

# Shaping Stortford Steering group

Wednesday 22 November @ 15:30  
Wallfields, Room 1.11

## MINUTES

Present:	Cllr Gary Jones	-	EHC Deputy Leader & Chair
	Helen Standen	-	EHC Director
	Kevin Steptoe	-	EHC Head of Planning
	Jan Hayes-Griffin	-	HCC
	James Parker	-	BSTC Chief Executive
	Anjeza Saliaj	-	Project Manager
Also Present :	Jo Vottariello	-	PA (Minutes)
	Simon Willison	-	AECOM
	Edward Stubbing	-	AECOM
	Paula Rodriguez	-	AECOM
Apologies received:	Adam Wood	-	LEP
	Cllr Colin Woodward	-	Town/District/County Councillor
	Nick Hyde	-	Bishop's Stortford Chamber of Commerce
	John Rhodes	-	President - BS Civic Federation

### 1. Transport Strategy Stakeholder Presentation on by AECOM

1.1 Introductions were given

1.2 Presentation – introducing the start of the developing transport strategy.

- Edward gave an overview of why the strategy is needed and the background of existing documents to complement the work. Gary asked if the Bishops Stortford 2020 vision document was still relevant to include and it was agreed it wasn't as it was never a formal planning document.
- Modal graph shows East Herts and James believes it would very different if focused on BS alone.

1.3 Workshops took place where groups were shown pictures of BS town and asked 'What transport priorities come to mind when you look at the photos?'

- Overriding opinions were of too many cars, confused access points, no alternative modes of transport provisions, eg cyclist access, cluttered transport junctions and more pedestrian friendly areas needed. Too much on street parking and improved signage needed. Alternative routes are available but people choose the short cut – South Street could lend itself to a timed closure.

1.4 Presentation : The structure of the document was displayed and discussed. We would like the outcome to provide a tool to achieve

funding streams and try and achieve more sustainable transport options.

1.5 Case studies : Second workshop provided more pictures with the question 'What are your thoughts on each of the transport measures shown in the photos of case studies?'

- Mainly chose signage improvements, train station improvements, possible electric bike club, and pedestrian improvements.
- The group discussed the issue of bike racks being available in the town centre but visibility is poor so no-one knows they are there.

1.6 Questions – already had sight of chapters 1,2 and 3 – please can all **feedback go to Annie on these by 1<sup>st</sup> December.**

- Today's session will help in drafting objectives.
- Next workshop will focus on key challenges which will take place in December. Date TBC.
- James explained the issue of the school run and how this impacts on the excessive transport at regular times during the day. He believes this group of people should be targeting to reduce.
- Jan believes the issue is more the people who take short journeys to travel into town for transport links (ie train) or dropping off kids and taking the opportunity to nip into town.
- Jan believes this is the state of play now but we have to consider the future and that the traffic will get worse at peak periods. It will take a considerable effort to change peoples' activity and way of thinking to improve the situation. When schools are on holiday we all notice around a 10% drop in traffic and that's something we would like to ideally emulate.
- James asked if traffic modelling was part of the plan to develop the strategy. Edward advised it might be part of what they do to achieve the data but the budget does not extend to this work.
- Edward advised the strategy will be different to the framework as it covers the whole town and will include growth. Recommendations on interventions in the area of study will come in the form of packages of measures some of which will require testing. Case studies will be provided in support of the filtering process of the possible measures down to the preferred one.
- Funding will be given consideration when the package is prepared to offer a best option. Traffic modelling already done will also have to be considered when preparing the packages.

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting - 20 September 2017

The minutes were agreed from the last meeting. All actions complete unless mentioned below.

**Matters arising :**

- 1.2 No feedback received from Roger on bridge footpaths – Jan will chase tomorrow when she meets with him. HS to follow up. **HS**
- 1.3 Goods Yard masterplan was endorsed by Exec on 21 October and will be going to full Council 13 December. Follow up planning application has been submitted at beginning of November, consultations going out to HCC and BSTC soon. Will go to DM committee in February.

### **3. Minutes of ORL Delivery Board 7 November 2017**

- 2.1 ORL report going to Exec next week. Land use 'in principal' decisions being discussed, also discussing land that HCC own.

### **4. AOB and items for future agenda**

- 4.1 AECOM need another workshop to focus on the key challenges 1.5hrs needed – Gary agreed to use the next meeting on 13 December for this.
- 4.1 Add Goods Yard update to January meeting – SOLUM presentation, HS to enquire. **HS**

**Next Meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 @ 15:30 held at Charringtons House