

Chetwynd: The Toton & Chilwell Neighbourhood Forum
Minutes of 7th Steering Group meeting held on Thursday 10th March, 2017

Present: Richard Hutchinson (Chair), Nicola Lamplough (Vice Chair), Graham Heal (Treasurer), Richard Bowen, Teresa Dunsdon, David Lovett, Helen Skinner, Ben Standing, Norman Lewis, Colin Tideswell, *Alan Donovan*

Apologies: Barbara Bakewell, Morag Ball, Keith Ball, Katrina Stephens, Jon Gallego, Denise Lewis

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned that Alan Donovan would be joining us a little later.
- 1.2 The **Ways of Working** document, as revised and circulated, was accepted.
- 1.3 An **office** is still being sought possibly at the Barracks or in George Spencer School
- 1.4 The officers made an input into Long Eaton's HS2 consultation
- 1.5 Ben reported that he had been in contact with Richard Chaney regarding the involvement of Nottingham University students.
- 1.6 The minutes were agreed

Action by:

RH

BS

2. Chairman's Report

- 2.1 Richard reported that it had been an interesting and active month
- 2.2 He and Graham had attended the **Broxtowe Borough Council Budget Meeting** and reported that there was a desire to involve the Barracks which currently paid a business rate of £650,000. This was emphasised repeatedly by Cllr. Milan Radulovic (Labour Group Leader).
- 2.3 **HS2** – With the exception of Cllrs Gill and Philip Owen (Conservative), all other councillors seemed to be going with the Council's response, with a degree of resignation to the fact that it will just happen.
- 2.3 Ben reported that discussion about the **area** had become heated but the Group decision was to accept the new area as designated by the Council and that this was a pragmatic decision. We would still have a say in what happens to the edge of the original area.
- 2.4 **Andy Askham** had been asked to reconsider his resignation and our door had been held open to him right up until the start of the meeting. He did not attend and his principled stand was acknowledged.
- 2.5 Norman thought that the Forum should have been better informed about the many wild life sites. Only Graham really knows them. The Washlands are vital to the future of Toton and Stapleford and they are under serious threat. They may be culverted. Norman cautioned against having faith in consultations as they do not guarantee anything. By giving up the 'edge' we are denying ourselves an influence on employment opportunities. Norman would have sought extra time. There was sympathy expressed for Norman's viewpoint, and also a view that we need to move on, albeit with a determination to hold our ground in the future. Graham said that we would watch the Washlands closely even though we do not have power over the area. Long Eaton need to keep an eye on it, too.
- 2.6 Full Council has met and nobody has opposed the Forum. We want to keep in touch with Broxtowe and with Erewash and to have separate meetings with each. Both Councils want access to the site and are working together.
- 2.7 Both planners and QCs have a job to do and they do as they are told by someone. They don't seem to want us involved in the Schenker site. They appear to have plans for this.
- 2.8 Alan advised that we might be able to "drag the Washlands back in" later on. We have a huge influence over access to the Wetlands. We need a separate meeting on this, the sidings and the background, the illegal felling of a forest of trees.
- 2.9 The new area should be ratified by a steering Group Meeting and **Ben** suggests we involve the wider Forum soon. Early June was suggested as a time to explain the new area to people.

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3. Treasurer's Report

- 3.1 He informed the Committee that we now have an account with Lloyds.
Three officers to be signatories, any two of the three: Graham, Richard and Nicola
- 3.2 The Toton Churches will be our Fund holder as it is a requirement that we have one.

GH NL RH

4. Current issues

- 4.1 The HS2 submission was accepted by a unanimous vote
- 4.2 A locality grant was approved and it was agreed that we also ask for display boards

5. Road ahead

- 5.1 Richard felt encouraged by his meeting with Ken Mafham who was knowledgeable and helpful on a grassroots level, having worked with numerous Neighbourhood Forums. He gave us some pointers to look at and the kind of people we could consult with eg re landscaping and drainage systems, we should be getting a vision together of what we want, ie affordable housing. Finningley RAF site is an example to look at. They are looking at having their own development company.
- 5.2 Richard thought that Frazer Mitchell at George Spencer School, might give us a room and get students involved
- 5.3 Alan Donovan warned us to be cautious about hiring Ken Mafham as our consultant until we know who else he is working for because there could be a conflict of interests. He gave an example of this occurring in the past.
- 5.4 All the TEPs material is captured as part of our Forum
Richard to ask about loyalties and if Ken Mafham is still contracted to represent other Forums
- 5.5 Ben to look for cheap consultants.
Meet Oxalis Planning – very honest– we should talk to them. Richard to ring them.

RH

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6 Sub-group overview

- 6.1 The Sub Groups reported back and the following points were made:
Graham wants to go through the Peveril Planning development.
The community should have the right to bid for facilities, like sports within the Barracks.
A site visit is needed, but as yet, they have not been officially told that they are closing.
- 6.2 We need to know how many employees there are,
As a bona fide Group, we should get access.
Norman was promised an invitation to look at trees and Preservation Orders.
The memorial has added significance because of the anniversary of the explosion
Richard Bowen felt that he could not devote sufficient time to go into the depth that the other subgroups have gone into. He was given reassurances and encouragement to continue.
Helen said that her group had prepared their report for last month and sent it out. She, Keith and Morag had met productively and intended walking the area to look for buildings and other old landmarks.
It was suggested that we all catalogue these
We need to be hard and fast with a sound structure so that developers cannot ride rough shod over us.
- 7 **AOB** – Tracy Basra from Tesco has offered to come and talk to us with a view to us becoming one of the charities which customers may vote for.

NL

All
All

- 8. Next Meeting** Thursday 13th April at 7.30pm in the Training room at Tesco