

# AIREBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Designing a Thriving Place

**Management Board Meeting, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

**Present.**

Jennifer Kirkby, Alec Denton, Christine Schofield, Clive Woods, Frank La Corte, Ian Dawes, Joan Roberts, Liz Kirkpatrick, Lynda Kitching, Richard Webster and Nigel Wilson

**Apologies.**

Cllr Graham Latty, Cllr Ryk Downes, David Ingham, Jonathan Hart-Woods and Steve Howarth

JK opened the meeting and welcomed Joan Roberts, (acting treasurer) and Liz Kirkpatrick, (acting organisational secretary)

We would also like to thank Alexia Smethurst who has stepped down from the Management Board as she is too busy, but will still be a member.

The minutes of the last meeting, on May 14th, which had been emailed to all members were accepted. JK announced that the forum was now designated, with no disagreement raised over area represented or wording of the constitution.

**Program Plan**

Karen Horwood from Leeds Met along with JK will put a program of work together to detail how we will achieve our Neighbourhood Development Plan. This will be by way of individual topic project plans, each driven by members of the board and a team of ANF members, who will have specific tasks.

Initially we will concentrate on the most important topics - employment, infrastructure, housing, and green space - gathering quantitative evidence to support the qualitative evidence we already have. Eventually all topics will be brought back together into the master plan for Aireborough. As the forum has already been approached by developers for consultation, and the site allocations are due for consultation in late 2014 early 2015, it is important that we gather our evidence as a matter of priority.

It was agreed that we would need guidance with a master plan from an expert, and that this would be a good use of our neighbourhood planning grant, this person should also be involved in the evidence gathering. English Heritage and CABE were put forward as possible suppliers of expertise. JAK to investigate. JR pointed out that we would have to make sure that the resource matched the grant request and that any changes were discussed with Locality. JAK and JR are to meet to discuss the allocation of funds and finances in general.

After discussion it was agreed that we look at existing Neighbourhood Plans regarded as good examples for useful pointers or policies for use in Aireborough – we do not want to reinvent the wheel and incur unnecessary cost. We agreed to look through these neighbourhood plans (listed on the email Liz sent to all members) and pick out ideas that would fit with Aireborough's needs.

Listed are members and their specific topic areas.

Karen Horwood, Christine Schofield and Alec Denton, Green Infrastructure & Green Ways  
David Ingham, Clive Woods and Richard Webster, Traffic and Transport  
Frank La Corte, Lynda Kitching, Joan Roberts Infrastructure and Housing  
Ian Dawes, Jennifer Kirkby Local Economy, Innovation and Jobs  
Nigel Wilson, Clive Woods, Character, Conservation, & Design  
Paddie Breeze, Youth Amenities and Facilities (part of Civic Community & Amenities)  
Lynda Kitching, Stakeholder Liaison  
Liz Kirkpatrick, Community Engagement  
Joan Roberts, Finance and ANF Brochure

From the wider membership people with areas of expertise are coming forward to offer their help and they would be slotted into relevant topic groups.

**It was agreed a meeting will be arranged in 3 - 4 weeks time to pool our ideas and move forward with project outline for each topic group. EK**

### **AGM**

**The afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup> September was approved as the date for the first AGM.**

A proposed format of exhibitions/presentations from each topic group followed by an explanation of what designation entails and then the more formal voting in of key members. A vintage tea was also suggested.

Possible venues suggested were Coopers, Guiseley Theatre and The Station Hotel.

**As 4 weeks notice needs to be given for an AGM the venue needs to be booked ASAP. EK**

### **Designation and Membership Campaign**

It was stressed that we needed to explain to people what designation meant to the area – we were not a Town Council, but had responsibilities similar to the planning arm of a council. We also needed to ensure that our volunteers were involved and mobilised to show how collaborative democracy worked: as a group we should be good facilitators and arbiters. It was stressed we must be seen to be non political. **The motto "Designing a Thriving Place" was endorsed to encapsulate our purpose.**

Now that designation is official the following actions will take place

- JK and EK will meet with Ian MacKay (Head of Forward Planning) to find out what support is available to us, and how we will work with Leeds City Council
- As we are now forwarded all Aireborough's planning applications, EK will filter and sort relevant plans to be posted on ANF website in order to inform the wider public.
- JR will fine tune the brochure/leaflet/flyer which can then be distributed in all areas.
- LK will lead stakeholder liaison and build relationships with existing groups and businesses, following the example of Exeter St James.
- The AGM would start recruiting people for topic groups

## Guiseley Theatre

JK and LK have met with the chair of the theatre trust with a view to a mutual benefit. The theatre is hoping to procure funds to revamp the building as Guiseley Community Theatre and Arts Centre and in this plan is the renovation of the "Offenbach" room to encourage use by groups and organisations. They hope to have it completed in October.

**It was agreed we would look at using this as a pop up Urban Room (recommended in the Farrell Review) initially, but with a view to a more permanent arrangement. This would give us a physical presence to engage with the community and help the regeneration of the Building as a community asset.**

The Urban Room would have a model of Aireborough, an exhibition together with the camera club on the Your Aireborough competition, displays from each topic group, tea and cakes, a more inviting frontage to the building including bunting and banner advertising and a community table for other organisations were all suggested.

## Feedback and Discussion

Jennifer Kirkby,

### **Retirement Village Workshop**

JK will circulate the report from the workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> July. The Building for Life 12 methodology of the workshop worked well and could be used for other similar situations with developers. Basically people liked the idea of the retirement village for Aireborough people, but not on the Thorpe Lane site. High Royds and Green Lane were considered better alternatives.

### **Howarth Court old people's home.**

The previous residents have been evicted and the building is now empty.

The plan is to demolish and rebuild as an "extra care" home. The new building will be four storeys high and in a block rather than spread out as in the existing construction. The plans and elevation were shown to the **meeting who agreed that the proposed structure was out of keeping and too intrusive on the landscape. As CW is objecting to the design on behalf of the Civic Trust JR offered to object to the design on behalf of the ANF - we are agreed with the use as a care home.**

### **Scouts land development.**

JK rang the planner who said the diocese was thinking about what they had said to them. JK will talk with the Arch Deacon and the new rector as part of community liaison. The issue had shown the ANF had a facilitation role to play in the community.

### **Shared Space - Station Junction**

Karen Horwood has prepared a report on a shared space scheme for the A65 from White Cross to Kirk Lane, primarily to help with ideas for the Station junction. She is arranging a trip to see a similar example in Stockport, Cheshire.

### **Nether Yeadon Conservation Area**

The conservation appraisal is now going ahead, paid for by Leeds, but on a much reduced area as Leeds Forward Planning have said they want to build on surrounding site - this is before any site allocation consultation, and flies in the face of DCLG's assurance that green belt will not be built on except in exceptional circumstances !! Many residents are very unhappy with this situation and English

Heritage have advised that the small area now being appraised should rightly be larger and include the fields Leeds want to build on. **The ANF will look at this as part of the appraisal and consultation process – the evidence gathered on green space will play a part in an objective review of the situation.**

#### **Ben Bailey Homes, High Royds**

Ben Bailey have applied for permission to build 34 more homes on Green Belt land, and not build the care provision. **JAK to follow up.**

#### **Ings Lane Consultation**

John Gill and an architect would like to present ideas to us on the most northerly of the fields in question, fronting onto Netherfield road. **It was decided that a short pre planning consultation would be of benefit, possibly at the end of October, early November.** By then we would have more evidence collected and be in a better position to discuss.

#### **David Wilson Homes**

DWH have the option of the land on Coach Road and Gill Lane have also approached us for a meeting. They would like to show us their Rowntrees development in York. **To be arranged JAK**

#### **LDF**

A freshly calculated projected population number for the Leeds area is 43% less than was originally calculated. However Leeds will not drop its housing numbers. Even if Aireborough could drop their house building by 43% it would still be too many. There is room for 8000 homes in the city centre, however these will be apartments not the family houses which are needed. **David Ingham through WARD, and other people in the City are preparing challenges to the Leeds targets. It was agreed that the ANF should concentrate on the neighbourhood development plan and site allocations.**

#### **Infrastructure Topic Group**

Frank reported on his current findings.

**FLC was asked to summarise his findings and send to EK for distribution and use by the committee.**

#### **Green Space Topic Group**

Karen Horwood worked on the original audit of green space for Leeds that has been used as the basis of the LDF. She does not think the quality of the audit was good enough for the use it has been put – the 'auditors' were not experts in judging either the quality of green space, its use, or its ecological/wellbeing value. **She is preparing a fresh audit to give Aireborough more accurate information, and we will recruit people to help with this as a matter of urgency.**

#### **Community Assets**

It was suggested that a list should be made of community assets. Under new legislation Aireborough will get an invitation when a community building goes on the market to put in a bid.

Clive distributed leaflets on Sunny Bank Mills Farsley, who are holding open days from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a good example of how an industrial building can be of use to the community without being sold to developers for gentrification. He suggested ANF members went to have a look.

#### **AOB**

**Pennine Prospects** - Their annual conference is to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> October in Halifax. The format they use might be a good example to use for our *AGM*. Five people, Liz, Christine, Lynda, Nigel and Jennifer said they would like to attend.

**Busses** - Clive mentioned the issue with local buss timetables he was dealing with. .

Another meeting will be arranged for three weeks time.

The meeting was closed at 9. 45 pm