

Stoke Ferry Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Monthly report to Stoke Ferry Parish Council

Date: 01.08.2020



1. Work since our last report of March 2020

- Due to the lockdown across the village which resulted from the Corona Virus pandemic, we have been unable to progress the planned stage of 'Stakeholder Consultation' which was to follow the public consultation day held on February 15th, 2020 and the finalisation of the excellent 68 page Data Profile of our Parish.
- Due to on-going illness, Jim McNeill has stepped down as Chair of the NPWG and Andy Hayward has stepped in and taken over this role. Jim remains as an active member of the Working Group.
- Working Group sub-group Meetings have now restarted and have been held on June 17 and June 24.
- The sub-Group dealing with the 'Village Character Appraisal' has been functioning and progressing its work through email. A number of 'homogenous areas' of the village with differing characteristics have been identified and systematic appraisals are being carried out in each area; through a combination of site visits and use of the bank of images we took at the start of the year.
- Funding:
 - Our accounts of expenditure from the first tranche of the NP grant award of £4,028 has been signed off by the team at Groundworks/Locality
 - Some good news is that, in order for Parish Council's to meet the cost of producing a NP during the Corona pandemic, the total of the Locality grant has increased by £1,000 to a maximum of £10,000.
 - We will be applying for the balance, £5,972, over the next week or so.
 - We are also applying for a Technical Grant from Locality which will cover the cost of a professional urban designer to work alongside the Working Group, harnessing our ideas and local knowledge, and produce bespoke urban design guides or codes for potential development sites. Unlike our current grant, this work does not need to be fully completed by the end of the financial year (31 March) it was awarded, it can span financial years.
- Consultancy costs; an update:
 - The original contract the Parish Council had signed off on November 20, 2019, with our team of consultants totalled 37 days @ £320/day
 - In order to make up for the time lost during the pandemic and to enable the NP process to be completed by Autumn 2021, the Working Group propose the following:
 - To increase the total overall number of days worked by the consultants from 37 days to 42 days at an increased cost of 5 x £320 = 1,600. This extra cost would be covered by the PC budget allocation to the NP as previously agreed.
 - Please refer to the updated proposal from the consultants which has been forwarded to you via email.

2. Work ahead to April 2021.

- We have been in discussions with our team of consultants, led by Rachael Leggett of Compass Point, with a view to getting our workplan back on track and back up to speed.

3. Agreement Needed by SFPC

- Agreement that NPWG can proceed with the following funding applications for:
 - The balance of £5,972
 - A technical grant to fully fund the cost of providing Urban Design codes
- Agreement to the extra days to be worked by the NP Consultants