

## Minutes of Seventh Meeting of Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 pm

**Present (pls let us know if we've missed you off this list!): -**

Amanda Quince, Ian McIver, Keith Herkes, Jooles Roberts, Claudia Dietz, Kirstin Rayner, Nicky Gribble, Peter Norris, Tony Ploszajski, Sandra Einon, Stewart, Denise Hill, Denis Ivins & lady, Paul Sawford, Sarah Mitchell-Wood, Julian Polhill, Nicky Gribble, Sue Brunnsden, Margaret Dean, Ken Robbins, David?, Barbara Libiszowski, John Dean, Albert Gurney, Mangy and Bandad, Alison Myers, Alison Field Foster, Pam Layton, Ingrid and Michael Lennox, Dave and Shamila Harman, Alan & Sue Watson, Michael & Lady, and Sarah Flynn

**Apologies received:** Darren Rayner

**Guest speakers:** Cliff Andrews – Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity  
Mike Fayers – Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

**N.B. – To save space Action to be taken highlighted in blue**

1&2. **Welcome & apologies for absence (AQ)** AQ welcomed everyone to the meeting, and welcomed Cliff and Mike warmly to the Group

3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial interest for the meeting** None

4. **Guest speaker, BRCC, Cliff Andrews – Green Infrastructure Plan**

- BedsRCC was established in 1953. Its Headquarters are at The Old School in Cardington
- Cliff has a background in Environmental Science and before working for BedsRCC, he worked for the Oundle and Ouse Countryside Project - mostly in the Ivel
- 50 parishes across Bedfordshire now have a GI plan, half of which were supported by BedsRCC
- Stage 1 is the start of the Engagement Process, Stage 2 is an online consultation, Stage 3 is the collation of survey responses and the production of Renhold's GI map, Stage 4 (late March/early April) is the second Community Engagement activity to consult the Community on the draft Renhold GI Map and Stage 5 (May/June) is the final production of the GI Plan, which will guide the policies of Renhold's NP. **We will need to ask BedsRCC for those maps once work is complete.**
- **Cliff advised everyone to look at the GI Maps and the accompanying information before completing the survey. Reference giplanning @ bedsrgcc.org.uk**
- Cliff then explained Local Green Space Designation, which protects green spaces of local importance for reasons including: setting and nature conservation-the equivalent to the old Green Belt. Importantly, the Borough did not designate any Green Space in Renhold
- A question was raised about the landowners. They would have to give permission to lease/sell their land. Landowners might come forward once the GI Plan is produced. They could perhaps offer something that has not yet been considered. As Renhold Village is long and straggly, it is hard to find a 'central green space'

- Another question was raised about the money. There are grants, trusts, and the chance of a partnership with the Local Authority for changes of status of paths, hedgerows, trees, nature reserves and verges
- Examples of improvements are: stiles replaced by accessible gates, footpaths upgraded to cycle paths, recognised sites (not arable fields) for allotments, play areas etc.
- Views are important as landscape is one of the 5 GI themes
- Kirstin suggested using What3 words app as a reference - what3words.com
- Paul suggested using a grid reference
- Sarah said that all fields have names, but fields can change their names over the years
- John asked how much weight wildlife has. Cliff said that badger setts and great crested newts can be relocated and he is not sure of what BBC plan for the golf course at Mowsbury.  
**We will need to check the new Emerging Plan once it is produced**
- The survey will look to find areas of commonality - favourite views, favourite sites etc.
- Pam asked if any consideration would be taken of the views of the Ramblers' Association and riders on a trek
- **Cliff advised the NP Group to look at the emerging Ravensden GI Plan to see which paths they want upgraded**

At the end of the presentation, Amanda thanked Cliff and Mike for their thought provoking, informative and stimulating presentation and **Ian encouraged everyone to complete their online forms as soon as possible**, reminding everyone that extra paper copies were available and could be delivered and then returned to the boxes spaced at strategic points in the community.

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm

Next meeting arranged for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm