

**Draft Minutes of the Seventeenth (Virtual) Meeting of Renhold Neighbourhood Plan
Working Group**

Wednesday 11th January at 7.00pm.

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

Present:- Nicola Gribble (Acting Chair), Claudia Dietz, Denis Ivins, Keith Herkes, Ian McIver, Peter Norris, Tony Ploszajski, Julie Roberts

Apologies:- Amanda Quince (Chair), Kirstin Rayner, Sarah Mitchell-Wood, Paul Sawford

1. Welcome (NG). NG welcomed everyone to the meeting, which due to technical problems started some 20 minutes late

2. Declarations of relevant interests (All) No interests were declared

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

GI Plan final adjustments with BRCC – update (PN) A copy of the first draft GIP was distributed to the Group earlier this week. All significant issues have now been dealt with, and it is still possible for Mike Fayers to make any textual alterations required. The deadline for alterations to be sent to PN was agreed as Monday 16th January. **ALL**
The GIP does not form part of the Plan itself, but is a supporting document to which reference can be made. It was noted that the Local Plan 2040 has now been sent to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

Following attendance at a CPRE planning event JR had queried the maximum area which could be designated as a Local Green Space, and was assured that it was 10 hectares, which therefore excludes the parkland at Howbury Hall.

Sustainability (TP/All) Whilst giving her apology for non-attendance, KR again offered to count houses with regard to solar panels. It was agreed that the count should be of the roofs of houses which are South & South West facing which do not currently have solar panels. Google Earth will show these. In addition, any commercial buildings within the Parish to be shown in the count. **KR**

KH offered to write to BBC to enquire what their policy is with regard to solar panels on roofs when granting planning permission for the building & refurbishing of commercial buildings. As previously agreed, the production of Sustainability Statements is on hold until it has been established whether there will be any built development within the Policy. CD suggested that there may be something in the draft 2040 Plan.

Business & Employment section Following discussion, which included the topics of faster broadband, better mobile phone signals, and the availability of off road parking, it was felt that business & employment should be included as an issue in the introduction, rather than a stand-alone section, acknowledging that there is no specific employment land (apart from possibly Woodfield Farm) but there are several small businesses being run from home which form part of the characteristic of the village. Awareness was made of the difference between

running a business from home, and working at home. Business & employment within the village can then be revisited to encompass any changes as they might occur. TP will amend the introduction to the draft Neighbourhood Plan document to reflect this.

Inclusion of a Tree Preservation Order section/policy within the NP (KH/NG) This will be addressed when time allows, in approx 6 weeks. NG pointed out that when considering the request for removal of a tree the PC planning committee always visit & where possible suggest lopping/pruning rather than removal. Where it is agreed that the tree should be removed a comment is always made in the P.C. response that it should be replaced with another tree. NG to ask the Clerk to the PC to write to BBC to enquire whether such a statement is written into the Permission, is there a time limit set, and is it enforced?

Fuel/energy poverty assessment (TP) No additional information on energy issues from the Census is yet available from BBC. TP will continue to update this section in the Draft Policy when updated data is available.

Incorporation in the NP of precisely mapped delineations of the village 'Ends' (PN/NG) NG asked JR to distribute to the Group email correspondence between her, the Clerk to the P.C. & Andrew Prigmore at BBC relating to the designation of Ravensden Road as an 'End'. This may have implications when planning issues arise with regard to keeping strict gaps between Ends. The area is known locally as Struttle End, but not officially. It was felt that Mr Prigmore had misunderstood the request - there was no intention to change the road name, just identify and record it as an End, and separate it from Salph End. It was felt that maybe at Highways he was not the right person to deal with the matter. The name Wood End had been suggested & now Brook End, but it was felt that in due course perhaps the residents of the 53 properties should be contacted to ask their views, possibly by means of a hand delivered leaflet & KR, who lives in Ravensden Road, will be approached about this in due course. NG to write to thank Mr Prigmore for his response. PN agreed to produce a plan annotated with the extents of the current 'Ends' and the proposed 'End' at Ravensden Road, along with the separating gaps, possibly along the lines used in the Local Plan to denote existing settlement areas to help with proposed discussions with residents and planning officers. CD suggested that it would be more appropriate and productive to engage with the Planning Policy Team (Sonia Gallagher/Kim Wilson) to pursue the 'Ends issue'.

Inclusion in the Plan of ROWs as multi-use paths This will be done in due course, and any aspirations, even on a major scale, such as linking cycleways from Bedford to Cambridge can be included. It was noted that as part of the planning permission for the housing estate on Cleat Hill the builder has agreed to fund the installation of ASCs on Cleat Hill, and Ravensden PC will use part of CIL monies to install a cycleway/pathway on Oldways Road TP

Village History/photographs (JR/KH) The archives were visited, & although very interesting, as expected there were no photo albums for Renhold, just individual photos, some postcards & some scrap books. KH has followed up the offer of photos which someone feels they have on probably a floppy disk & the lady will check to see if she still has it. JR offered to speak with the owner of the Facebook page which regularly displays historic photos of Renhold (he was contacted some time ago by KH but there has been no recent communication). NG has been offered some photos which would bridge the gap between historical & today. When

up-to-date photos have been taken there might then be a good continuous record. Ongoing JR/KH/NG

Identification of small scale development sites within the NP (PN) PN reported that he had updated and circulated the parish extract of the BCC Call for Sites register. It now contained columns indicating which proposals were considered to comply with the current development policy – which most are not. The additional information should help the WG in the future when potential location for small scale developments were considered for inclusion in the NP.

Village Design Code After conversation with CD & KR, Sally Chapman Planning was contacted by JR. Sally feels they are a very good thing to have, and advises all her clients to produce one. It is not a substitute for a Conservation Area designation, but it is a very helpful tool for guiding new development, and would cover amongst others matters such as materials to be used, design features, characteristics of the village and transport issues. A grant will need to be obtained from Locality in order to pay Aecom to produce a guide. PN to speak with Steve Arnold of Ravensden P.C., who have already prepared a guide, to seek his advice/experience.

Finance update (KH) Funds in the bank are approx £500, not £1000 as previously stated. NG reported an issue with unrepresented cheques issued to Locality, and KH suggested that it is the Clerk to the P.C. who should investigate the problem. The £1000 which the P.C. were asked to provide has not yet been confirmed. There is approx £3,000 of the original £10,000 still available from Locality. It is doubtful the total of all these funds will be enough to complete the Plan. When the time comes, KH offered to complete the grant application to Locality for the design code.

A.O.B.

Summary of NPWG activities for the village magazine. NG has prepared the summary which JR has read, making a few very minor suggestions, and this will be ready to send to the magazine tomorrow NG

Four surveys have been carried out, and on checking the website NG found that only feedback from the first survey appears. TP to send the analysis he did for the two surveys initiated by the NPWG (the GI and Housing Needs surveys were administered and analysed by Beds RCC) to NG to be put onto the website.

Amanda Quince has spoken with NG and would like to return to the Group, although not yet in the role of Chair. AQ is only available on Mondays and Tuesdays. In anticipation JR had spoken with KR, who cannot make Tuesdays, so with the agreement of those present for the time being, where possible, meetings will take place on a Monday.

Meeting closed at 9pm with NG thanking everyone for their time and for volunteering

Date of next meeting: Monday 20th February at 7pm