

MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT FOCUS GROUP: 23.3.15 at Stream Barn, 1700

Present: Jim Endacott (JE), Sue Endacott (SE), James Tolson (JT), Peter Henderson (PH), Jason Charman(JC), Geoff Conlon (JC), Hazel Allinson(HA)

Absent: Peter Strudwick

(HA) and (GC) thanked everyone for attending and began by speaking about the NP process and how important it is to engage with the community. It was also mentioned that the 2003 Parish Plan also resulted in clubs being formed - i.e. SAGE and also Business Breakfasts. HA passed around the Albourne NP for all to look at.

There followed a discussion as to how we would identify who hadn't completed and returned the questionnaires and how knocking on doors would probably be essential. JT thought that we needed teams for each area - larger than the group who delivered the NP leaflet. Also help would be needed to complete the questionnaire for a few residents

There also followed a long discussion on riparian ownership and maintenance and HA said that we had always intended to have a meeting of all riparian owners so when the new Op Watershed works have been completed and the rectifications to the new ditch and the work for the NP it would still be APCs intention to have the meeting

HURST COTTAGE PLAYGROUND

Both SE and JE felt that it was important to retain HC Playground for the younger ones and thought that it was being kept in good condition.

FLOODING

JT felt that not much more could be done about flood prevention in the HB area at an "amateur" level and that it would need an expert to give their opinion. SE felt that with global warming the water levels would rise which would of course include the Arun.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO COUNTRYSIDE

JT thought that kissing gates at the back of the caravan park would be useful. Also a discussion on reopening old footpaths from the bostal near the Sportsman which could then join up with the Wey South path giving a circular walking route with better signage.

USE OF RIVER ARUN AT HOUGHTON BRIDGE

JT and all thought it would be good to have better access to river and possibly boats for hire. We would need a launch site. GC mentioned that the land north of caravans which has access down the side of Cherry Tree cottage could be possible

HAM PIECE

We spoke about the new kissing gates going in at Ham Piece and how Mike Toynbee was writing an article for the Parish Magazine about APC owning the land when the new gates have been installed by PH. JT pointed out that Castle Farm still rented the land for grazing

CYCLE ROUTES

JT felt that there were no further cycle routes to open up without drastically widening roads and that the South Downs Way and all bridle paths were available for cyclists

BONFIRES

The majority felt that it would not be desirable to ban bonfires in Amberley. SE suggested a community bonfire at Millenium Green where people could take their combustibles and have a community bonfire party on 5th November

PARKING

JT mentioned the green verges being spoilt by inconsiderate parking especially around The Sportsman.

CAR PARK

All agreed that if a car park was to be considered that it would be essential to have a pelican crossing from car park to Mill Lane for access for walkers and cyclists.

YELLOW LINES IN AMBERLEY

JT mentioned that the seasonal yellow line in Houghton Bridge has been very successful. All present remarked how dangerous in particular it was around the Black Horse bend.

LIGHTING IN AMBERLEY

Aware of the dark skies policy the question was asked whether a limited low level street lighting might be considered especially near to ditches. JC remembered many years ago how it was common practice for all village residents to leave an outside light on so pedestrians could walk safely.

GREENER AMBERLEY

We focussed on the HDC owned fields which is something that all present will continue to think about. Allotments were mentioned - the last allotments in Amberley being where the HC bus shelter is. Small workshops/business units were also mentioned

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

JT said that he would arrange a Houghton Bridge/North Stoke meeting at The Bridge SE and JT mentioned the Crossgates chat night HA said that she was aware it was the first Wednesday of the month and thought that possibly the May meeting would be better because of it still being the Easter holidays on 1st April. It would also give a chance to spread the word more and get a better attendance

POST LAUNCH

JE thought that whilst everything was still fresh in our minds we should meet up in The Bridge immediately after the launch. Unanimously agreed by all present.

The meeting finished at 1840