

**STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.00pm**

1. **Present**, Cllr. Margaret Arger, (MA) Chairman, Robin Oakley, (RO) Secretary, Cllr. Adele Sharp (AS), Cllr. Richard Ash (RA), Mr. Tom Burnham (TB), Cllr. Bill McLaughlin (BM), Alison Eardley (AE) Mr. Joris Eerdeken (JE),
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. John Perry (JP), Mr. Colin Love (CL), Mrs. Joan Buller (JB)
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024:** Noted.
4. **Matters arising.** The Parish Council has been concerned about the proposal to a change of use for the Friday's site at Knoxbridge, which although it is in Frittenden parish, was the subject of a planning application to MBC. The PC has recommended refusal of the application. This Group discussed the matter and expressed concern that the site could be developed further as a commercial/industrial site or as a brownfield site for new housing and AE will consider if and how this could be addressed in the new NP. It is understood that Frittenden Parish Council are against the proposal.  
The Parish Council has also considered the application for the Goudhurst Road solar farm and has recommended to MBC that the application be refused. The Group considers that there should be some requirements for details of solar farms in our new NP and AE will see if this is possible.
5. **Affordable Homes** Both RA and JE reported that they have been unable to find out whether any of the affordable homes on Dickens' Gate, Bovis and Redrow remain unrented and after some discussion it was agreed that there does not seem to be much more that the Group can do. It was noted that the Parish Council is investigating the matter further. There are allegedly concerns being expressed among Staplehurst residents about the possibility of London councils buying houses and using them to house Londoners.
6. **Comments on the emerging policies.** AE went through the policies and felt we are close to MBC being asked to review. RA agreed to photograph footpath views which he would E mail to AE. TB would also send to AE the work that he and JB had done on Non-Heritage Assets. AE also agreed to look at a solar power policy. There was discussion regarding G & T and AE said no policy was required in the NP as this is a strategic policy item.
7. **Government Consultation on NPPF.** There is an 8-week Consultation in being, commencing on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Subsequent to the meeting, AE has sent a copy to the Secretary for distribution to Group members and it will be on the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**8. Any other Business.** AS said that G & T sites should be shown in the NP. AE said that MBC should be keeping a record of these. It was agreed that AS would send a list of G & T sites to AE.

**9. Any other business.** There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

**10. Dates of future meetings in 2024 are agreed as follows: -**

5<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November

Robin Oakley

16 August, 2024