

### Stevington Neighbourhood Working Party

#### Minutes of meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**Present:** Graeme Read (GR); Andrew Lockwood (AL); Sue Thornton (ST); Siobhan Atkin (SA); Linda Penney (LP). **Apologies:** Brian Stammers (BS)

**In attendance:** Pat Olney (PO); Roz Buchanan (RB); Trevor Roff (TR) and Phil Lotan (PL) representing Regeneration Positive.

1. All present introduced themselves briefly.
2. TR circulated a handout on the benefits of developing a Neighbourhood plan; directed the Working Party to the document 'A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning'; and provided a list of tasks to help move forward. He elaborated on his proposal (previously circulated by GR) to assist the working party. Key points raised:
  - Neighbourhood Plan allows the community to influence the type and quality of future development within the Parish, including housing numbers and density. The village must decide what it wants Stevington to look like in 2032. Bedford Borough Council (BBC) will review the NP and can change it.
  - The NP, when approved, is a statutory document which Bedford Borough Council (BBC) must take into account when developing the 2032 Local Plan. The 2032 Local Plan will identify an increased need for housing and will be influenced by the national housing need which should be announced in the Spring. GR is liaising with BBC, who are supportive.
  - Stevington is unlikely to be at risk of major development but will need additional housing: this may be positive in sustaining and developing local facilities.
  - In developing the NP, planning issues are key; it must be evidence-based; and it must be supported by the local community.
3. Regeneration Positive can offer:
  - direction to get the Working Party to a high quality launch
  - to tie in their support with the tasks Stevington volunteers can complete
  - to assist in developing the NP to the stage at which specialist planning input is required
  - to assist with accessing funding for NP development and applications. New funding will be needed for development of launch materials and for future stages of NP development and production, including engaging a planning consultant.
  - base line reports from other NPs to use as models in developing the Stevington NP.TR mentioned one of the planning applications (263) submitted under the call for sites is a distant relation of his, to clear any conflict of interest.
4. TR and PL left at this point. After brief discussion, the Working Party voted unanimously to appoint Regeneration Positive to assist in developing the NP.
5. Dates for future meetings and launch timing were discussed. Roles within the Working Party were agreed.  
Chair: GR was nominated and unanimously elected.  
Finance: RB  
Website management: AL and ST  
Admin & Minutes: LP
6. Bromham are launching their NP in Bromham Village Hall on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 3.00-7.00pm and Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> February 10.00-4.00pm. Several members of the Working Party plan to attend to see an NP launch in action and to see what is planned for an adjacent village.

#### Actions:

**AL** to set up dedicated website for NP to include links to key documents, details of Working Party and Minutes, enable villagers to volunteer assistance and support with tasks and leave comments and suggestions.

**LP** to draft article for Stevington Magazine and contact Peter Hart to seek input on 2007 Stevington Plan and historical aspects.

**RB** to look at possible venues for future meetings and book.

Date of next meeting has been agreed **Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February** at GR's house

Linda Penney 12/02/2015