

Meeting with the Parks Trust re Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan 6th November 2017

Present: Cllr Graham Davison, Lisa Emmanuel, PB (Parks Trust)

Introductions

All parties introduced themselves and their roles within the organisations.

Draft Policy Maps

LE introduced the draft maps and explained the process to date, including how engagement with residents has fed through to the draft Plan proposals.

The maps highlight key issues and policy areas on an estate by estate basis.

Bancroft

North Loughton Valley Park is managed by the Parks Trust and is predominately an informal area for wildlife and biodiversity. Parks Trust have no active plans for this area in land-use terms.

The idea of a visitor centre was discussed, whilst there are no active plans, PB could see no reason why this should be ruled out. Discussion followed on the potential to improve signage.

GAD asked PB whether there was anything particular that the Parks Trust wanted or wished to be included. PB to check but was not aware of anything specific.

Discussion followed on maintenance of land and contractors used by parks Trust. PB clarified that they use contractors on routine maintenance and small-scale coppicing etc. the use their own staff for the large-scale works, having their own depot which accommodates current needs.

The top end of the Valley Park at Blue Bridge contains the balancing lakes. PB confirmed that the area at the top is owned by Anglian Water.

Grid Road Corridors

PB confirmed that Parks Trust maintain the grid road corridors, however MKC can give notice take back the land when it is required for expansion of the grid roads.

Linford Wood

The current use was discussed in detail. As ancient woodland the Parks Trust are conscious of the need to balance this prime biodiversity site as a tranquil space, with visitors.

Existing paths are well used, especially by the business park, and the sensitive habitats have to managed.

The idea of embellishing the existing art trail would potentially be supported, however there is no intention to create another visitor centre. They are currently looking at Linford Manor Park to create links with the Arts Centre.

Discussion then followed on SPC sharing information with residents by articles in newsletter and on website. PB to share the information relating to dog walking etc.

Food Van Licenses

The issue of vans operating from car parks adjacent to Linford Wood was shared with PB. PB to check if anyone aware of issues and whether the land in question comes under them.

Parking

Concerns over the increase in vehicle numbers as the employment land is built out was discussed. GAD concerned that this may fill the current Parks Trust car park. PB to look into the issue and consider future measures to protect.

Stanton Low Park

PB acknowledged that parking is an issue. Discussion followed on current issues and LE shared proposed areas where increased parking was being proposed.

PB agreed in principle with the expansion potential of the existing car park – currently designated for disabled users. The additional area had not been looked at but would be considered.

Discussion then followed on the existing play facilities. LE explained the idea behind the proposals which support additional facilities, which had come from the resident consultation.

PB requested LE share the information relating to increased Toddler Play
Action LE.

The circular area was designed to be for use as an informal space for ball games and/or community events. It is not intended to create a cricket pitch as this would also have the potential to increase cars etc.

The idea of a trim trail or outdoor gym could potentially be supported.

At one time it has been considered for introducing livestock into the park, however this was introduced on the far side of the canal.

Stonepit Fields

The site was discussed and PB stated that a lot of work had occurred to manage the pond, which takes the surface water from Oakridge Park along with the hay meadow.

Support was given for improving footpath/access links from Railway Walk, through stonepit and on to Oakridge Park.

GAD expressed interest for SPC to utilise this space for future community events such as Fireworks etc. The location is ideal as it is central to the parish. Discussion followed on the parking issues and the potential to increase the size of the existing car park.

PB raised concerns on the impact on the character of the area, but agreed to look at the potential as an event space.

PB is unaware of any plans to extend the cemetery. The Parks Trust are developing links with Linford lakes development and there are potential for future 106 monies to improve links and car parking.

Bridleways

GAD asked whether the Parks Trust had any bridleways through North Loughton Valley Park or the wider parish. PB confirmed that the Rights of Way Team at MKC are responsible for Statutory bridleways – which are marked on the MKC maps. Additional bridleways can be introduced at the discretion of the Parks trust, however PB not aware of any within the parish.