

Shaping Stortford Steering Group

Wednesday 27th January 2021
Zoom conference call | 14:30 - 16.30

MINUTES

Present

Helen Standen	EHC Deputy Chief Exec	HS
Kate Collins	EHC PA (Minutes)	KC
Cllr Colin Woodward	HCC (SSSG Chair)	CBW
Cllr George Cutting	EHC	GC
Cllr Graham McAndrew	EHC	GMc
Cllr Chris Wilson	EHC	CW
Cllr Alastair Ward-Booth	EHC	AWB
James Parker	BS Town Council CEO	JP
Gina Thomas	BID Manager	GT
Ian Hollinrake	HCC	IH
Trevor Brennan	HCC	TB
Paul Dean	BSCF	PD
Robert Mayo	EHC	RM
Karen Burton	BID Chair	KB
Deirdre Glasgow	Chair Rhodes Trust	DG
Peter Douglas	Residents Reference Group	PD

Apologies

Nick Truran (HCC)

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

Minutes ~ 23rd September 2020

The Meeting accepted these as accurate and the EHDC website copy will be updated

2. Matters Arising

All

Minutes from 22nd July meeting: Update on Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) cycle spaces. RM confirmed that this has now been actioned, (see agenda item).

Item 5: East and South East Growth and Transport Plans: HS commented that the Bishop's Stortford Transport Options won't ever be formally adopted by EHC. However quite a lot of the items in there were picked up as part of the local transport plan that HCC worked on and EHC have progressed some items through their own working group. The Parking Strategy did go to EHC and a Task and Finish group was set up. The results of the Task and Finish group have recently come back to the council and it's currently under consideration for what items are going to be taken forward.

Item 6: New Town 20mph: CBW was progressing with Highways proposal for roads in his Division as an extension of the existing town centre 20mph zone. IH commented that the plan was to get this work done in November, however due to the second lockdown and Christmas this has been delayed. IH commented that it will most probably be March 2021 now, dependent upon Covid-19 restrictions.

Item 7.1: Sustainable Travel Support (STS) re: Warwick Road - action for JP. This item will be looked at later on in these minutes.

AOB: Social Distancing Measures. CBW said he'd been advised by HCC that East Herts were not going to delegate planters to the Town Council.

Action: HS to speak to Ben Wood as not sure they are in East Herts ownership.

3. Town Centre Covid Measures

Helen Standen

HS mentioned there was some attempt made to pedestrianize South Street although HS is aware that quite a large number of people have ignored this. HS is keen to hear back from business owners on how this is working in order that HS can feed back to Ben Wood (EHC) who is leading on this. CBW mentioned that a meeting took place with HCC, JP and GT and a lot of the issues were discussed. JP commented that HCC are prepared to discuss longer term issues, with a firm proposal and JP would like to discuss this further, later on in the meeting. TB commented that once feedback has come back to HCC from groups such as Shaping Stortford then an internal process

will take place on the next steps. A date for this will now be into the next financial year.

GC raised a couple of points to TB; Firstly, GC noted the speed that the restrictions were put in on the bridge. Secondly GC is being chased by Canal & Rivers Trust. They are currently in BS for the foreseeable future cleaning up the riverbank and facilitating pedestrian signage for the continuing repairs to the brick wall along the tow path towards (Hockerill bridge).

GC is continually being asked by CRT about removing one of the blue bolt bollards to enable Biffa to get their vehicles in to empty the bin store. CBW has asked for the bollard to be removed and the instruction went out on the 2nd December. TB commented that as soon as HCC received the information, a request was made internally to the engineering team. TB doesn't have a date yet but hopes to have further clarity at the end of this week. TB confirmed that he has given CRT details of the website where they can make a formal complaint.

TB mentioned that in terms of the current Covid measures the emergency TRO which was enacted for BS has an 18 month time period. TB mentioned that the Covid team will be looking to keep the current Covid measures in place short/medium time and the advice which they are getting is that Public Health colleagues do not think that things will change until March 2022.

4. Old River Lane (ORL) & MSCP Northgate End

Robert Mayo

MSCP Northgate End - RM updated that the MSCP Northgate End development is progressing well. There has been a delay on the concrete frame arriving on site and this will now take place in February. The temporary s278 agreement to enable highways alterations to the access off the link road has been problematic and work on this is still on-going. RM went through a powerpoint slide show with the group to update on the progress that has been made so far.

MSCP Northgate End - RM confirmed that 54 electric charging points will be installed with 546 car parking spaces; which mean that we will be fully compliant with the Councils aim of achieving 10% of electric vehicle charging points.

RM mentioned that the cycle storage was carefully considered by the project team; the overwhelming view is that it is inappropriate to have bicycles going into a car park however there will be provision for cycle storage in the wider ORL master planning and development.

Old River Lane - Full Council approved on 13th January the proposal to develop a smaller arts centre without a full theatre/auditorium. The proposal will now be worked on over the next few months working up a masterplan/SPD/consultation with residents and special interest groups. RM

then went through a powerpoint slide show with the group to update on the progress of ORL.

5. Goods Yard/Car Parks update

Helen Standen

HS mentioned that there has been quite a lot of development with the Goods Yard site. The siding site which was at the back of the development is no longer available to come forward so Network Rail have removed that from the gift of Solum. HS went on to say that the whole of the masterplanning site now needs re-looking at and EHC planning colleagues are working with Solum to bring this forward.

HS mentioned that the multi-storey car park has been completed; however there are still some contract negotiations to take place with Greater Anglia who own or will own the multi-storey. Belmore homes are now moving onto Site B. With regards to Site A, Solum is looking at someone else to provision hotel space as Premier have pulled out. HS last spoke to Solum in December and at that time they hadn't found anyone to occupy the site.

HS gave an update on Sustainable Travel Towns (STT). There were 3 bids that went in for EHC (Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware). HS mentioned that EHC took a decision to council in December 2020 for an *agreement in principle* that EHC support towns and parish's coming forward if they wish to submit bids to be a sustainable travel town which fits in with HCC's Growth and Transport Plan, (GTP). We are now in a position to take forward should we want to. CBW mentioned that the HCC feedback was that the three bids failed as the commitment was only 'in principle' and not as strong as the chosen towns. It may be possible to re-bid later. He asked about the key criteria set by HCC to remove free car-parking. HS confirmed that EHC have spoken to HCC about this and although there may be a little manoeuvrability, in the main the centre parking will need to be chargeable.

6. East and South East Growth and Transport Plans

Trevor Brennan

TB gave a brief update on the East and South East Growth and Transport Plans. The consultation is currently open until the end of March 2021. TB has presented to EHC Councillors. TB will provide the consultation portal web page in the minutes of the meeting. <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/About-the-council/Consultations/Consultations.aspx>

7. New Town 20mph

Colin Woodward

This item was covered in the previous minutes – no update needed.

8. Working Group Updates from Lead Members:

8.1 Sustainable Travel Support (STS)

James Parker

JP updated that we now have all of the permissions needed to install the cycle stands on North Street - these are to be installed in Q1 2021. JP has shared screen and went through the 3 routes where a feasibility study was commissioned.



STS.jpg



04559-SK-001-P1.pdf

A draft response is now available. The team has gone through the interventions that the consultants have proposed and trimmed some of the scope back to the essential scope and a series of questions have gone back to the consultants, however more money is needed. The next step is a discussion with the consultants doing the work so that we can get to the point where we can agree scoping. Going forward JP and TB to continue working with the consultants.

JP reported at the last meeting that Warwick Road Residents Association object to it being signposted as a cycle route. The grounds that they have raised are their concern at potential liability and the possibility of establishment of a right of way. Although the exact status is in dispute between HCC and WRRRA, it is not disputed that the public use it both on foot and by cycle Case law establishes that owners of rights of way over private land are not liable for claims of negligence if they fail to maintain it, only if they do some deliberate act which causes loss to a third party.

Action: JP to write to Warwick Road Residents Association to point out that we will be signing it as a cycle route on behalf of Shaping Stortford and SSSG is in agreement. JP to confirm the rebuttal of the liability point has been clearly communicated to them.

8.2 South St Pedestrianisation

James Parker

The covid measures have provided a lot of useful information and useful testing of how timed pedestrianisation of South Street/Potter Street/market Street would work. The Town Council and BID have asked consultants (recommended by HCC) to do a detailed study of the options on behalf of SSSG, the initial results of which were presented. The Team expressed unanimous support for the proposed scheme, with the modification that it should, if at all possible, be timed to allow peak hour egress via Apton Rd from the housing area to the west.

8.3 Waterside Stortford

James Parker

The signage project has now been completed. JP mentioned that they are looking at putting a couple of benches along the tow path area. Three projects are being looked at to take forward, two in biodiversity and the last one being a summer waterways festival.

AOB

TB will be working with North Herts Council going forward. JP thanked TB for all his work with the group.

Date of Next Meeting

Charringtons House/Zoom
Wednesday 24th March 2021
Mtg Rm. A&B
14.30 - 16.30