

## Record of Ninth (Virtual) Meeting of Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 pm

### Notes provided by BedsRCC

#### Renhold GI Plan – Stage 1 Questionnaire - Summary

This document summarises the headline results of the Stage 1 consultation exercise; and is the information presented to the NP group meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2021. It has been put together as a discussion document and not for publication, so formatting/ grammar etc. has not been checked.

We would particularly value feedback from the group on the points / questions highlighted in blue below.

88 respondents – a very good response rate.

Many of the survey respondents remarked on the beauty of the village and its surroundings, recognising that “it is a privilege” to live in Renhold.

Similarly, many respondents called for protection of the existing green areas and associated wildlife, and want development minimised so as to retain the rural feel of the village.

They noted the special importance of their rights of way and green spaces. These continue to promote a sense of wellbeing and have been especially vital for local people during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

It is widely viewed that the parish’s hedgerows need both protection and enhancement.

Respondents also noted that there is a need for more green spaces in ‘old Renhold’, and there were in particular a great deal of comments relating to the village hall area and the playing fields, with respondents keen to see greater community access to both of these sites.

### **Summary of responses to survey questions**

#### **1. Where do you like to walk within the parish?**

The favourite walking routes noted were:

- From the rear of the church to, around, Great Early Grove (FP1 and BW24);
- From the war memorial to, and around, Howbury Hall paths (e.g. FP15 and FP16);
- Various routes off Ravensden Road and along Renhold Brook (e.g. FP8, FP11, FP39, BW27)
- Various routes from village to Pells Farm Shop (e.g. FP18, FP19, BW24)
- Routes from / to the Polhill Arms (e.g. FP12, BW26)
- Paths around Cranbourne Gardens and routes off the estate (e.g. BW25, BW26)

#### **2. Are there any public footpaths or bridleways in the parish that you feel need to be improved (surfacing, widening etc.)?**

- There were many requests for stiles to be replaced by kissing gates - especially at FP15 behind the war memorial and routes around Howbury Hall.
- Poor drainage of certain RoW's was reported e.g. FP1 behind the church, and FP31 and BW22 from Hookhams Lane to Mowsbury Woods. Many of the drainage issues highlighted are likely to be seasonal in nature.
- There were calls for a number of routes to be reinstated e.g. RoW's FP2, FP19, FP20.
- Respondents asked for more dog poo bins and more signage re. keeping dogs on leads / under control.
- There were issues with the southern point of FP8 (Brook Lane) – overgrown / blocked by residents.

### **3. Are there any public footpaths or bridleways in the parish that you would like to see upgraded to allow cycling or horse riding?**

Very few respondents requested RoW upgrades, but instead repeated problems with stiles and other obstructions. Particular upgrade requests, all from single / individual respondents, included:

- The cycleway/ footpath along Norse Road should be "upgraded to bridleway to provide a circular ride and access to Route 51."
- New multi-use path for cycling from Ravensden Road to golf course.
- "All tracks and bridleways made multi-use."
- "All footpaths should be updated to bridleways to allow access for bikes"

### **4. Which are your three favourite open spaces in the parish?**

Many respondents described sections of RoW's e.g. BW24 (Wood Lane), FP15 (tree avenue behind war memorial), and routes along Renhold and Ravensden brooks. Additionally:

- Fields and woodlands behind the church (includes sites 7a and 7b on map)
- The land behind Pedley Way (Pedleys Field, site 19 on map)
- Tree belt by Ravensden Road (site 20 on map)
- Grassed areas with copses surrounding Cranbourne Gardens
- Open spaces between village 'Ends'
- Meadow behind 'Go Outdoors' (Norse Drive)
- Howbury Hall estate
- Fields south of school, looking towards Bedford

[As noted at the meeting, we will be more specific with questions relating to favourite/most important green spaces in the Stage 2 consultation; as this is a key element in working towards designating Local Green Spaces.](#)

### **5. Would you like to see more accessible community green areas in the parish?**

- Improved access / community green space at the village hall
- Community orchard by the village hall (other suggested sites include behind the sports area, behind the war memorial, and in the vicinity of the new estates)
- Playing field (various locations noted)
- More accessible woodlands e.g. Great Early Wood
- Playground / play area with outdoor gym in the old village – possibly close to school
- Wildflower meadow

- Allotments

The stage 2 consultation will pick up on these and ask for specific suggestions for locations

**6. Do you have any favourite views looking into or from the parish?**

- From Great Early Grove looking south towards the church
- From Top End looking south-west over open countryside towards Bedford
- From Top End looking north-west towards Great Early Grove
- From Church End looking south towards Bedford
- From Salph End looking north-west towards Marsh Wood and golf course
- From new estates looking towards old village
- Views along the brook
- From Mowsbury Hill Fort looking east into parish
- From Howbury Estate looking west towards Bedford

The above views/ viewpoints will be mapped on the next version of the GI plan map.

**7. Are there any specific wildlife habitats that you would like to see protected/ enhanced?**

- Protection of badger setts and surrounding areas
- Enhancement / reinstatement of hedgerows for wildlife
- Protection of woodlands
- Protection / enhancement of Renhold Brook and its associated wetlands
- Manage roadside verges for wildlife, plant wildflowers

As noted at the meeting – there are various references in different questions to Renhold Brook; which might actually mean Ravensden Brook – any clarification you can give would be appreciated.

**8. Are there any specific wildlife habitats that you would like to see created?**

- More wildlife corridors e.g. hedgerows and verges
- Wildflower meadow
- New woodlands
- More ponds / flood meadows / wetland areas
- Trees and landscaping at village hall

**9. Are there any specific environmental heritage features that you would like to see protected/ enhanced?**

- Protect badger setts
- Protect and enhance Renhold Brook and open areas around it
- Protect woodlands and hedgerows
- Protect historic avenue of trees on the path to Top End
- Put TPO on key trees in the old village

We will seek to ask a more specific 'heritage' question in the Stage 2 survey

**10. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Renhold's green infrastructure?**

- Litter and rubbish needs to be removed from Renhold Brook
- Waterlogging (lack of drainage) of green areas and play areas needs to be addressed at Cranbourne Gardens

- "...terrible that the village hall and playing field are seen as being actively discouraged from use" [we would be interested to know what the situation is here](#)
- Erection of visual boards / maps (or booklet) showing trails and features
- Spaces that separate ends of villages need to be retained

## 11. Which road do you live in?

Road name	No of responses
Top End	13
Ravensden Road	10
Green End	9
Church End	8
Asgard Drive	6
Brookside	5
Hookhams Lane	5
Thor Drive	5
Embla Close	4
Wilden Road	4
Home Close	3
Woodfield Lane	3
Brook Lane	2
Lady Mayor Drive	2
Odin Close	2
Pedley Way	2
Becher Close	1
Brickfield Road	1
Church Close	1
St Neots Road	1
Water Lane	1
TOTAL	88

Initial aspirations – refer to map on following page for location of aspirations

[Please confirm whether you agree with our interpretation of the locations for these aspirations, as plotted on the map on the next page.](#)

Ref.	Aspirations
1	Improve maintenance of Renhold Brook and surroundings for wildlife – including planting and restoration of hedgerows - and as a flood protection measure
2	Create publicly accessible greenspace at village hall e.g. play area, community woodland
3	Improve public access to sports field
4	Reinstate south-west section of FP2 to Church End
5	Create a managed wetland area at Cranbourne Gardens, close to Renhold Brook, for wildlife and to alleviate flooding of pathways and gardens
6	Protect natural areas on Cranbourne Gardens estate
7	Ensure that the present quarry bridge at Water End is retained for public use
8	Protect Great Early Grove for wildlife

9	Protect and manage hedgerows along Ravensden Road
10	Reinstate the current gaps in routes of FP19 and FP20
11	Surface FP1 from rear of church towards Great Early Grove to prevent flooding, and widen the kissing gate to allow access for buggies
12	Improve and sign Footpath 38, opposite village hall
13	Provide RoW signage for FP6 and BW7 at Ravensden Road
14	Create new footpath from southern end of Hookhams Lane heading north west along brook to FP31
	<b>General aspirations</b> (not mapped)
	Replace all stiles with gates or gaps as appropriate (especially on Polhill estate)
	Improve surfacing on rights of way that currently undergo regular flooding
	Create community woodland – location to be determined
	Improve maintenance of ditches for wildlife and to alleviate flooding
	Preserve the separation between the Ends; protect against infill and urbanisation
	Improve access to rights of way by better maintenance e.g. removal of encroaching natural vegetation
	Create new accessible playing field – location to be determined (e.g. behind war memorial)
	Create new green space / children’s play area / community garden in the ‘old village’ – possibly near school
	Create new woodland areas around parish
	Plant, protect and enhance hedgerows
	Protect wildlife habitats for animals and birds
	Create and maintain wetland areas and ponds
	Plant wildflowers on roadside verges
	Create a wildflower meadow – location to be determined
	Create allotments – location to be determined (e.g. in vicinity of new estates)
	Provide map and information on rights of way – leaflet / interpretation panel
	Protect parish’s badger setts and their surroundings.
	Designate old / mature trees in the ‘old village’ with TPO orders (if not already designated)

# Renhold

## Green Infrastructure Aspirations

-  Parish boundary
- Access and Open Space Theme**
-  Accessible Sites
-  Formal Recreational Areas
-  Other Green Infrastructure
- Rights of Way**
-  Bridleway
-  Footpath
- Aspirations**
-  New Green Infrastructure Sites
-  Green Infrastructure Sites to be protected / enhanced
-  Green Infrastructure Route
-  Right of Way Upgrade
-  Bridge retention
- 1-14** See accompanying notes for the numbered sites

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### Next Steps:

NP Group to reply to Mike/ Cliff with answers to questions identified above.

Cliff / Mike to draft Stage 2 survey; which will seek:

- comments on / support for initial aspirations
- additional aspirations
- more details/ specifics on some of the 'general' aspirations identified so far i.e. – “Stage 1 survey responses showed a desire for a wildflower meadow (community woodland/ allotment etc.) – where do you think this could be located?”
- Identification of specific green spaces; ranking them in importance

This survey should be online, but again with the paper copy option

As discussed, this survey to be supported by 1 or more drop-in consultation events

NP group to consider timescales, dates and locations; and provide Mike/ Cliff with options/ proposals.

Next meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm (Zoom)