

**Steep Parish Plan - Steering Group 7th Meeting
Tuesday 25th May 2010 7.45pm at 47 Church Road – Minutes**

Chair: Tony Struthers

Present: Peter Coates, Terry Cook, Jim Macdonald, Philip Mileham, Alex Patchett-Joyce, James Rush, Geoffrey Russell, Jim Stoker, Celia Storey, Jeremy Young

Apologies: Fran Box, Linda Henderson, Linda Munday, Jessica Pocock

1. Minutes of 6th meeting 27th April and actions arising

The Minutes of the 6th meeting on 27 April were approved.

Conversations:

- All planned conversations had now been held, except as below
- Hays Cottages – James to follow up with Brian Walters
- Tennis Club – Jeremy will follow this up
- Kettlebrook – Linda to follow up with the Dales
- Island – Trevor Hines to follow up
- Bedales – the school had invited Peter Coates to propose questions for tutors to discuss with pupils at Tutor Time, and also offered a 15-20 minute presentation at Monday evening Assembly on 28 June. Alex would supply Peter with some background to assist tutors with the 'three likes, three dislikes, three issues/ideas' format. Tony, Peter and Alex would lead the presentation. There was no suitable opportunity for a conversation with the teaching staff before the end of term, to be arranged in the autumn.

Farmers and businesses:

- Farmers – deferred following the new addition to Simon Bridger's family
- Owens Cycles – Jim M to follow up James's initial discussion
- Bedales (as a business) – Alex would try to speak to the headmaster Keith Budge
- Steep Marsh - Philip to follow up

Website updating:

- Jim M would look at bringing references up to date
- Minutes of Steering Group meetings and notes of conversations would be posted

Timing re South Downs National Park:

- Tony would be attending a workshop on the planning function on 27 May, when he proposed to seek clarification on timetable for the Parish Plan in the context of their take-over of responsibility for planning policy. He understood from the SDNP Chair, Margaret Paren that they will be very supportive of community planning initiatives such as this and may be able to give some limited support once the staff are in place

History – Jim Stoker:

- Jim had produced a draft for a single page overview of the social history of the Parish, to cover a series of addenda on specific topics to be produced by himself and others
- Suggested topics for addenda include ; agricultural history; the Captain Swing Riots; historical landscape; notable residents; history of education; wartime 1939-45
- Jim also proposed a Parish archive should be established, for which separate Lottery funding might be available.

2. Budget

- Alex produced spreadsheets of funding and expenditure to date, and estimates of future expenditure. There was likely to be a funding gap, although this might be reduced if some consultancy is provided on a voluntary basis. A case should be put to the Parish Council to approve in principle the creation of a specific purpose fund for the Plan.

3. Bedales

- Bedales are very keen to assist with landscape and biodiversity projects. From next school year the Geography department would be running a 'Bedales Assessed Course' (BAC) in place of GCSE. Peter would speak to head of Geography Kirsty Layton about the possibility of incorporating the projects into their course for the autumn
- The school has significant material and data concerning the landscape and biodiversity of their estate and its surroundings, which could be used

4. Steep Primary School

- Jim M's conversation with the 'owls' (oldest class) will lead to a planned walk to the Poet's Stone, which would also help the teachers' awareness of the Hangers heritage

5. Sub-groups

- Building conservation – Fran had indicated her willingness to work on this, and Geoffrey would assist. Linda Munday had supplied a list of listed buildings. Consideration to be given to whether conservation area status is appropriate for properties around the Church, or Arts and Crafts properties.
- Biodiversity – Jim M agreed to take the lead.
- Landscape – Tony agreed to take the lead initially, Jim S would assist. A standard Landscape Analysis format could be passed on to Bedales. A photographic record should ideally note GPS locations and bearings to aid future comparison.
- Green energy – Alex and Celia to pursue
- Data – Tony had received a four-page list of search criteria available for 2001 Census data. He would be attending an EHDC Workshop on 28 June to learn more about the material available from the Council's data and intelligence team.

6. AOB

- It was noted that Richard Coles had stepped down as chairman of Steep Parish Council, and been succeeded by Caro Robinson.
- A log should be kept of the time spent on the Plan; Tony would circulate a logsheet from Linda Munday (EHDC).

7. Next meeting

- 29th June at Bedales Reading Room