

## **Austrey Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group**

Meeting held at Austrey Village Hall August 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 at 6.30pm

Present: Sam Goldney-Neate, Neil Hayward, Terry Webb, Elaine Horton, Louise Kirkup via Zoom.

Apologies: Pete Yates, Luke Baxter

Resignation received from Rose McGrath, (EH to share updated email distribution list with the SG).

SGN reported that Localities funding had opened, and LK could now be paid.

SGN also reported having looked into speed signs, due to local concerns raised in the consultation document. Previously the village had operated a speed awareness group using speed guns pre covid, but due to concerns about driver abuse and getting enough volunteers, the group is currently inactive. Other ideas included speed awareness signs on bins. Although these are only out once a week, it might serve to deliver the message subliminally. Other suggestion was LED signs which light up with a smiley face if driver adhering to limit, and a red frown face if driver exceeding limits. NH has a contact at WCC highways and will investigate costs with him.

SGN updated the SG on pictures taken of local views. She felt they could be better, and suggested the village be invited to take their own photos (with specific locations provided) with possibly a prize for the best with a small prize such as a voucher, which would engender good community engagement. LK suggested could use the winning photo as the front cover photo when NDP final version published.

SGN to check with LB if he has any drone shots of the areas.

TGW reported he is still working on the Design Codes materials and will update the SG at the next meeting. SGN said AECOM want to have a meeting with us, being an agency that Central Govt funds to work with Parish Councils. EH, NH and TGW agreed to attend.

TGW also reported no news at this stage re the Walking Bus which had been mentioned in the consultation, but general agreement was that there would be little interest from potential volunteers or from the school, and also issues with insurance. Issues regarding parking in St Nicholas Close still of concern however. The possibility of daily short term road closures was discussed, as when the Close is full of cars there is no room for emergency vehicles.

NH shared his report on mobility access in the Village. He is having a meeting with Reece Berry from WCC Highways dept to discuss further. There are issues of uneven pavement surfaces and limited dropped kerbs. NH had spoken with Disabled Ramblers Association after experiencing difficulty with the kissing gate on the path between Wulfric Avenue and the Church.

EH to email Marina Kirchem, Rights of Way officer at WCC to enquire about the legal position regarding footpaths, gates and disability access.

NH also reported there were areas around the village where residents' hedges or plantings hang over the pavements. SGN shared that the village used to have a paid person acting as Lengthsman, but the position no longer existed although some work was covered by PC volunteer. SGN to see if PC could tackle the issue of overhanging foliage. Also, NH reported that the driveway up to the Recreation Ground is potholed and difficult to navigate on a mobility scooter. SGN to spk to Parish Council to see if repairs can be made.

SGN shared that WALC (Warwickshire Assoc. of Local Councils) are offering training sessions via Zoom re NDP. EH and NH to attend on 25 Oct at 6.30pm. Another session is also available on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.

LK has sent updated table of comments from the consultation for further review by the group. Discussions from this meeting regarding items in the consultation can now be added to this document, which shows the public how their comments have been considered and addressed.

LK has also shared a 'clean' version of the NDP document to date and which can be added to PC website.

Specific attention now needed on Local Green Spaces, and a sub group of SGN, NH, TGW and EH will meet to review those suggested in the consultation. Meeting set for Sep 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Bird in Hand private function room, SGN to check availability.

Actions –

**SGN** – consider issues of speeding with PCSO

Contact LB re aerial drone shots

AECOM meeting schedule

Repairs Recreation ground driveway

Book 25 Oct NDP training

Ctct Gareth at the BIH to check availability for Sep 7 meeting

**TGW** – continue investigating walking bus, and Design Codes materials

**NH** – enquire re cost of LED speeding signs with his ctct at WCC Highways

**EH** – contact Austrey Walking group re walk maps, and contact Marina at WCC re gates and footpaths. Also to send updated email distribution list to the group.

The next meeting of the Steering Group was set for Weds Sept 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.