

Stamford Vision: Urban Notes from the meeting on 20.07.05

1. High Street East and Stamford in Bloom

- * CC produced questionnaires for the shops to contribute to the discussions. NP to distribute half the questionnaires on the 28th July, he will liaise with RK about the other half.
- * The judging of the town took place in July but the results of their deliberations have not yet been received. There was discussion about the idea of Stamford in Bloom approaching businesses to sponsor a planter and the urban group may consider doing this in future if appropriate sites are found.

2. East West road response to invitation to ask JMP to present

Eg Gilman responded the group's request with an offer of a joint meeting in September with all the groups associated with Stamford Vision to discuss the proposals. The group welcomed this.

3. Community Cleaner

RB's paper was circulated and discussed. The town council's concern is that they will be asked to employ someone to do tasks which should be done by SKDC's contractors. However, following discussion it was thought that if the scope of the job was defined to cover cleaning of street furniture and watering planters, jobs currently which SKDC are unwilling to undertake, then a line could be drawn between the two. RB to provide JJ with a provisional job description with time estimates for him to take to the town council's meeting in November.

4. Decluttering the streets

This is an initiative from the Local Strategic Partnership group –extract from letter at the end of the notes. Peter Stean to be asked to be involved by GR. RB and DL to co-ordinate the responses, JOK to consider the area south of the river and GR the area around St Peter's St, other members of the group add to the list as they think appropriate.

5. Benches, bins and lampposts

- * Benches: These could not be fixed because the existing plinths are not large enough. The surfacing of Vence Walk is being disputed and it seems sensible to schedule the extra works in with any potential future resurfacing.
- * Bins: Awaiting a response from SKDC on the fixing issue.
- * Lampposts: The majority have now been refurbished.

6. Rivercare

JOK's paper was circulated, the group had a successful information day and a working party has been established. The group hope to create a local nature reserve in the Freeman's meadows, They would also like to install information boards along Vence Walk. GH to provide information for JOK about the board created at St Leonard's Priory.

7. AOB

- a. Mill Stream: The pump is currently out of action at present but Anglia Water will replace it. Volunteers re going to paint the railings along Melancholy Walk.
- b. Albert Bridge painting: The group welcomed the initiative.
- c. Disorder Forum: RB reported on this group's last meeting where the discussions revolved around the new licensing laws which come into force on the 6th august.
- d. The Chamber's model of the North Street car park: This will be on display on Saturday 25th June in St John's Church.

Dates of the next meeting at 6pm at 64 High Street St Martin's: 21/09/05, 19/10/05, 16/11/05 14/12/05

Extract from the LSP letter:

The South Kesteven Local Strategic Partnership is a new way of getting things done in a collaborative way. SKLSP is made up of many partners, partners who have a job to do in their own right, but who recognise by working together that they add value to the local community. This project aims to deliver the objectives of a number of partners whilst also being something which the community can be directly involved in.

There has been a national campaign by English Heritage to reduce street clutter called Save our Streets, which you may have read about in the paper. For more information why not have a look at their website www.english-heritage.org.uk/saveourstreets ? What the task force of the LSP wish to do is to focus specifically on unwanted signs. We have set ourselves a goal of removing 50 signs by the end of 2005 across the district.

The TCMP can be part of the project simply by telling us which signs no longer serve a purpose. We have written to the TCMPs in the first instance as being the partnership body in the four towns within the district, but we are happy for you to work with any local body whom you feel would be most interested in this project..

We don't mind how the signs to be removed are identified, you could do a detailed survey of all signs in your neighbourhood first, or you might already know of examples off the top of your head. What we are looking for is:

- * a list of signs - in priority order with the worst offenders at the top of the list,*
- * what the sign says,*
- * a description of what needs to be removed eg triangular sign on post, a photograph might help here,*
- * a detailed reference to where it is - either on a map or a description.*

One sign, which you might look out for, is one that accompanies a double yellow line in operation at all times. These signs are no longer to be displayed and need to be removed so should certainly be flagged up.

The intention is to get out and about in the autumn to remove the signs and in order to get your town's signs into the programme you will need to provide us with your 'hit list' by the middle of September at the latest. The lists will then be checked by the local authorities to ensure that there is no legal reason to keep the sign and the work programmed. We don't know at this stage how great the response will be across the district so it isn't easy to say how many signs might be removed in your area. What we will be doing is sending out a team to work for a day in each town.