

Minutes of the Eleventh Virtual Meeting of Renhold Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

GI Plan Survey Phase 2

Tuesday 22nd June, 2021 at 6.00pm

Members of the public were invited to join this virtual meeting, which due to Covid restrictions replaced what would usually have been a live event.

N.B. – To save space, Actions to be taken are **highlighted in Turquoise**

Present:-

Amanda Quince (Chair), Ian McIver (I.T), Keith Herkes (Treasurer), Jooles Roberts (Minutes Sec), Claudia Dietz, Nicky Gribble, Dennis Ivins, John Layton, Sarah Mitchell-Wood, Peter Norris, Tony Ploszajski, Paul Sawford. Cliff Andrews and Mike Fayers, BEDSRCC

Members of the Public:-

Roy Clifton & Barbara Libiszowski, Rebecca and Franco Epifano, Albert Gurney, Michael Lennox, David and Alan Watson

Apologies:-

Sandra Einon and Kirstin Rayner

AQ welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cliff Andrews & Mike Fayers from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity to those who had not previously met them.

CA shared Renhold Green Infrastructure Plan Phase 2 on screen with 5 main themes: Landscape, Publicly Accessible Green Spaces, Biodiversity and access Routes to include ROW network, heritage and nature reserves.

The 2007 County Wide Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan and the 2009 Bedford Borough Green Infrastructure Plan were a good starting point but were put together by experts who took the information from plans, rather than asking local inhabitants. BedsRCC was formed to help provide Parish level GI Plans, giving local communities a say in GI Plans which influence Policies. Green spaces identification helps sites to be protected against development, and the GI Plan and the NP fit together to provide evidence.

WHERE WE ARE: The first phase Consultation has been undertaken and analysed.

Renhold Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan Phase 2 Community Survey is listed on a Survey Monkey link which is now live on line and will be until at least 11th July.

All dates are proposed, and can be extended. A paper copy of the Survey will be made available to those residents who wish to participate in that way.

CA went through the questions on the Part II Survey.

All documents are held on a bespoke webpage on BedsRCC and the link will be circulated to Renhold residents.

Draft Aspirations Map introduced, having been based on Access & Open Spaces Map in the original Map Pack and now marked with the aspirations all taken from first Consultation, which received a good level of response. BedsRCC have not added anything.

A request was made for links to maps to be added and CA said he would do this.

Question 3 of this Survey offers an opportunity to add new aspirations and if something is put forward by more than 1 person it will be included in the final Aspirations, but the location will need to be clearly identified.

Draft Aspirations Table should be read in conjunction with the Draft Aspirations Map. The table shows 15. Aspirations - common themes to which people made reference and which could be located by BedsRCC. Where only one comment was received these have been parked for now, as this is not a list of individual comments. Ranking the top 5 to gain a definitive set of aspirations, with the rest listed thereafter, gives a clear picture of the priorities and what the community are looking for.

General aspirations (not mapped) relate to matters which are genuinely parish wide, i.e. planting wild flowers on verges. Some are specific, i.e., new woodland, pond etc but where no suggestion as to specific locations has been made, Phase II asks residents to add detail, where would they like to see them, so that a consensus can be built.

For anyone not already aware of GI Plans, background information is available at the bottom of the page with the original Map Pack.

Green Spaces & ROW Map This needs to meet certain government criteria, but also needs to identify which green spaces are important to the community. The map needs to be read in conjunction with the Renhold GI Plan Open Spaces Table which lists 20 sites. In addition to the black numbers there are smaller numbers which are the ROW numbers - making identification easier.

CA asked if there were any questions:-

IM said that he, and several others, have pondered the purpose of the question "how long have you lived in the Parish?" CA replied this is part of gathering evidence base, to ensure that there is a cross section from the community who have responded. Likewise "which area of the Parish do you live in?". If all respondents had lived in the village, say, for more than 20 years, or, say, 95% lived in the same street, it might be necessary to run the survey again as it would not be truly representative of the whole community.

PN questioned the area marked 19 "accessible sites" and was informed that from the information received this was an area which was accessible to the general public and could be used, differentiating it from formal access sites where use is restricted, i.e., cemeteries, school grounds, formal sports pitches etc.

CA asked that if anyone thought that the shadings of an area on the map were incorrect to please let him know

AG said that as far as he is aware apart from the Village Green, all land in the older part of the village is private. CA answered saying that before any aspiration can be actioned it needs (1) Consent from the landowner and (2) funding. The same with councils & developers. Local residents can show what they would like to see enhanced and then the land owner can be approached. Any action plan would start by firstly engaging with the land owners.

JR asked CA whether he had ever heard of any Parish which had received funding to replace stiles, which she believes are owned by the land owner. CA said that funding was possible from the ROW department and said that sometimes stiles can be replaced by kissing gates. However land use is a determining factor if there is livestock. The landowner may agree to replace stiles with something more accessible but agreement would be needed & it would not necessarily be with kissing gates.

PS joined the meeting at this point.

RC expressed confusion as to which brook is officially Ravensden Brook and which is Renhold. After some discussion amongst the whole group, and explanation from PN that different OS maps have different labels in different places, AC confirmed it is difficult to know which is right. PN to investigate and get back to us.

NG replied to JR's request for a map showing Tree Protection Orders saying she and AQ have been trying to get the Tree Officer to visit but it was proving difficult. KH pointed out that the LA would have a map, which they would use when considering Planning Applications, and whilst discussion was taking place CA found a list on BBC website, for which he would send a link to NG. MF(??) agreed to investigate the matter and to speak with the Tree Officer.

KH brought up the subject of traffic weight limits and the fact that HGV lorries are starting to use Hookhams Lane regularly again. Local police officer Ed Flynn to be contacted by AQ.

State of footpaths & road surfaces, overgrown hedges was discussed. AQ to email BBC asking them to investigate and enforce

AQ thanked CA and MF and said that she and IM would be working on a paper copy of the Phase 2 Community Survey, which would be provided to them by Monday 28th June AQ/IM

NEXT STEPS

Housing Needs Survey Funding for the survey has been secured from Locality.

Jemma McLean from BedsRCC previously sent through information for consideration, and IM shared the draft Housing Needs Survey on screen which will be specific to Renhold.

AQ said that it needed to be decided what RNPWG's approach to new development will be, and where it should go.

KH suggested that a starting point is the Call for Sites.

AQ said that the draft new Local Plan has been issued and Renhold has not been designated for new housing. BBC has to have enough land supply for 10 years, and KH said if a need is going to be imposed Renhold needs to be ready to propose where the houses should go.

Call for sites list to be distributed AQ/IM.

CD suggested that the survey be delayed until after the school summer holiday which is approaching, and that as the next consultation for the Local Plan starts in July and it would be best to wait to see that first. GM will be asked to delay the launch until early September. Flyer to go inside August magazine edition AQ/IM to ask AG/RJ.

IM thought engaging pupils at the schools was a good idea, and AQ will take paper copies of the survey to Mark Rutherford School.

AQ/IM to circulate Housing Needs Assessment and Call for Sites by 28th June.

ROW Survey

KH to inform AQ how much of the £1,000 grant is left. There will be at least 4 pages to the next survey which will therefore be more expensive than the first, so may have to review approach AQ/IM.

IM informed the meeting that the Renhold .gov.uk domain name has been authorised and the new website, with the separate section for the Neighbourhood Plan, will be done by Robbie Bays.

Date of next meeting not yet set.

The meeting closed at 7:45 pm.