



Minutes of Steering Group Meeting 17th September 2019

Present: Norman, Diane Hellen, Richard, Jane, Heather, Nick, Sue plus guest Olivia Walker

Apologies: Alistair, Rhiannon, Lorraine, Christine, Daniel

The meeting began with a presentation from Olivia Walker of co.mute. Olivia's background is as a consultant in the transport sector working with such people the Mayor of Chicago and Sadiq Khan on how people can move about cities more safely. With Bosch she worked on transport technology, particularly sensors. There needs to be systemic change in the way we do transport due to the climate emergency.

Six months ago a team moved from Bosch to set up co.mute. It is aimed at the commuter belt of cities with populations over 10 million and the idea is to eliminate as many short journeys into towns as possible eg home to railway station where the average cost to park in towns around London is £8.50/day. They have been talking to developers, town councils, transport companies etc. There is no increase in public transport expected. They are raising capital at the moment and will launch in Fleet, Farnborough, Guildford, and Wokingham hopefully by the end of the year with a fleet of 6/7 vehicles per town, drivers to be recruited locally. The vehicles will take up to 8 passengers to avoid being a bus.

Booking will be via an app similar to Uber and pick up will be from virtual 'bus stops' within a short distance of home up to 4 miles from the station/town centre. Cost will be £4-6 return or for people booking the service regularly eg several days a week for commuting, £99 per month.

The steering group will consider how a digital shared transport system can work best in Gerrards Cross. Advantages to the town would appear to be a reduction in traffic and need for parking places. To the individual there are cost benefits of not having to keep and maintain a car that is parked at the station most of the time. People drive to GX station from surrounding villages eg Chalfonts, Stoke Poges, Denham. Can also be used by employers for staff working in GX and by shoppers.

In terms of the Neighbourhood Plan we would need to add something about looking favourably on planning applications for virtual bus stops, safe drop off and pick up zones etc. The group expressed an interest in going to visit the scheme when up and running in one of the initial phase towns. Olivia was thanked for a most interesting presentation.

Youth Survey

The comic sans font was not popular. Many of the questions were leading/loading. Amendments were suggested and will be incorporated by Diane. **ACTION: Diane**

18-50 Survey

Largely approved with small amendments to be made by Diane. **ACTION: Diane**

Distribution of Surveys

Members of the steering group would take some each to distribute to friends, family and contacts. In particular Norman would take some of the 18-50 surveys to Tea and Toast sessions at St Andrew's Church for young parents to complete.

ACTION: All/Norman

Call for Sites

Norman had discussed with Liz and explained that by making our own call for sites we were in control of the process. Any sites submitted had to meet the vision and objectives in our plan and if they don't they can be rejected. Members were directed to neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance How To Assess and Allocate Sites For Development.

Some possible sites were suggested and would be investigated further by the following:

Nick – the Pinewood owned part of Bulstrode Park

Norman – Colston Court, St Huberts Lane, Farm shed/electricity substation

Richard – Behind the Apple Tree on A40

Next Meeting

Would be arranged once some progress had been made on the above and in discussion with Liz and Becky.