

**LOCALISM/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
STEERING GROUP MEETING  
23 February, 2012**

**Minutes pages 1 - 5**

**Present:**

Phil Applin	Ann Hicks
Neil Basnett	David Langman
Charles Bates	Alan Marks MBE
Tom Baxter	Charlie Michaelis
Kevin Bond	David Morgan
David Bowie	Harry Nicholls
Helen Crook	Neil Pearce (Planning Consultant)
Andrew Dow	Kate Rolfe
Elizabeth Dixon	Dave Savage
Jenny Fradgley	Sarah Summers (Clerk)
Trevor Honychurch	Moira Tsolakis
Peter Emmerson	Yvonne Wiggins
Mark Haselden (Chairman)	Geoff Wilson

**Observers:**

There was one observer present.

**Apologies:**

Victoria Alcock, Lezley Bott, Roger Matthews, Jenny Murray, Donna Savage.

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**1) Minutes**

The Minutes were approved as a correct record.

**2) Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised that the management team had met with SDC's Planning Policy Manager, Stephanie Chettle, to discuss the Core Strategy, which is now out for consultation from 16 February to 30 March, 2012.

Mark confirmed that the District Council has arranged a Core Strategy workshop for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to take place at the Town Hall on Monday, 26 March at 6:00pm (not 6:30pm as advised at the meeting).

Allowing just four days from the workshop meeting to the closure of the consultation leaves insufficient time to appraise the report in depth. It is therefore proposed that prior to the workshop, the document will be broken down into sections to enable the relevant working party to consider it in depth and respond to the consultation, feeding the information through to Phil Applin. The finite response can be tweaked following the working party meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that the findings of the Steering Group will be submitted to the Town Council prior to its meeting on 20 March, 2012 when the Town Council will also be responding officially to the consultation.

3) Communications and Consultation

The Chairman, Charlie Michaelis advised that 1,600 mood card responses have now been coded and the data analysed. The data is robust, and although there are no real surprises, a richness of good information has been captured. A report will be circulated to the Steering Group in approximately ten days time.

4) Presentation – Mature Stratford Straw Man

Geoff Williams presented the group's 'Straw Man' based on the 'Ideal Charter for Stratford' compiled by Stratford Voice.

The objective is to represent the views of mature Stratford residents, in general those over 50, in relation to:

- Environment: What surroundings do we want to live in?
- Leisure facilities: How should we be able to enjoy and educate ourselves in the locality?
- Ageing facilities: What facilities should be available to us as we become less able?
- Our resource: What can we do for Stratford?

The complete Straw Man presentation is circulated with the minutes.

The presentation gave rise to a number of observations and questions and it was noted that many of the ideals of Mature Stratford were reflected by Young Stratford. From issues arising it was suggested that further thought should be given to:

- Clinics within the town;
- A safe night time economy attractive to the elderly;
- Support for staying in own home for as long as possible;
- Better transportation, particularly on Sundays;
- Computer illiteracy, which will change in time;
- How are we going to fund it?
- Establishing a local lottery – mixed feelings expressed.

Geoff, who is moving from Stratford-upon-Avon and is therefore stepping down as Chairman of the Mature Stratford working party, was warmly thanked for the considerable hard work that he has undertaken as Chairman. Mark presented him with a token gift, expressing, on behalf of the Steering Group, best wishes with his move and the future.

## 5) Presentation – Youth & Families Straw Man

The presentation of the Youth & Families Straw Man, which was well received by the Steering Group, is circulated with the minutes.

A number of issues in Helen Crook's address had been identified in the previous presentation and it was interesting to note that despite the age differential, both young old had many issues in common, particularly that of retaining green open spaces.

Additionally, there were matters identified that are currently being addressed by the authorities and Helen requested that such information be passed to her so she can revise the plan.

**Issues arising:**

- Tourism – Neil Basnett confirmed that there will be a dedicated post for a Tourist Destination Officer which is being funded by a number of partner organisations within the town. Unfortunately, long term funding has yet to be established;
- Look at ways to establish integration of the generations;
- Pedestrianisation – guard against 'ghost areas';
- Community Transport – need for evening buses. Explore opportunities with HSC Trust, a community enterprise organisation providing community transport;

- A leisure/fitness circuit trail could provide a natural boundary for the town, delineating a no further build zone.

6) Updates from Working Parties

The Chairman suggested that as the Building Housing & Design Straw Man and the Business Tourism Straw Man will be presented to the March Steering Group Meeting, only a very brief update would be necessary.

Tom Baxter touched briefly on issues that will be contained in the Building Housing & Design Straw Man including:

- Disappointing planned developments
- Openness on land banks
- Aesthetics - principles concerned with good design, no 'factory line' houses

Kevin Bond, who presented the Infrastructure Straw Man at the last Steering Group Meeting, had nothing further to report at this time.

Trevor Honychurch, Chairman of the Finance Group, advised that to date, expenditure stands at £7,500. He requested that the Group is mindful that although the budget seems healthy at this time, considerable expenditure will be required for the consultation and preparation of the final document, particularly if the unforeseen expenditure on the review and referendum materialises.

7) Update from Planning Consultant

Nothing further to report at this time.

8) Public Participation

The one observer had nothing specific to raise, but acknowledged that he had found the meeting most interesting.

9) To Consider Any Other Business

- 9.1 David Morgan advised that a new e-mail address has been set up; [management@ourstratford.org.uk](mailto:management@ourstratford.org.uk) which will be used to send out the newsletter. There are

currently 1,600 e-mail contacts on the database, who will automatically receive the newsletter.

- 9.2 Helen Crook raised concern over governance and personal interests, which she considered could possibly pose a threat to the adoption of the final Plan if it were perceived that undeclared vested interests had influenced the process. Sarah was asked to look into this further.
- 9.3 Jenny Fradley advised that it would now be helpful if there were more tangible marketing tools to present when talking to people or organisations about the Plan, such as Facebook details, logos etc.
- 9.4 Alan Marks raised a point contained in 7.1 of the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January, advising that of the 900 vacant homes in the area, 780 of them have been vacant for more than 6 months and that these should be brought back into the market.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:15pm*

**ACTION:**

1. Core Strategy Consultation – working parties to submit responses to Phil Applin. Workshop on Monday 26 March at the Town Hall at 6:00pm;
2. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group draft response to Core Strategy to be submitted to Town Council in time for its 20 March Meeting;
3. Consultation & Communications Working Party to circulate report on Mood Card analysis to the Steering Group;
4. Kate Rolfe to advise Helen Crook on issues contained in the Youth & Families Straw Man that the authorities are currently addressing;
5. Housing, Development & Design ‘Straw ‘Man’ presented to March Meeting;
6. Business & Tourism ‘Straw Man’ presented to March Meeting;
7. Update on governance and personal interests.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft Mature Stratford ‘Straw Man’ presentation
2. Draft Youth & Families ‘Straw Man’ presentation