

Shaping Stortford Steering Group

Charringtons House

Wednesday 23rd September 2020 | Zoom conference call | 14:30 - 16.30

MINUTES

Present

Helen Standen	EHC Deputy Chief Exec	HS
Georgia Adamson	EHC PA (Minutes)	GA
Cllr Colin Woodward	HCC (SSSG Chair)	CBW
Cllr George Cutting	EHC	GC
Cllr Graham McAndrew	EHC	GMc
Cllr Chris Wilson	EHC	CW
James Parker	BS Town Council CEO	JP
Gina Thomas	BID Manager	GT
Trevor Brennan	HCC	TB
Paul Dean	BSCF	PD
Simon O'Hear	EHC	SOH
Peter Douglas	Residents Reference Group	PD

Apologies

Robert Mayo	EHC	RM
Karen Burton	BID Chair	

The meeting was held as a teleconference due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Minutes ~ 22nd July 2020 Meetin Colin Woodward

CBW and SSSG Members reviewed previous meeting minutes.

Agreed meeting minutes verified as true and accurate record of meeting held.

RM outstanding action to give an update on MSCP cycle spaces/EV spaces;
Inviting City Heart to one of our meetings action carried forward

2. Matters Arising

All

None

3. Sustainable Travel Town Bid

Helen Standen

Across Hertfordshire, 8 bids were received of which 3 were in East Herts. Bids here were submitted on behalf of Ware, Hertford and Stortford. The criteria to become a Sustainable Travel Town is very strict and includes the requirement to have NO free parking within the towns at all. This will require significant work by Town, Districts and County Councils and will mean charging for on street parking and the removal of the first 30 minutes free currently in our car parks. This also means should any initiatives such as free after 3 be successful, they would not be continued. There are many other significant requirements, the full criteria will be circulated with the minutes.

JP - Definition of Town Centre needs to be more pinpointed so it is clear what is classed as the Town Centre so we know where the free parking applies.

GC raise concerns of the affect free parking after 3 will have as this applies later on in the day where the town starts to become quieter. Suggested this is phased in.

Policy decision to be made by EHC done before bid support by EHC is confirmed to HCC.

4. Old River Lane & MSCP Northgate End

Robert Mayo

(As previously circulated report. Read of for the Minute by CBW)

The Northgate End development is progressing well and is ahead of schedule. Piling and foundation work has gone extremely well and is well ahead of schedule. The concrete frame for the MSCP is programmed to start arriving

on site mid-November, subject to a temporary s278 agreement to enable highways alterations to the access off the Link Road. The de-culverting of the River Stort has commenced and will continue over the next three weeks; this will create a wet woodland with the planting of 48 native deciduous trees (oak, willow, alder, silver birch, wild cherry), 288 native shrub varieties (hawthorn, field maple, goat willow, common osier, common elder) , x3 bat and bird boxes, x4 wildlife mounds, and a five year maintenance programme.

On the main Old River Lane site, planning and design work for the SPD is expected to start in the near future. Work has continued with drafting of the Development Agreement and is making good progress. Discussions have been held with County Highways regarding the 4-way Waitrose junction, which requires further survey and design work by the highway consultants.

PD was concerned about whether the SPD would be produced in the near future. Expected a definite date by now. Concerns particularly over a four-way junction to Waitrose entrance. Modelling has been questioned.

5. East and South East Growth and Transport Plans Trevor Brennan

TB The dates for the widening of pavements for walkers on the Station Rd bridge under the social distancing project are between 28th September 2020 and 16th October 2020, Works between 8PM and 5AM.

He also advised that due to having the BS Sustrans report etc an additional LCWIPS (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) wasn't essential. It would though be helpful to have EHC formally adopt the reports from SSSG including the Transport Options Study. **Action HS**

6. New Town 20mph Colin Woodward

CBW was progressing with Highways proposal for roads in his Division as an extension of the existing town centre 20mph zone.

- All roads listed / shown on the attached map will be surveyed (vehicle speeds & volumes) for a potential 20mph area.
- Colour coded by initial assessment, green = speeds likely to be below 25mph, red = likely to be above 25mph, amber = may be above or below 25mph.
- Council's Speed Management Strategy requires all 20mphs to be self-enforcing, so no burden is placed on the Police to seek speed compliance.
- Idea is for roads with average speeds already at or below 25mph to have a 20mph speed limit with signing alone, those roads with average speeds above 25mph will need additional engineering measures to lower speeds e.g. speed cushions, humps etc.
- Engineering measures are expensive so the initial speed surveys will assist to scope out a viable possible 20mph area.

- By 31st March 2021 the aim is to survey the roads, assess the data, and undertake a public consultation. Any resulting scheme, plus formal consultation, would follow in 21/22 (post elections)

7. Working Group Updates from Lead Members:

7.1. Sustainable Travel Support (STS) – James Parker -

JP shared screen and gave update on Cycling/Walking strategy

- Grange Paddocks, highly deliverable and well supported at officer level, £450k available to fund. HCC Countryside and Rights of Way service have worked up a costed proposal and are now progressing with a view to delivery, delivery not yet committed. CBW mentioned that though not his area he had had an update from the Highways Officer dealing with the ASR developments and he would obtain this for JP
- Warwick Road Maintenance Association opposed on grounds of potential liability and establishment of RoW. The next steps are to mitigate their concerns or over-rule them to the grounds that RoW already exists. Highways lawyers have been asked for opinions and via CBW/TB have confirmed that it is 'Highway not maintainable at public expense' and as such rights to walk or cycle these have not needed to be specified. As to the white gate this had no recorded permission to restrict access. It was therefore felt that cycle access was permissible but in reality, even if signposted would not necessarily increase to adversely affect residents. **Action 1 JP – write to Warwick Rd MA and advise of the intent to signpost as a cycle route. Action 2:** establish whether frontagers in the Warwick Assoc or HCC had liabilities. [NB during the meeting JP identified House of Lords decision McGowan vs Northern Ireland Housing Executive. It was concluded that they did not have any increase in liability from signposting a cycle route which, *de fact*, it is already.
- Town Centre and Station cycle parking review is complete. Adequate cycle parking available except in North Street and High Street. Signage required which has been purchased and has been deployed. Locations for new stands identified and permissions gained for High Street, hardware on order. Locations identified for North Street, permissions being sought from Highways but delayed due to Covid-19.

Application has been submitted and received. Once licences confirmed equipment will be ordered.

7.2. Schools & 20mph – Graham McAndrew

GMc No updates as schools are preoccupied with other projects.

CBW informed GMc the Head of St Mary's is the current lead on the Local Secondary Heads Association (LSHA) and Zoom meetings are going ahead. GMc may find it useful to request to attend. **Action GM**

7.3. South St Pedestrianisation – James Parker

HCC agreed to implement the first part of this. There is 1 potential issue, Tesco's customer car park at Nails lane which is claimed to be a public car

park and could impede restrictions on vehicle access to South St and driving through the centre. This is being looked into further by JP and CBW.

The team agreed that the revised PJA study, now costing only £K8.5 with the hard block option, should proceed

AOB

Social distancing – IH gave an update on officer changes and planter delivering (possibly c3 weeks). Maintenance and ownership of planters was discussed with BSTC willing to maintain subject to sign-off by EHC who were receiving the planters from HCC. **ACTION:** SOH suggested sponsorship of planters or advertising would check the rules to confirm this with EHC planning department.

CBW mentioned that some members may be contacted by Your Shout, as he had, regarding plans by the owners of Jackson Sq, (Legal & General), to bring in a new major retailer to the former Argos unit and make changes to five other units. This seemed a positive investment in Stortford. He also advised members that he was reviving some earlier work with his Highways support to improve 'pram crossing' dropped kerbs to encourage walking.

Date of Next Meeting

Charringtons House/Zoom
Wednesday 25th November 2020
Mtg Rm. A&B
14.30 - 16.30