



GILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the **Planning Committee** held on **Monday 13th June 2016** in **The Jubilee Room, Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham** at **7.30pm**.

These minutes do not constitute a true record until ratified by Full Council.

Members Present: Cllr B Von Clemens (Chairman), Cllr Mrs V Potheary (Deputy Chairman), Cllr Ms A Baker, Cllr Mrs A Beckley, Cllr R Evill, Cllr A Frith, Cllr S Joyce, Cllr Mrs S Hunt, Cllr Miss Purkis and Cllr D Walsh.

Also Present: **Committee Clerk:** Mrs Julie Hawkins.
Rights of Way Liaison Officer: Mrs Sheila Messer.
One member of the public.

183. Apologies: There were no apologies.

184. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May 2016, and the interim meeting held on 16th May 2016.

Cllr Ms Baker referred to Minute No. 182e of the meeting held on 16th May 2016 and with regards to paragraph two asked for 'Cllr Mrs Beckley' to be amended to 'Cllr Ms Baker'.

Cllr Ms Baker referred to Minute No. 182e of the meeting held on 16th May 2016 and with regards to paragraph three asked for 'Cllr Ms Baker' to be amended to 'Cllr Mrs Beckley'.

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Potheary, seconded by Cllr Joyce and agreed by eight voting members **“that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th May 2016, and the interim meeting held on 16th May 2016, with the amendment to Minute No. 182, be approved as correct records of those meetings”.** **RESOLVED.**

Cllr R Evill abstained from voting as he was not a member of the Planning Committee at this time.

185. Questions:
There were no questions.

186. Declarations of Interests

Members are reminded of their obligations to declare their interests in the following items and to indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered as per the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model Code of Conduct which has been prepared to comply with the requirements of Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Mrs Hunt and Cllr Joyce informed the meeting that they did not have a pecuniary interest but wished to declare personal interests in Planning Application No. 2/2016/0575/HOUSE as they are known to the applicant.

Cllr Joyce declared a personal interest in Planning Application No. 2/2016/0363/FUL as he is known to the applicant.

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187 a. To receive Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee for consideration and approval (circulated prior to the meeting)

The committee will be responsible for the following:

1. *To receive planning applications from North Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council and neighbouring authorities.*
2. *To receive and consider applications for works to protected trees.*
3. *To receive and consider notifications of intent to carry out work to trees within a Conservation Area.*
4. *To receive Planning Application decision notices.*
5. *To receive appeal notifications and decisions.*
6. *To receive details regarding planning enforcement matters.*
7. *To receive reports regarding Rights of Way issues in Gillingham.*
8. *To receive and consider applications for footpath diversions.*

Cllr Mrs Hunt proposed, Cllr Evill seconded and all voting members agreed that “**the Terms of Reference should be approved**”.

b. To receive the Terms of Reference for the Working Party reporting to the Planning Committee for consideration and approval.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Neighbourhood Plan Group is currently consulting on the draft Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan document which incorporates a list of non-designated Heritage Assets; therefore it will not be necessary for the Conservation Area Working Party to include this in their remit. The Chairman explained that following a meeting with a representative from Historic England it has been advised that a Conservation Area Appraisal and a Conservation Area Management Plan will need to be written for Gillingham Conservation Area; therefore these two items need to be included within the Terms of Reference for the Working Party.

Cllr Walsh raised concerns over the huge undertaking that the working party will commit to if this is agreed.

The Minute Clerk informed the meeting that the work relevant to Colesbrook has now been completed and a lot of work has already been carried out for the Conservation Area Appraisal document. The Minute Clerk explained that the Community Resource Worker is currently working on the Conservation Area Management Plan and reassured members that there are no time restrictions on the production of any of the documents.

Cllr Walsh stated that he was unaware that there were no time restrictions and suggested that this fact should be written into the Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference was amended as follows:

1. *The Conservation Area Working Party will abide by the Gillingham Town Council Code of Conduct at all times.*
2. *The Conservation Area Working Party will be set up by the parent committee, the Planning Committee, to undertake investigations into the following:*

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b. To receive the Terms of Reference for the Working Party reporting to the Planning Committee for consideration and approval - continued.

- *The extension of Gillingham Conservation Area.*
 - *Upgrading Colesbrook from an Area of Local Character to a Conservation Area.*
 - *Upgrading Bay from an Area of Local Character to a Conservation Area.*
 - *A Conservation Area Appraisal for Gillingham Conservation Area.*
 - *A Conservation Area Management Plan for Gillingham Conservation Area.*
3. *The Conservation Area Working Party and its membership to be reviewed annually at the June meeting of the parent committee.*
 4. *Any elected or staff member of the Town Council or member of the public can be co-opted to Working Parties by the Parent Committee.*
 5. *The Conservation Area Working Party to only consider specific matters as referred to them by the Parent Committee.*
 6. *The Conservation Area Working Party to meet as and when deemed necessary by the Lead Member.*
 7. *The Conservation Area Working Party to report back to the Parent Committee with recommendations and identifying any costs involved.*

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Hunt that **“the revised Terms of Reference for the Working Party should be approved”**, seconded by Cllr Ms Baker and agreed by eight voting members.

Cllr Walsh voted against the approval of the Terms of Reference.

c. To review the Working Party reporting to the Planning Committee and to agree members and lead member.

Cllr Mrs Potheary stated that she would like to join the working party.

Following a discussion, Cllr Frith proposed, Cllr Mrs Potheary seconded and all members agreed that **“the Conservation Area Working Party should consist of the following members:**

Council members: Cllr Mrs S Hunt, Cllr Mrs A Beckley, Cllr A Frith, Cllr S Joyce, Cllr D Milsted, Cllr Mrs V Potheary, Cllr Mrs B Ridout.

Gillingham Local History Society representative: Mr Sam Woodcock

Gillingham Neighbourhood Plan Group representatives: Mr David Beaton and Mr Mark Hebditch

Working Party Clerk: Mrs J Hawkins

Cllr Von Clemens proposed, Cllr Joyce seconded and all members agreed that **‘Cllr Mrs Hunt should be the Lead Member of the Conservation Area Working Party’**.

d. To receive the Planning Committee Protocol Document for consideration and adoption.

Cllr Walsh informed the meeting that he was currently reviewing protocol documents for the Tri-partnership, and in his opinion the draft protocol document for Gillingham Town Council was too

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- d. **To receive the Planning Committee Protocol Document for consideration and adoption continued.**

technical and aimed at the next tier of local government. Cllr Walsh reminded members that the committee only make recommendations and do not make decisions and this fact should be taken into account when agreeing a protocol document.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Planning Committee Protocol Document should be revised and presented to the next available meeting of the Planning Committee for consideration and adoption.

188. **To agree a councillor to represent the planning interests of the Ham Ward.**

Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr Von Clemens, seconded by Cllr Evill and agreed by all voting members that Cllr Mrs Potheary should represent the planning interests of the Ham Ward.

189. **Planning Application Decisions from NDDC:**

- a. **Application Number:** 2/2016/0021/DOC

Proposal: Discharge of Condition No. 5 - MT002 - *Materials (Samples for approval) from Planning Permission 2/2015/0650.

Location: Land at E 383126 N 129045 Lawn Cross Farm, Bay Road to Dorset County Boundary - Lane, Gillingham, Dorset.

FULLY DISCHARGED

- b. **Application No:** 2/2016/0125/FUL **Date Registered:** 10 March 2016

Location of Development: Land Adjoining 2 New Barn Cottages, Bleet Lane to New Road, Madjeston, Dorset, SP8 5JL

Description of Development: Erect stable block and tack-room and change of use from agricultural land to equestrian land.

GRANTED

- c. **Application Number:** 2/2016/0422/DEM

Proposal: Demolish brick agricultural building.

Location: Higher Langham Farm, Langham, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5NX

It is considered that the demolition proposed does not require prior approval, subject to the works being carried out in accordance with the details submitted with the notification, and provided that the work is commenced within a period of 5 years from 23 March 2016.

- d. **Application Number:** 2/2016/0428/AGR

Proposal: Erect replacement agricultural barn.

Location: Higher Langham Farm, Langham, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5NX

It is considered that the development proposed does not require prior approval, subject to the works being carried out in accordance with the details submitted with the notification, and provided that the work is commenced within a period of 5 years from 21 March 2016. This approval is also restricted by conditions.

- e. **Application Number:** 2/2016/0446/DOC

Proposal: Discharge of Condition Nos. 1 - Commencement, 2 - Plans; 3 - Materials (Samples for approval); 4 - Window and door details; following grant of Planning Permission No. 2/2015/1610.

Location: Stock Farm Cottage, Stock Lane, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5NR

FULLY DISCHARGED

- f. **Application Number:** 2/2016/0541/HOUSE

Proposal: Erect first floor extension including 4 No. dormers, and single storey side extension.

Location: 10 Common Mead Avenue, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4NB

APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

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189. Planning Application Decisions from NDDC continued:

- g. Application No:** 2/2016/0282/OUT **Date Registered:** 21 March 2016
Location of Development: Land To East of 20, Barnaby Mead, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AL
Description of Development: Demolish single storey garage and link off side (east) elevation and develop the land by the erection of 2 No. detached dwellings (outline application to determine access).
GRANTED
- h. Application No:** 2/2016/0343/HOUSE **Date Registered:** 25 April 2016
Location of Development: 23 Wessex Way, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4LX
Description of Development: Erect two storey extension.
GRANTED
- i. Application No:** 2/2016/0429/VARIA **Date Registered:** 21 March 2016
Location of Development: Higher Langham Farm, Moor Lane, Langham, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 5NX
Description of Development: Variation of conditions 2 and 10 from planning permission 2/2014/1383/FUL to demolish Barn D and undertake landscaping.
GRANTED

190. Tree Works Decisions received from NDDC:

- a. Tree Works Application:** 2/2016/0571/TPTREE
Proposal: T1 (613) - Oak - Remove lowest secondary branch on lowest primary limb. To reduce end loading and the risk of it being pulled down. Remove deadwood in excess of 50mm dia or 1.5m long deadwood exempt from Council approval.
T2 (618) - Willow - Pollard to 1-3m above ground level.
T3 (619) - Willow - Remove stem extending north-west over the path.
Pollard other stems for continuity. Pollarding will reduce canopy size and end loading of mature stems, helping to ensure the longevity of the tree.
T4 (624) - Ash - Crown lift low secondary branches to north-east side over road to 4m from ground level.
Location: Rolls Bridge, Rolls Bridge Lane, Gillingham, Dorset
GRANTED
- b. Tree Works Application:** 2/2016/0522/CATREE
Proposal: G1 - Oak - Deadwood and remove breakages. Consent not required
T2 - Corkscrew Willow - Remove
T3 - Eucalyptus - Remove large lower lateral (westerly facing)
Location: Oaktrees, Wyke Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4NG
GRANTED
- c. Tree Works Application:** 2/2016/0582/TPTREE
Proposal: T1 - Lime - Crown raise to 3m and crown thin by 20%. In the past, lower branches have been hacked off in a poor fashion. The tree is just starting to thicken in the crown and a few branches are starting to rub the main stems. This will allow wind to pass through the canopy and prevent future splits and breakages.
Location: 4 Barnaby Mead, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4AL
GRANTED

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191. Planning Applications:

a. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0641/FUL

Proposal: Form 2 No. additional parking spaces (demolish W.C. / store building).

Location: Gillingham Bowling Club, School Lane, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4QW

COMMENTS:

Cllr Joyce stated that he could see no planning reasons on which to object to the application.

Cllr Mrs Potheary stated that Gillingham Bowling Club is a successful club and the extra car parking spaces are needed. Cllr Mrs Potheary stated that the proposals will not affect any of the trees and she is happy to support the application.

When put to the vote all voting members recommended approval of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council recommends approval of the application.

b. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0625/HOUSE

Proposal: Erect two storey extension.

Location: 1 Clifford Court, Broad Robin, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4PT

COMMENTS:

The Chairman informed the meeting that two letters of objection have been received and outlined the objections submitted.

Cllr Evill stated that the proposed materials are in keeping, but he had concerns over the proposed roof light / velux window on the south elevation and stated that this could result in an intrusion of privacy to the neighbouring property.

Cllr Walsh stated that the proposals would result in an overdevelopment of the site and would be detrimental to the amenity of the neighbours.

Cllr Ms Baker asked for clarification regarding the proposed window referred to in one of the letters of objection.

The Chairman explained that the proposal is for a roof light / velux style of window on the south elevation and if the occupant were to lean out of the window it is possible that they may be able to see into the dormer window on the East elevation of the neighbouring house.

Cllr Joyce stated that the proposed extension will be 7m in length which in his opinion will be overbearing and out of character.

Cllr Frith raised concerns over the quality of the drawings as presented online and stated that the details of the drawings were not clear and were difficult to see.

When put to the vote eight voting members recommended refusal of the application.

Cllr Ms Baker abstained from voting.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council recommends refusal of the application for the following reasons:

- The proposals will result in an overbearing extension.
- The proposals are an overdevelopment of the site.
- The extension will be out of character with the area.
- The proposals have a poor relationship with the adjoining property and will be detrimental to the amenity of the neighbours.

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191. Planning Applications continue:

Members agreed that a letter should be sent to North Dorset District Council Development Control Department raising concerns over the quality of the plans and drawings online.

c. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0575/HOUSE

Proposal: Erect replacement garage.

Location: Lenoveda, 3 Peacemarth Terrace, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4EX

COMMENTS:

The Chairman informed members that a letter of objection has been submitted online.

Cllr Walsh stated that at first he had concerns over the size of the proposed garage, which is a lot larger than the existing garage; but explained that the size of the plot can accommodate a building of this size.

Cllr Walsh referred to the letter of objection and stated that the application being considered was for a replacement garage and if the applicant proposes to use the garage for commercial use then they will need to submit an application for a change of use.

When put to the vote all voting members recommended approval of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council recommends approval of the application.

d. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0756/HOUSE

Proposal: Erect car port on the front elevation of existing garage (amendment to Planning Permission 2/2016/0444/HOUSE).

Location: 44 Foxglove Close, Gillingham, SP8 4TW

COMMENTS:

Cllr Walsh reminded members that the town council had previously recommended approval of the application and explained that following consultation with the Case Officer the amendments have been submitted.

When put to the vote all voting members recommended approval of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council recommends approval of the amended application.

e. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0766/HOUSE

Proposal: Erect single storey side extension.

Location: 10 Common Mead Avenue, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4NB

COMMENTS:

The Chairman informed the meeting that a previous application for the extension of the property had been withdrawn and confirmed that to date no objections have been received regarding the current proposals.

Cllr Evill stated that previous concerns have now been addressed and this application was much more sympathetic; however he still had concerns over the close proximity to 12 Common Mead Avenue. Cllr Evill stated that the proposed materials will be in keeping and although there would not be much room between the two properties he could see no planning reasons on which to object.

When put to the vote all voting members recommended approval of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council recommends approval of the application.

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191. Planning Applications continue:

f. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0757/HOUSE

Proposal: Erect two storey and single storey rear extensions.

Location: 4 Leddington Way, Gillingham, SP8 4FF

COMMENTS:

Cllr Mrs Hunt asked if any comments had been received from neighbours.

The Chairman confirmed that to date no comments had been received.

Cllr Joyce stated that whilst he had no objections to the proposed single storey rear extension he considered the proposed two storey extension to be too large.

When put to the vote eight members recommended that as no objections have been received from neighbours, the application should be approved.

Cllr Joyce recommended refusal of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council recommends that as no objections have been received from neighbours, the application should be approved.

g. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0363/FUL (Amended application)

Proposal: Erect stable block and create 2 No. parking spaces (demolish existing field shelter).

Location: Land West Of North Lodge, Wavering Lane West, Gillingham, Dorset,

COMMENTS:

The Chairman informed the meeting that two letters of objection have been submitted.

Cllr Walsh reminded members that Gillingham Town Council had previously supported the application; however when considering the original application the details inferred that the application was tied to North Lodge. Cllr Walsh informed the meeting that the Design and Access Statement submitted with the application states that the proposed positioning is such that it minimises impacts to other households; however it is these households that are now objecting to the application.

Cllr Frith referred to the proposal to store manure, which will be collected fortnightly, and raised concerns over the effect that this will have on properties in close proximity. Cllr Frith stated that neighbouring properties could be affected by the smell and by flies.

Cllr Joyce stated that in view of new information he would rather see the stables re-sited.

Cllr Ms Baker referred to the Oak tree and stated that she was surprised to see the stables sited so close to the Oak tree as acorns are poisonous to horses.

In view of new information, when put to the vote, all members recommended refusal of the application.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of new information being supplied and clarification regarding ownership of the proposed stable block, Gillingham Town Council recommends refusal of the amended application.

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192. Tree Works Applications:

a. Planning Application No: 2/2016/0725/CATREE

Proposal: T1 - Macrocarpa - Section fell.

Location: Wyke House, Wyke Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4NH

COMMENTS:

Tree Warden, Cllr Ms Baker presented a report to the meeting and stated that in her opinion the loss of this tree would have a detrimental effect on the street scene and therefore she recommended that an objection should be submitted to the North Dorset Tree Officer.

Following a discussion eight members voted against the proposal to fell the tree.

Cllr Mrs Potheary had no objections to the tree being felled.

RECOMMENDATION:

Gillingham Town Council objects to the proposal to fell T1 Macrocarpa at Wyke House.

193. To receive notification of the following planning appeal:

Inspectorate's Ref: APP/N1215/W/16/3147828

Appeal by: Mr and Mrs K Honeybun

Application No: 2/2015/1403/FUL

Location: Deer Leap Farm, Bowridge Hill, Gillingham Dorset SP8 5QR

Proposal: Retain existing mobile home for occupation by a dependant relative.

194. To receive notification from North Dorset District Council that a decision has been taken not to confirm the provisional Tree Preservation Order at Heron View Brewery Lane, Wyke Gillingham SP8 4NN.

195. To receive and consider information regarding Footpaths in Gillingham.

Rights of Way Liaison Officer, Mrs Sheila Messer informed the meeting that the Walkers are Welcome Group will be involved in the White Hart Link project; a 50 mile long circular walk which will link the main towns in North Dorset and attract visitors to the Blackmore Vale.

Mrs Messer presented a report regarding the White Hart Link - **Appendix A.**

Cllr Joyce asked if the route will be accessible to cyclists.

Mrs Messer explained that cyclist will not be able to use the complete route; however, the route will incorporate the trail way and some sections of bridleway which can be used by cyclists.

Cllr Mrs Potheary stated that the project will be good for tourism in the area and thanked Mrs Messer and the Walkers are Welcome Group for their hard work.

Following a discussion, Cllr Walsh proposed, Cllr Mrs Potheary seconded and all members agreed that **'a recommendation is made to Full Council that Gillingham Town Council supports The White Hart Link initiative'**.

Mrs Messer presented a report to the meeting regarding Rights of Way in Gillingham; Walkers are Welcome and the Stiles to Gates Project – **Appendix B.**

Mrs Messer asked if bunting could be erected in the High Street for the duration of Gillingham Walking Festival.

NB. The bunting is owned and managed by Gillingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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195. To receive and consider information regarding Footpaths in Gillingham continued.

Cllr Mrs Potheary asked what had happened to the kissing gates at Chantry Fields and emphasised their historic importance to the town.

The Minute Clerk informed the meeting that the gates were in a bad state of repair and had been taken down by Gillingham Town Council work force for safety reasons and are being held in a safe place.

Cllr Ms Baker asked Mrs Messer how the proposed reduction to bus services could effect walking in the area.

Mrs Messer stated that many people like to combine the use of public transport as part of a walk to a specific destination; however, the use of buses seems to be less popular than trains. Mrs Messer stated that a reduction in public transport will result in more people having to use circular routes.

196. To receive and consider a report from the Conservation Area Working Party.

There was nothing to report.

197. MATTERS PERTINENT TO THIS MEETING.

- a. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the current consultations regarding the Draft Minerals Sites Plan Update 2016 and the Draft Waste Plan Update.

The Chairman explained that the Draft Minerals Sites Plan Update 2016 is primarily an update of information that was presented in the 2015 Draft Mineral Sites Plan, including aggregate production figures for 2014, amendments to the aggregates Area of Search, amendments to some of the preferred site options and a new site which came out of the 2015 consultation.

The Chairman explained that the Draft Waste Plan Update – Additional and Emerging Preferred Waste Site Allocations will contain five additional waste sites and, following further assessment work, a series of fifteen sites that are emerging as preferred for allocation in the final Waste Plan to address the key waste management needs that have been identified.

The Chairman reminded members that the consultations run until Thursday 21st July 2016 and further details can be found via the following links:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/mineral-sites>

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/waste-plan>

Closure. The meeting closed at 8.50pm

RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICER REPORT – THE WHITE HART LINK

The White Hart Link

- What is it?
 - Janet Swiss' vision to unlock community activity to deliver a comprehensive network of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways linking the five towns and areas of **Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Blandford, Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton** in a way that that preserves and enhances the unique natural resource of the Blackmore Vale for future generations

The White Hart Link

- Key Outcomes
 - Preservation and enhancement of the unique nature of the area's footpaths etc
 - Creation of activity opportunities for the local populace
 - Health, community involvement
 - Distinct clear obvious community ownership of and involvement in the project
 - Done by us not to us
 - Commercial opportunity generation for the area strictly in keeping with the overall aims of the project
 - Playing our part in securing long term viability for our local tradespeople, jobs, wealth generation

The White Hart Link

- HOW?
 - Long term sustainable organisation
 - Direct links to
 - Relevant statutory bodies
 - Political endorsement
 - Community led activities and initiatives



Roles

- Steering Committee
 - Link the Local Teams
 - Provide Technical knowhow
 - Provide statutory advice
 - Market the solution
 - Securing local political and statutory support
 - Preserve the overall vision



Roles

- Local Management Teams
 - Develop the local plan
 - Create links with stakeholders in their area
 - Organise projects and tasking
 - Organise funding
 - Market the link



A local management plan

- A three to five year rolling plan
- Activities might include
 - Liaising with local farmers
 - Improving Signage
 - Information boards
 - Dog mess bin provision
 - Clearing a path or walkway
 - Improving the underfoot and maintaining it thereafter
 - Creation of bird hides, picnic spots, etc
 - Tree planting
 - Replacing old stiles
 - Designing guides and walks
 - Liaising with local trades people (B&B / Hotels)
 - Guided walks to areas of interest

Progress

- A project plan and governance structure in place. Initial focus on circular route linking the five towns.
- Local management teams being put together.
- An initial route designed
 - Jan Wardell of Ramblers Association
- Detailed Path Audit underway following training of volunteers
- Steering committee exploring funding
- Website under development

NEXT STEPS

- Form local management teams
- Put in place management plan
 - Gather local memberships
 - Begin liaison with local landowners
 - OCTOBER TO FEBRUARY 2016
- Form Steering committee
 - Clarify rules and regulations re statutory regulation compliance, **insurances**, financials, etc
 - By February 2016

Longer term

- Design and develop web site and social media activities
 - Where do we get funds from?
 - Local schools competition?
- Undertake branding exercise
 - Name, logo etc
- Understand and research market for commercial opportunities
 - Guided walks, walking guides, etc

My aim for today

Inform you of this initiative

Seek your support in principle for the project

RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON OFFICER REPORT

Footpath Problems

- A few finger posts awaiting repair/replacement by Rangers
- Footpaths N64/46 and N64/50 diverge across Chantry Fields. Waymarker post at this point has collapsed and is no longer visible. Correct by somewhat unfriendly notices by landowner nearby. This problem has been reported and needs urgent attention.

Walkers are Welcome

- New walking guides are selling well. Now available from seven outlets in Gillingham and in Shaftesbury and Mere.
- Noticeboard maps now ready. One in town going up very soon. Noticeboard at station is due to be installed. Also have a laminated copy for portable use.
- Twenty walks now confirmed for Walking Festival and five “fringe events” There is a farming theme emerging with visits to wild flower meadow at solar farm at Silton, the cider farm at Sandley and livestock farm at East Stour.
- Festival programme will have extended format paid for with advertising. This is a trial this year
- We would like to have window displays and bunting and a pop-up festival office
- We are now the local management team for White Hart Link project.
- We are seeking funding from Ramblers Holidays Charitable trust for new projects:
 - a feasibility study into developing a route and an event based on A Perambulation of The Royal Forest
 - renovation of two cast iron kissing gates on Chantry Fields

Stiles to Gates

- Our major project for 2016
- We are currently contacting landowners and now have agreement for 27 sites. (We are planning for 30).
- Gates are purchased and in store.
- Rangers are due to start installation week beginning 27th June.
- There will still be some stiles around Gillingham when project is complete. A few landowners have not given permission and there are number of other stiles on less used routes that have not been included.