

**STAPLEHURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW GROUP**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 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), Cllr. John Perry (JP), Mr. Colin Love (CL), Mrs. Joan Buller (JB)
- 2. Apologies received.** Mr. Joris Eerdeken (JE)
- 3. Minutes of Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024:** Noted.
- 4. Matters arising.** AE reported that she has spoken with Tom Gilbert, (TG) Principal Planner Strategic Planning Officer at MBC and she hopes to send a copy of the draft NP as it stands to TG next week for screening. TG will give a screening opinion and will consult with Natural England and the Environment Agency. It is hope that the NP will be ready to go to Reg. 14 before Christmas 2024.
- 5. Non-Designated Heritage Assets.** JB reported that she has produced appraisal forms for the following properties which she has passed to AE:

Free Church, Advanced Landing Ground, Tower House, Milestone House

RA reported that he has sent information on views and green spaces to AE.

Group members were asked to take photographs of views and buildings in the conservation area, with descriptions, including where they were viewed from, and send them to AE.
- 6. National Planning Policy Framework Consultation.** AE expressed the view that there would be no substantial change to the document as a result of the Labour government coming to power after the election.

CL commented on the fact that there appeared to be nothing in the document to take into account the number of people working from home which has resulted in commercial and office buildings in towns becoming vacant. Such properties could possibly be converted to housing accommodation.

AE said that she had recently given a presentation on the NPPF to Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC). It was agreed that she would forward this to the Group and BM and CL would consider it and make any comments direct to AE. JP said that MBC's 'Planning and Healthier Stronger Communities Policy Advisory Committee' had considered the NPPF and prepared a response at their meeting on 4 September. AE said that Group members can make any comments, but they should be mindful of the fact that consultation closes on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. A PDF of MBC's proposed response accompanies these minutes in the covering E mail.
- 7. Any other business.** There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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

3<sup>rd</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November

AE gave her apologies for the October meeting.

Robin Oakley

6 September, 2024