

AIREBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD

Designing A Thriving Place

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Minutes of the Management Board Meeting held on Wednesday 17th June at the
Station Public House, Guiseley.

Present

Jennifer Kirkby, Joan Roberts, Christine Schofield, Lynda Kitching, Frank La Corte, Steve Howarth, Clive Woods, Graham Latty. Also present were Pete Shepherd - Wills Gill action group, Charlotte Hunter - Hawksworth Avenue/Hollins Hill action Group and Douglas Louis - LCC Country Parks Officer.

Appologies

Richard Webster, David Ingham, Liz Kirkpatrick and Nigel Wilson.

Matters Arising

The minutes from the last meeting were studied and accepted as an accurate record.

During the last meeting FCL had asked for an update on the Master Plan being prepared by Watson Batty. The Chair advised that Watson Batty was putting together the evidence the Forum had obtained to produce a Master Plan of what the situation in Aireborough is at present. This elicited a fair amount of discussion with the feeling that a baseline of the present would not truly represent how Aireborough has been affected through recent development. It was agreed that Watson Batty would be approached to include information from the 2001 Census in the Plan to show, for example, the development of brownfield sites and the subsequent loss of employment in the area. Another area of the Master Plan is the need to look at the 'To Be' elements which will include greenspaces, habitat and community under the banner of Urban Design. It was suggested that the company AECOM could carry out this work with funding from the DCLG.

Treasurer's Report

The meeting then proceeded to the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reported that the Forum's accounts as at 31 March 2015 had now been audited (a copy of the accounts is attached). In addition she informed that we had not as yet applied to the Well Being Fund for assistance. GL advised that we should not delay in applying otherwise funds would soon be allocated and we could

easily miss out. Discussion then followed regarding the Omnibus study which will require financial support. Transport and Habitation surveys would also be required and Thompson Ecology was suggested as the organisation to carry out this work.

Current Issues

This year's AGM will take place on 30th June at the Yeadon Methodist Church. Bearing in mind the venue LK is to check to ensure that a raffle can be held and can have use of the kitchen. LK went on to remind the Board that under our constitution on third of the Board should step down, although they can be re-elected. To date Ian Dawes, Chris Manson and Alec Denton have resigned with David Ingham stepping down at the AGM. None of the aforementioned will seek re-election and to stay within the terms of the constitution one more Board member should resign. The change in Board members is not just about numbers but also for the purpose of introducing fresh thinking and for Board members to actually do things. LK floated the idea that perhaps too much of the Board needs to be changed under the existing constitution and that there may be a need for this rule to be revisited.

It was decided that the Forum's membership was emailed explaining the need to change Board members under the constitution and inviting nominations for the vacant positions. Members of the Co-Ordinators groups should also be contacted for nominations.

Following the meeting both Jennifer Kirkby and Ryk Downes stood down, and then stood again for re-election.

NW Leeds Country Parks - Doug Louis

The Chair introduced Doug Louis, the NW Leeds Country Parks Officer, who had been invited to address the Board. Doug began his presentation by detailing the organisation's vision, which is: "To preserve, improve and promote green spaces and their connectivity for people and wildlife in NW Leeds." He went on to explain the NW Leeds Green Gateways Initiative, which currently has a 43 mile trail, nearly surrounding the Council's area of responsibility, whose boundaries are determined by public rights of way that are made up of footpaths, tracks, roads etc. So far LCC is only looking at Council owned land, but is prepared to lease from landowners. The initiative runs in tandem with Natural England's aims of improving access to greenspaces, improving the naturalness of greenspaces and improving connectivity with greenspaces.

Doug also pointed out that green corridors tend to be used by wildlife, but that there are pinch points such as the Morrison's store at Kirkstall. The old Unitary Development Plan did catalogue most if not all of the green corridors within Leeds, however, the Core Strategy wasn't quite as detailed.

As far as the ANDF was concerned, Doug wanted to know what issues affect greenspaces in Aireborough, what improvements were needed to greenspaces and that our logo can be shown on any leaflet that is produced.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

The next meeting is the AGM scheduled to be held on 30th June with a routine Board meeting on 15th July.

