

NEIGHBOURHOOD

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Action Minutes of the Management Board Meeting

**Held at The Station Hotel Guiseley
Wednesday 15th July 2015 at 7.15pm**

- **Present:** Jennifer Kirkby, Lynda Kitching, Liz Kirkpatrick, Joan Roberts, Christine Schofield, Frank la Corte.
- **Apologies:** Graham Latty, Richard Webster, Nigel Wilson, Ryk Downes, Steve Howarth.
- Lynda Kitching chaired the meeting.
- Darren Sanderson was introduced to those present.
- The chair made suggestions to make future meetings run more smoothly and to aim for a 9.30 finish. If a member needs to leave early they should inform the chair at the beginning of the meeting and if there is an item to which they wish to contribute they should ask it to be brought forward in the agenda.

1. The minutes of last board meeting were accepted as a true record except for one omission. SH had prepared a further walk to add as a loop to Doug Louis' North West Leeds Country park walks. SH was arranging a meeting with DL to walk this route. Related to this information CS informed the Board that she had arranged a meeting with Doug Louis and Bob Buckingham re footpaths in Yeadon.

2. Secretary's Report

EK reported that the members of the Forum now numbered 81. It was anticipated that some of the coordinators of the action groups may become members in the future. The Facebook Page, Aireborough Voice, continued to attract attention from people in search of information.,

As a result of the coordinators working on their sustainability reports, more people are aware of the Site Allocations in the area.

Another meeting with the coordinators has been arranged for Tuesday 21st July.

A meeting with Aldi representatives re the store at White Cross revealed a concern in siting of the store - it is to be to the rear of The Wetherby Whaler and a landscaped car park to the roadside maintaining the open aspect from Thorpe Lane through to the Ings Fields. However, it has been suggested by Planning that it could go along the roadside - LK write to Graham Latty, to express our views that this did not keep the required openness of the green belt either side and could be considered urban sprawl - linking Guiseley with Menston. Aldi informed us that from their consultation the main issue was traffic which they are trying to mitigate as much as they can.

The Guiseley store will be built before the Yeadon store as that still has some lease to run for Homebase. Aldi are open to discussion with Incredible Edible Aireborough re growing vegetables in the 'landscaping'. JK wrote to Becky Mears, to see if IEA would be interested.

Terry Gudgeon met with JK and EK to introduce him to the Forum and his new role as Economy and Employment coordinator. Emails for help in this project have resulted in replies from Ian Dawes and David Bowe.

3. Treasurer's Report and Funding

JR reported that the finances were much the same as for the AGM. She reminded the Urban Room coordinator that there were funds available for the pull up signs and a display board. She also reminded us that an application for the Well Being Fund should be submitted ASAP.

There was £2,362 currently in the bank account.

4a. The current situation re Site Allocation Plans

JK reported that the SA were passed at the Executive board on 15th July; they will be going to public consultation in the autumn for 8 weeks, probably September to October. We will need to ensure people are involved in the consultation and are able to give their reply individually to Leeds.

She continued that it is not clear that LCC have done a comprehensive Green Belt review in line with the Inspector's requirements and this needs to be looked at - at the meeting (referred to in 4b) Leeds CC through their processes were correct.

JK has written to Councillor Lewis listing the issues we have with the way the site allocations have been chosen, and the impact they will have.

This information resulted in a discussion as to how best to assess the impact of both the effect on green belt and sustainability. It was agreed that we will need our evidence base ready on both for the Public Consultation and definitely for the Inspection.

4b. Meeting with Richard Lewis, Tim Hill and Ian McKay 13.07.2015.

JK reported on the meeting with Richard Lewis, Tim Hill and Ian McKay re support for the NP from the council and the 'surprise' BBC interview. IM informed us that a significant number of Neighbourhood Forums in Leeds had dropped out, finding the task too difficult, or were focusing on design for their site allocations. The ANDF's plan for a 'masterplan' for Aireborough was explained again - something we have always maintained we were doing,

as no other planned covered all the area's issues. Resulting from this meeting we have secured a limited 'time measured' amount of help, from Leeds' Officer, Andy Graham on Landscape Character and Local Distinctiveness, which had been asked for back in February 2015. While in Leeds we received a phone call from BBC Look North wishing to interview someone from the Forum about our views on the Chancellor's relaxation of planning regulations on brown field sites. They were expecting the opinion that the Forum did not want any more houses in the area; JK's stated that houses depended on 'need' but that the real issue was about build communities when building new houses, otherwise they are not attractive places to live.

4c. Help with the NP from AECOM (Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Operations, and Management)

JK and JR applied for assistance with the NP from Locality as part of the Government Support Programme. This has resulted in technical support from a company called AECOM on the Landscape Design and Local Character, Ecology, Green Infrastructure and Urban design (centres) sections of the NP. Permission was asked from Darren Sanderson to use his photography in the reports, which was granted. Andy Graham, Doug Louis, Christine Schofield, and West Yorkshire Ecology have all been approached and agreed to work with AECOM. They will look at our already extensive evidence base and come up with a project plan. When proposals are agreed with AECOM we will arrange for them to meet with the Forum.

5a. Urban Room update

EK reported that work towards an urban room is slow. We have been exploring possible premises for a permanent room but empty places in Aireborough are few and far between and the idea of a travelling caravan seems not to be a solution. We will also need to purchase display boards. (We have funds available for both of these). CS said she had already approached the manager of Morrison's re siting a display in the foyer. It was agreed the urban room need to be up and running as quickly as possible LK and RW to progress.

5b. An idea from Darren Sanderson regarding presentations to older people, and children in school.

DS came to the meeting to talk to us about informing both ends of the age spectrum about the plan for Aireborough using his photographs, and to get their input on landscape character and local distinctiveness. He said he was happy to go out into schools and gatherings of the older generation to discuss these issues. JR suggested that children could research and put together their own ideas and thoughts and possibly then be given the opportunity to present their findings to the older generation. She said that this had worked well in the past at an association she had chaired. It was suggested that this could be best done in the autumn term, but not too early as the children would just be settling in.. DS asked the board to let him know if there were any ideas re new photographs. It was agreed that DS would put forward a proposal for the Board's approval. DS left the meeting.

6. Next stage jobs for each topic group.

This item was held over to the next meeting

7. The problem of companies' reluctance to work with the ANDF for fear of prejudicing their relationship with developers or LCC.

EK reported that in the course of approaching ecology firms for help with our NP, certain firms had expressed concern about working with a Neighbourhood Planning Group as they received the bulk of their contracts from developers or councils. They were apprehensive in that by working with a Forum they might prejudice further work opportunities. It was agreed that this was a concern, but we could only continue to try and build relationships, but that AECOM were now going to do some of the work we needed.

AOB

GL had asked if the start time of the meeting could be brought forward. This matter was taken into account at the beginning of the meeting where it was suggested members could leave early with prior knowledge of the chair of the meeting.

LK had been completing forms to designate as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) the land adjacent to the scout hut and asked the board's opinion whether to submit these now or defer it for a while. It was decided to go ahead straight away as the only thing it would change was the extended opportunity for the scouts or ANDF to raise the money to buy it should it be put up for sale.

The meeting was closed at 9.20

The Date of Next Meeting will be the 19th August 2015.