

AIREBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Designing A Thriving Place

ACTION MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE STATION HOTEL GUISELEY WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2015

Jane Ash from AECOM came to discuss the draft *Green Masterplan* and get the Board's feedback. The Site Group Coordinators were invited so that there was a wider understanding of and input to the development of the NP.

1. **Present:** Jane Ash (AECOM),

Jennifer Kirkby, Liz Kirkpatrick, Lynda Kitching, Nigel Wilson, Frank la Corte, Joan Roberts, Richard Webster, Clive Woods (ANDF Board)

Briony Spandler, Emma Sutherland, Roger Davies and Lorraine Lindley (coordinators)

Darren Sanderson, (photographer). Richard Taylor (RGAG)

2. **Apologies:** Pippa and Phil Dawson, Charlotte Cooper, Graham Latty, Ryk Downes.

Jennifer Kirkby chaired the meeting . The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as accurate.

3. **Developing the Neighbourhood Plan**

Now the SAP Consultation was out of the way, JK said that focus of the Forum should be on producing a Draft Neighborhood Plan as soon as possible. Currently the Green Masterplan Framework was being produced via technical support from AECOM, as Green Infrastructure was acknowledged by many experts as the place to start a plan. In addition, LCC has not assessed and valued landscape in their Sustainability Assessments – so in an area like ours this was a vital piece of work. Jane Ash from AECOM, then gave a presentation on what has been done so far.

JA introduced herself and explained that she had been working with Tom Johnson of ACOM. They had used our evidence base as a starting point for the Green Masterplan Framework. The objectives of the work were to

- Create a green and natural Aireborough – so that it feels an essential transition to the countryside;
- Enhance the local economy via improving the Aireborough 'brand', both as a gateway to the countryside and a destination in itself;
- Provide a green route between Leeds and the wider moorland countryside, with Aireborough at the centre;
- Promote further green ways between Bradford, Airedale and Wharfedale, with Aireborough, again, the hub;
- Link, connect and improve existing urban centres within Aireborough;

- Link, connect and improve existing public open spaces within Aireborough;
- Link, connect and improve existing Public Rights of Way within Aireborough;
- Connect Aireborough to the countryside with the creation and protection of transitional green spaces;
- Encourage travel between city, Aireborough and natural countryside to be by means other than the car: walking; cycling; and public transport routes; and
- Boost the health of people living and working in Aireborough by allowing the outdoors to be accessible to them and become part of their 'everyday'.

She showed their plan with a green route, which was linked to green open spaces and from city centres to the urban fringe. This could create a visitor economy in the future. Existing paths should be promoted with wayfinding trails and the whole concept become part of our branding. She added that greenways could be promoted within a new housing development. The additional green spaces identified for Aireborough had been chosen because of their ability to enhance local character and identity via the landscape, and also to aid health and wellbeing. AECOM had not looked at the site allocations on purpose so this had not coloured their view.

4. NP Next Steps

A discussion was had on next steps.. JA explained that AECOM had packages which would take our next steps forward and the Heritage Character Study Assessment package would be one to look at as we would need to appraise landscape sensitivity, the value of the landscape, and ecology / habitat and biodiversity. If we applied through Locality for a package and it was directed through AECOM then we could have the same people working on it. It is possible to apply for the same package again if it can be proved that it is being taken forward.

RT asked how we would look at housing site allocations. JK said it was another element of the programme of work starting with an estimation of housing type as well as need – it was being managed by FLC. LK added that we should be fitting the houses into the landscape using creativity and imagination.

It was pointed out that we shouldn't lose sight of the employment issue here as there are no premises for businesses to expand into in Aireborough and businesses are reluctant to move. Existing employment space needs to be regenerated.

BS commented that we should be proactive in creating more conservation areas such as Hawksworth and High Royds. Before these areas are spoiled they should be protected. JK added that we should be looking at places within the built environment that don't work properly and plan to make them better.

NW and JR reminded the group that transport and parking will always be a problem and that it has a tangible effect on well being.

It was agreed to put together a small program team to draft the Programme Plan for next steps to apportion work across the Forum membership in order to achieve the NP as quickly as possible. The team would bring a plan back to the December 2015 Board meeting. Volunteers were JAK, EK. LK and FLC.

5. Prioritising the Programme

JK asked the group to list three things which we need to address as a matter of urgency. The resulting list was as follows

- Transport and traffic, flows, congestion, cumulative impact assessment, Leeds/Bradford, moving about the area.
- Employment sites, alternatives, regenerating and replanning.
- Heritage and conservation areas

- Regeneration and heritage, linked to branding
- Alternative sites for housing, low cost housing
- Diversity of housing on sites and good design
- Preservation of green space, knowing the quality of green space, use as amenity for public use
- Schools, secondary and primary, ensuring places for local children.
- Infrastructure, facilities, amenities, social and pleasure. Where are they?
- Conservation / wildlife / ecology surveys
- Preserving, not wrecking, the community, promoting healthy communities.
- The value of the landscape for well being.

Transport, green infrastructure and alternative site to the SAP for housing were deemed the most important.

6. Other Items

The public consultation on the **airport link road** was discussed, and the fact that we need to respond as a forum as it affects transport and economy in the area. LCC are hosting drop in information days it was suggested that in conjunction with Rawdon organisations we should hold pop ups in the New Year before the consultation period is over but after the information relating to it has been examined and digested in light of making an effective response. **It was agreed this be put on the agenda for the New Year.**

Venues for a **permanent urban room** was discussed, in order to engage people with the emerging NP. As the pop up sessions we held in the foyers of Morrison's were well received, it was decided to run with these for the moment as we reached hundreds of people in a few hours, which would be difficult to match.

NW raised the possibility of changing the **domain name of the website** as he reported it was difficult to direct people to it. JK said the domain name was aireborougnf.com and had been agreed early on. However, she would look into purchasing an more memorable domain name such as Aireborough Voice.

Accounts

JS gave a short resume of the accounts.

We have a current surplus of £2,336.97. We raised £795 from Local Giving.

The money raised from Red Nose Day has been spent on materials for the "pop up urban room" in the form of display boards, banners and photographs.

The next meeting will be December 16th

The meeting closed at 9.30.