

STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP

Minutes of meeting held on 6 September 2017

Present: John Kelly(JK), Robin Oakley(RO), Tom Burnham(TB) (Chairman)

Apologies for absence: Margaret Arger, Colin Love, Gill Smith, Joan Buller

1. **Minutes of Meeting on 16 August 2017.** No comments
2. **Matters arising.** Crossroads. TB reported that the Parish Council await responses from the residents of Chestnut Avenue regarding the proposals by Kent Highways to add a northbound lane on the High Street approaching the traffic lights and re-locate the footway to a position between the chestnut trees and the hedge, as suggested in the Neighbourhood Plan.
3. **Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan and Land North of Henhurst Farm.** TB reported that the Parish Council is to seek legal advice over the conflict between the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan over this site. TB also commented that MBC had failed to consult the Neighbourhood Plan sponsors, i.e. Staplehurst Parish Council, over this conflict, as advised by national planning policy. Borough Cllr. John Perry and Cllr. Louise Brice are working to resolve this and will attempt to have the land removed from the Local Plan. JK said he has made contact with some of the residents of The Bartons and who are complaining about the addition of 60 houses to the south of The Bartons, access to which would be via The Bartons, and he will continue to monitor the Group's Facebook page. After some discussion it was agreed that the NPRG should, by way of these minutes, suggest to the Parish Council that they seek to have Tree Preservation Orders placed on all trees within the land North of Henhurst Farm. RO said that he has sent a personal Freedom of Information request to MBC asking for copies of legal advice sought and obtained by the Borough's Planning Officer in respect of the late inclusion of land North of Henhurst Farm in the draft Maidstone Local Plan.
4. **Village Centre.** Nothing to report.
5. **Gypsy and Traveller Sites.** JK reported that on the evening of 5 September he noted two trucks parked on Maidstone Road by the G & T site known as Huntsman's Stables with the occupants of the trucks inside the site. RO reported that on the morning of 6 September an additional mobile home was delivered to the Maplehurst Lane G & T site.
6. **The Railway Tavern.** TB reported that at the suggestion of Borough Cllr. Perry, the Parish Council is to seek further advice as to the commercial viability of the Railway Tavern as a public House.
7. **Station Regeneration.** Nothing to report.
8. **Village Centre** Nothing to report.
9. **Sainsbury's Supermarket.** Nothing to report.
10. **Any other business.** None

Next Meetings: Tuesday, 3rd October and Wednesday 8th November