

Tenterden Green Space Steering Group

Notes on meeting: October 10th 2018

Present: Richard Masefield
Rebecca Hayward
Samantha Reed
Daisy Rudd
Adrian Greaves
Graham Smith
Alison Miles
Sue Quinton

Appreciation

Daisy was thanked for her painstaking work on powerpoint visuals for the Sept. 29th event in the Town Hall. Kate Delaney and Sid Marchant, who have now retired from the Group, were also thanked for all their help and input over the past 5 months.

Sept. 29th presentation & public discussion

Residents' support for the event was impressive, with an attendance of around 180, including 8 Town and 2 Borough Councillors. On the forms provided, added to those from the previous week's event at Tesco, 237 individuals have so far registered support for the idea of a selective Neighbourhood Plan for Tenterden with no dissenting voices. 7 residents and 2 Town Councillors spoke in the public discussion following the presentation – to give the steering group a mandate to proceed. Support for the initiative was also given by MP Damian Green, both in his introduction to the presentation and his newspaper column the following Thursday.

Amended planning application 17/00708/AS for the Westwell Land

Richard read his letter to Senior Planning Officer, Claire Marchant, to ask for an explanation of why Tenterden residents were not alerted to the amended application until after they'd complained about its concealment amongst amendments for the previous year. Despite a second email and the passage of a fortnight, no response or explanation has been offered by ABC.

It was noted that the offer to the Town of additional Westwell land, conditional on approval of the application, was on the table last year when Town Councillors unanimously refused it.

A dialogue with the Kent County Council Public Rights of Way Office has revealed that approval to build on both sides of the AB20 public footpath would result in closure of this most popular of green paths in the parish for the duration of construction, to be 'restored' afterwards in the form of a paved alley crossed by an approach road through the centre of the complex.

A Special Planning Meeting of the Town Council to discuss and vote on this application is to be held on Tuesday November 6th at 7.00pm. Residents have been alerted, and those who wish to speak may book 3-minute slots to do so. It was suggested that the Kentish Express should be invited to advertise the meeting in advance.

Neighbourhood Plan

Suggestions from Simon Cole at ABC, and from resident Michael Thornton during the Sept 29th discussion, were reviewed. The need to employ a landscape architect and/or planning consultant to oversee and progress the plan was agreed, and various candidates considered. ie: Andrea Pellegram in Cirencester, HBA in Tunbridge Wells with Greenhayes Planning Ltd. of Battle, LVA in Wadhurst, LHA in Penshurst and Jim Boot Community Planning in Northiam. Sam Reed and Graham Smith are

to research and reference all six, and possibly consider others. Richard will liaise with the Town Council to check existing candidates for possible conflicts of interest and invite other recommendations.

ABC Head of Planning Policy, Simon Cole, has confirmed that when applying for Neighbourhood Area Designation as a preliminary to the first draft plan, the area for Tenterden would be 'the parish'. As an example of the Area Designation form, documents for Egerton were shown.

Grants and funding

Having submitted further information on the subject, Alison agreed to offer support to those working with the Group on grant and funding applications for the Plan.