interest**

Members of the group identified themselves, their residential and contact details, past or current professions or roles, their interest in Tenterden's green space and reasons for concern.

Amongst the green sites initially identified or discussed were the Limes Land fields and ponds, the Westfield Court meadows and watercourse, the woodland adjoining Rogersmead, the Coombe Lane old graveyard, the St Mildreds churchyard and church glebe, the Millennium Garden, the Bell Lane allotments and copse and the Heronden House estate. Corylus Ecology Ltd. and EPR (Ecological Planning & Research Ltd.) are currently involved in studies for the Westfield Court meadows and Limes Land, respectively. The Kent Wildlife Trust have reported on the Westfield Court meadows and Coombe Lane graveyard sites. Natural England has designated Heronden Woods and Pasture as a Local Wildlife Site (LPS).

## **Title and Mission Statement**

The TENTERDEN GREEN SPACE title for the Steering Group was agreed.

Richard Masefield read extracts from recent revisions to the national Planning Policy Framework as quoted by MP Damian Green, from the current Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and from National Planning Guidance as quoted by the CABE Green

Space Strategies Good Practice Guide. In a subsequent discussion the following Mission Statement for the Group was agreed:

#### *TENTERDEN GREEN SPACE MISSION STATEMENT*

- 1) To identify green space within the parish of Tenterden that is considered worthy of preservation for the social, educational, physical and emotional wellbeing of residents of all ages, for its inherent biological or historical importance, for its contribution to our iconic Wealden landscape and/or for the preservation of its indigenous wildlife*
- 2) To consider ways in which connectivity of green space through and around the parish may be preserved for the future*
- 3) To recommend means by which protected green space could be enhanced and maintained for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the parish and for the preservation of its wildlife*
- 4) To publicise the Tenterden Green Space movement as a means of attracting local support and funding.*

### **Reporting**

It was agreed that an eventual report on the findings and recommendations of the Steering Group would be supported by clear evidence and produced to a high professional standard. Siggie Nepp, representing the Tenterden and District Residents Association, pointed out that in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish it was essential that such a report should achieve official recognition – and Cllr. John Crawford recommended the early involvement of Ashford Borough Council

### **Action**

- 1) It was agreed that Cllrs. Nikki Gooch and John Crawford should discuss the Group's Mission Statement with other Councillors in the Town Meeting scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>, with the intention of officially assigning a Councillor or Councillors to the Steering Group.
- 2) It was agreed that following the Town Meeting, Richard Masefield and John Crawford should approach the Town Clerk, Phil Burgess, to discuss possible funding for an eventual Steering Group Report.
- 3) Rebecca Hayward to approach Homewood School and St. Michaels CE Primary School to engage local educational support for the Green Space initiative. Nikki Gooch suggested an additional approach to the PTAs.
- 4) Vincent Ganley to provide the Steering Group with a link to work undertaken by the Lenham parish with KWT on their local green spaces strategy.
- 5) John Crawford to provide copies of Ashford Borough Council's land designation maps and keys, together with any other relevant ABC data which may be available.
- 6) Richard Masefield to obtain copies of the AONB's new Management Plan and the Kent Nature Partnership's new Green Space Strategy – also to seek advice regarding contacts with local farmers and landowners via Matt and Gemma Hayes and the KWT, and to explore sources of funding for green space strategies via the CAFE.

