



## Stoke Park Community Liaison Group (CLG) – Meeting 1

**Venue:** Stoke Park, Park Road, Stoke Poges, SL2 4PG

**Date:** 26 May, 2022, 6PM

**Apologies:** Cllr Ralph Bagge (Stoke Poges & Wexham Ward Councillor), Harvey Whittam (Chair of Stoke Poges Society)

**Attendees:** Trevor Egleton (Stoke Poges & Wexham Ward Councillor, **TE**), Ani Sultan (Manager of The Ivers Community Board Manager Bucks), David Anthony (Councillor, Chair of Beeches Community Board, Member of South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee, **DA**), Peter Savage (Stoke Park Neighbour, **PS**), Ruth Savage (Stoke Park Neighbour, **RS**) Philippa Batting (Managing Director of Buckinghamshire Business First, **PB**), Ruth Rooley (President, Stoke Poges, Wexham and Fulmer Horticultural Society, **RR**) (Peter Litherland, (Stoke Park Avenue Residents Association, **PL**), Isabelle Litherland, (Stoke Park Avenue Residents Association, **IL**), Stoke Poges, Franzi Cheeseman (Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens, **FC**), Jill Dodds (Stoke Park Golf Member, **JD**), Sue Catton (Stoke Park Neighbour, **SN**), Kieran Catton (Stoke Park Neighbour, **KC**), Stuart Collier (Stoke Park Golf, **SC**), Natasha Brady (Stoke Poges Church, **NB**), Simon Allard (Stoke Park Golf Member, **SA**), Mark Edwards (Stoke Park Avenue Residents Association, **ME**), Thomas Hogg (Stoke Poges & Wexham Ward Councillor, **TH**)

**Project team attendees:** James Newhall (SP Broadway, **JN**), Jack Baldwin (SP Broadway, **JB**) Nick Downie (Stoke Park, **ND**), PJ Singh (Stoke Park, **PJ**), Shaalin Tandon (Reliance, **ST**), Graham Oliver (Gerald Eve, **GO**)

### Item 1: Presentation

- 1.1 JN opened with an introduction to ND and the scheme
- 1.2 ND commenced the presentation, stating how the plan is to restore the golf course and mansion (which is in need of repairs) mentioning how there will be a general vision committed to sustainability
- 1.3 SC was then introduced and talked about the facilities and how they need improving to keep up with the rest of the world
- 1.4 ND continued saying they will keep within Repton's architectural vision and mentioned possibilities of an underground car park and clubhouse as well as the possibility of a new separate wing to ensure the hotel is 7-star
- 1.5 SN said she is confused about the mansion and hotel and asked what is meant by the 'pavilion' with regards to what else may be built
- 1.6 PL asked about the spa and how a hotel will look
- 1.7 ND said they will 'reveal' more details at a later date
- 1.8 ST said they need to start with the mansion itself to keep up with the golf course, to restore it, and that they don't want to promise anything else specific (events or facilities) until nearer the time. He also mentioned how he realises there will be "anxiety"
- 1.9 SA mentioned rumours of the hotel being used as a house for the company owner
- 2.0 ST said that the family has no requirement to relocate themselves to Stoke Park, and that if there are similar

rumours and residents have questions they can get in touch.

- 2.1 SA said that he wants to drive in the gate and appreciate the beauty and be a member and does not want to lose that inclusivity
- 2.2 ST said people across the world are asking and assuming they will enhance the product, as is Reliance's record and that Reliance are not intending to turn Stoke Park into a private residence
- 2.3 JD mentioned a rumour that there will be a cricket stadium
- 2.4 ND, PJ and ST stated that there are no proposals for a cricket stadium
- 2.5 JD followed up by asking about the other pavilion building,
- 2.6 PT said they aren't demolishing or building anything 'sore to the eye' and said they will be open to Golf Club Members
- 2.7 JD asked again about timescale as she wants to start playing again as soon as possible
- 2.8 ST said they want to get it done as soon as possible,
- 3.0 SC added it will be two years to just do the golf course, once they have planning permission
- 3.1 ST said they want participation and consent to keep it sustainably
- 3.2 SA asked what has been done so far, as he has seen workmen around
- 3.3 PJ said a lot of time has been spent working on the mansion, doing the electricity and having to keep within the listed building rules mentioned, adding that the current buildings need certain upgrades and modifications such as putting in a new salon and spar areas around the pool, including a café as well, which is what the contractors are working on
- 3.4 ST said they are working on drainage and electricity alongside other aspects like water and the grounds, adding that he understands "the anxiety" again, and asked them to be respectful of the fact that it has to be a holistic and open approach – starting with health and safety issues
- 3.5 SA asked about listed status applying to all floors and GO confirmed the whole building is listed
- 3.6 ND moved back to the slideshow, starting with community outreach update and welcomed feedback if there is anything more Stoke Park can be doing in the community and in engaging with specific groups
- 3.7 ST added more that Reliance does a lot of charity, saying they like to participate and contribute in more than just financial ways
- 3.8 ND played the video which shows the vision for the site and why it requires maintenance

## **Item 2: Q&A**

- 3.9 JD: asked planners and councillors to give details of what they are looking out for and their red lines they don't want to see crossed
- 4.0 TE said he can't comment on anything until they get reports (as he is a member of a planning committee), but he was overall supportive of the site as he believes that South Bucks District Council had neglected Stoke Park and he does want to see it restored, in line with historic and green belt regulations
- 4.1 ST contributed further, saying they want to make it sustainable for the next generation to look back and enjoy
- 4.2 RS asked if there is consideration of anything that may be done with East Drive said adding she is happy to see South Lodge being restored and appreciated that they are doing work but she'd like to think its been considered that East Drive is part of the estate
- 4.3 ND said Stoke Park is considering that the club house be built near East Drive (so it won't be neglected) and that they would have an entrance for Golf Club Members there, Reliance clear up that everything will be invested in and nothing on the site will be ignored.
- 4.4 TE said it is interesting as a while ago nothing was looked at as a whole and it is good to know that Reliance will look at it as a whole, like the council did not do historically
- 4.5 PL asked what their long-term commercial investment is and asked when Reliance would expect a return for their money
- 4.6 PT said not every project from Reliance is as simple as cash businesses, and some are not just about money - PL quickly asked "In India?" and PT said this applies to Stoke Park too and that

the company will make capital investment to do the “right thing”, he made clear the point that Reliance care more about the status of this unique site and prestige that comes with it, rather than making a profit off of the site

- 4.7 TH asked if they what their aim is, if not to purely achieve profits, he admits he is being cynical about investments being made
- 4.8 ST again confirmed that it is about reputation and legacy at the end of the day
- 5.0 TH asked, “how does it fit into larger reliance sporting strategy?” ST mentioned Mumbai Indians, not enough Indian Golfers, and that this is could be a “base” for that
- 5.1 SA mentioned how good the membership was really important and having a great group of people - worried it might be soulless even if it was made the best golf course in the UK
- 5.2 ST answered by saying that they can’t know, but they are sensitive and they want to help with making sure it is a good golfing community. They don’t want it to be exclusive and will work to blend local community members to coexist with international attention
- 5.3 TH said he is not on a planning committee, so he does, can and will make sure that they comply with the green belt. He also says he will make sure that local residents are supported on this, by making sure that the roads are not ruined and that previous members can still afford and generally access the golf club. He also wants to make sure that whatever is built there, fits the historical architectural aesthetic.
- 5.4 ST said they will be responsible as their name is attached and they don’t want their reputation to be tarnished if their lorries are causing issues – implores residents to get in touch if there are issues
- 5.5 IL asked about congestion on park road and what the current thinking is about the current volume of traffic
- 5.6 ST said they will bring other benefits to the community and he won’t speculate, but wants to work with them to find the solution, as they don’t want an unhappy community
- 5.7 SA and SC said they could have park and ride, SC said there will be less holes so less golfers statistically, reduced number of people going in and out
- 5.8 SN said it is getting busy and SC said it will reduce as it starts to reopen and that it will be worth it in the long-run, SN said its busy now and is worried how bad it might be a lot busier going forward she said she wants better communication and advanced notice of movements
- 5.9 ST said they can now communicate better as they know more
- 6.0 SN said they don’t want people parking but they have been in communication and RS said ND has been good
- 6.1 SN asked what happens with the estate while we wait for planning commission – ST said they cant open to public yet due to health and safety concerns but that once permission comes, they still can’t be sure, but in the interim it may be utilised in a restricted zone. ST asked to reach out to ND if they have any concerns.
- 6.2 FC asked about sensitivities of the memorial gardens. ST said vert conscious of sentiments and memories, nothing will disrupt that “sense of place”.
- 6.3 ND concludes and mentioned future events.