

# AIREBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT FORUM



## **Minutes for the 4th Annual General Meeting Held on Wednesday 10th Jan 2018, 7.30pm At the annexe to The New Life Church Yeadon**

### **1. Apologies**

Jennifer Kirkby, Peter Kirkby, Ryk Downes, Tom Booth, Malcolm Townend.

**Present**, Roger Davis, Maureen Davis, Roger Halliwell, Ray Gommersall, Clive Woods, Peter Hogg, Ken Cothliffe, Brian Broughton, David Bowe, Frank la Corte, Philip Kirkpatrick, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick (Minutes), Lynda Kitching (Chair), Richard Webster, Andy Graham, Darren Sanderson

### **2. Matters Arising from the minutes of the last AGM (which had been circulated and are available on the ANDF website)**

The bid for the Capital of Culture which Leeds made is now redundant as the European Commission banned Britain from taking part. However, news this evening stated that Leeds is planning to go ahead with a series of events across the city possibly in 2023, maybe earlier.

With regard to the newsletter, monetary resources and human resources prevent a newsletter being delivered door to door so we will continue to rely on our website and social media to keep people in touch.

### **3. Chair's Report - What have we achieved**

Aireborough is an area undergoing fundamental change. The Neighbourhood Plan can be an instrument to guide that change.

Actions completed since last year's AGM

i. we now have three new evidence based reports. The Ecology study, the Urban Character Study and the Landscape study. All of these are published and available on our website.

ii. We were also involved with an Ancient woodland project which was part of a bigger project funded by Pennine prospects to map all the ancient woodland in the South Pennines.

The results will form an appendix to the Ecology Study

#### **iii. Proposed Revised SAP**

Small amendments were made to some of the allocated sites in Aireborough, reducing housing numbers to some and changing boundaries to others.

We held a meeting with residents to discuss the changes in the SAP and the Forums' response.

The significant changes which affect the area are:

A reduction of housing numbers on Ings Lane from 285 to 160 due to flooding.

A reduction in size of land to be used at Coach Road

A substantial reduction in size of land to be used at Woodlands Drive Rawdon

Amend Green Space site requirement at Silverdale Allotments half of the site for allotments and / or an alternative green space typology dependent on local needs required. Layout and management to be agreed with the Council.

Other changes concerned conservation areas and future developments sensitivity to these.

The government appointed independent Inspectors to test the soundness of the local authority's plan. Residents were not happy with certain aspects of it and JK attended the first SAP hearing on economy and employment and spoke on our behalf.

The airport proposes to build a business hub on green belt land close to the airport despite there being Brownfield adjacent and available. There was an objection from the owners of Coney Park that they hadn't been consulted so the inspector recommended a Masterplan be undertaken for the airport area. JK asked for the Masterplan to be extended to cover the whole of Aireborough as there seemed to be a need for a joined up approach for development here.

The remainder of the hearings on housing etc have been postponed until later this year. The Chair acknowledged the tremendous effort and commitment made by JK on behalf of the Forum.

As a result of the Inspector's comments we are exploring the possibility of liaising with councillors, MPs and LCC to commission a Masterplan and help with its funding. JK has approached the Academy of Urbanism, an award winning organisation to take on this task which they thought to be an attractive idea. This would stand alongside our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and use information we have obtained through community consultation to inform our research documents.

#### **iv. Neighbourhood Plan**

In the meantime, with our research documents to help us our aim is to get the NP into draft form by March, an omnibus survey out in April and the plan reviewed and tidied by May/June

Project theme teams have been appointed and will take on separate chapters of the report, Economy, Housing, Landscape, Ecology, Greenspace, Transport, Social Amenities and Heritage.

#### **v. Developing the area opposite the Wells (Pocket Park)**

LK working with Codswallop and 2 council officers are planning to set up a trial for how the area might be best used. The idea is to have a "pop up park" during the Easter weekend, which will be a consultation exercise asking what residents think about how they would like the area to be used.

Another of Codswallop's ideas is to have a bandstand/ performance space in Springfield Park. This is still at the idea stage at the moment and the Forum is supporting it.

#### **vi. The Local List**

LK and CW will be working to identify and list heritage buildings and assets (landscape) which are not officially "listed" but which the community value. This list would be taken into account by developers to pay due regard to their architectural value if renovated or built close to.

#### **vii. The North West Country Way**

LCC has established a super circular walk through the countryside surrounding Leeds. The walk has been split into 4 manageable sections, however, local walkers asked that a Guiseley loop should be added using existing footpaths in the area. Members Steve Howarth and Ryk Downes, were instrumental in this, which we supported. The link footpath is now mapped and waiting for a leaflet to be published.

### **4. Secretary's Report – Community engagement**

#### **Membership**

Last year the forum restructured its membership base in order to ensure as much collaboration and consultation as possible to drive the Neighbourhood Plan forward at a very crucial time.

The new structure, with a smaller Steering Committee of 7 and a Neighbourhood Planning Team of 42 (those involved in research and other projects making decisions) who have a meeting every two months which is also open to all members (which number over 90). In addition to this we have an army of helpers who keep abreast of things and will come forward to help with certain tasks.

### Engaging the public.

We try to keep the residents of Aireborough informed as to what is going on with the Local and Neighbourhood Plan by a variety of means as follows:

#### **Social Media**

**Our Facebook page** Aireborough Voice reaches thousands of people each week sharing information varying from housing numbers issues, notes on the LCC hearings into their site allocation plan, advertising junior rugby clubs to asking people to look out for a lost cat. It is a popular news page which is valued by residents.

**Our website** Aireborough Neighbourhood Development Forum is where the serious information can be found. In the last 12 months it has been viewed thousands of times Both the Facebook page and the website are written and published by our project manager JK, who writes articles regularly, followers of the website being alerted to new posts via email. Documents which are valuable for research are stored on the website along with minutes of the meetings of the planning team, making them easily accessible to everyone. Planning applications which affect the area can also be found here. We have had to be innovative in order to reach as many people as possible on our tiny budget. In 2017 we published three major documents, a landscape study, an ecology study and an urban study.

**Workshops** The studies were informed through community participation in the form of workshops and extensive observation and recording by local people. 20 people were involved in the ecology study, 29 in the urban study and 25 in the landscape study; all participants became thoroughly involved in the projects.

Through the year:

In January we held the Urban Study workshops

In February a team of interested volunteers began looking at the Leeds Habitat Network as it was thought there were gaps in its connectivity.

In March we engaged hundreds of local residents informing them of the proposed changes to the Leeds SAP and with the help of the area coordinators gave them the information they needed to make a relevant response.

In April volunteers took part in an ancient woodland Study in Diepkier and Calthole woods as part of a survey initiated by Pennine Prospects.

May saw more ecology volunteers as interviews were made with local experts to provide additional information to inform possible policy proposals for our Neighbourhood Plan

In June we manned a stall at the Guiseley Summer Fair to raise awareness and try to raise funds for our projects. Our local picture quiz attracted a lot of interest.

September - Local Giving, a crowd funding initiative offered to double any donations made to us via their website that month. It was encouraging that so many people showed their support.

December saw us again manning a stall at the Guiseley Christmas lights switch on, chatting to those attending and endeavouring to raise funds.

It is quite challenging engaging the public in what we are trying to achieve. Most pat us on the back and say we are doing a grand job and keep up the good work. Some actually volunteer their time, expertise and in some cases hard graft. Others have been persuaded to lend a hand. Some have put their hands in their pockets and contributed towards funding initiatives. We are extremely grateful to all of these residents as they are helping in whatever way to make sure Aireborough has a voice in the planning of its future.

There will always be jobs for willing helpers and with the drive towards getting the NP brought to a conclusion more so this coming year.

Liz Kirkpatrick

## **5. Treasurer's report**

In the absence of our Treasurer due to illness, the Chair first of all thanked Peter Kirkby for taking care of our finances since our previous Treasurer had to resign.

Because of illness, we do not have the end of year accounts but the Chair reported a balance of £2,477.30 which is earmarked to pay for part of the forthcoming omnibus survey, printing the landscape and Urban Design reports and helping towards printing the footpath leaflet. Once the accounts have been prepared, members present will be sent a copy before they are added to the website with these Minutes.

We are still actively looking for a replacement Treasurer.

## **6. Election of the Steering Group**

The Membership was emailed asking for new nominations to the Steering Committee.

However there were no new nominations.

When our previous Treasurer had to retire due to ill health, Peter Kirkby volunteered to take on the role temporarily. He is willing to continue as such until a suitable nominee is found.

Roger Hawkins has moved from Aireborough and has resigned from the committee

At the moment.....

The committee stands as follows:-

Chair / Project Manager (Landscape) amongst many, many other things

Jennifer Kirkby

Vice Chair / Green Space and Heritage Project Manager

Lynda Kitching

Treasurer (voluntary co-opted)

Peter Kirkby

Organisational secretary / Ecology and Habitat project manager

Liz Kirkpatrick

Housing & Infrastructure Project Manager

Frank la Corte

Community Events Manager and Urban Room

Richard Webster

Transport infrastructure project manager / Heritage

Clive Woods

(Who was co-opted to the committee during the last year.)

It was put to the vote and Clive was elected to the committee

### **The constitution stipulates that**

"To maintain continuity without stifling new ideas, one third of Board Members will retire at each AGM, but may offer themselves for re-election at the AGM. No Board member may sit on the Board for more than three years, without re-election."

In order to fulfill this stipulation LK and FIC stood down.

Nominated by EK and seconded by Richard Webster and Frank la Corte, and with a show of hands, they were re-elected to the committee

### **7. Report on Housing (Frank la Corte)**

See attached notes below

### **8. Presentation by Andy Graham on the Urban Character of Aireborough**

Link to urban character study doc here:-

[https://issuu.com/theurbanglow/docs/aireborough\\_master\\_final\\_op](https://issuu.com/theurbanglow/docs/aireborough_master_final_op)

### **9. Any Other Business**

9.1 David Bowe brought up the subject of a delivered newsletter as not all the residents of Aireborough have access to the internet, which is the vehicle we use to broadcast information. EK explained that we had not the resources or funds to print a newsletter as Aireborough has over 9000 households. LK will bring the topic to next Steering Group meeting.

David said he had some ideas and he was asked to put these in writing to be considered.

9.2 Ken Cothliffe gave us an update on the airport, saying that as the new owners had just taken over, no real decisions had been made regarding the expansion

The meeting was closed at 9. 40

## **Housing Notes for the ANDF AGM - 10 Jan 2018**

1. Last year the LCC called for a Strategic Housing Market Assessment known as a SHMA. This was because the previous SHMA of 2011 was based on figures that were subsequently proved to have been too ambitious. The last census also underlined the ambitiousness of the figures Leeds was working to. The SHMA was carried in the summer and the firm tasked with the job (ARC4) reported at the end of September.
2. ARC4 looked at the 11 Housing Market Characteristic Areas (HMCAs) and some 28K households received a Housing Need questionnaire. The questionnaire was also posted online and some of you may well have received one.
3. In addition to the housing need review the Council had began reviewing its CS in 2015 when it became apparent that its 70K housing figure was hopelessly out of date. Moreover, it was announced that the Development plan or Core Strategy period would be extended from 2017 to 2033.
4. ARC4 concluded that the Leeds housing requirement for the revised plan period would be in the region of 55648 and 60528, based on a multitude of factors including job growth of about 2765 and 3783 jobs per year.
5. Central Government published a White Paper which attempted to standardise the mechanism for establishing housing need throughout the country. Its housing need figure for Leeds came to 2649 units per annum, or 42384 over the plan period.
6. The LCC claims that the White Paper notes that the 42K is the minimum number of homes needed in a local authority and that councils may decide to deliver more housing due to economic growth ambitions. As a result this number was increased to a gross figure of 53856 but assuming a windfall amount of 8000 over the plan period meant that land would only be needed for 45856 houses.
7. Under the revised CS plan period Aireborough has been allocated a housing target of 3% of 45856 relating to 1376 dwellings.
8. However, during the period 2012 to 2017 Aireborough has seen its housing stock increased by 1000 units made up of housing built, being built or having planning permission. This equates to approximately 43% of our original target of 2300 units. Now, we have been allocated a further target of 1376 units, despite Leeds reducing its requirements from 70K to 54K, that when added to the 2300 of the old plan period we still have to find land for 2376!
9. We have asked a senior planning officer to confirm that houses already built under the previous pan period will form part of the new allocation, but have yet to receive a reply.
10. What of the future? Clearly the number of new units allocated to us will have to be challenged on the basis of fairness based on the fact that other HMCAs haven't provided anywhere near the amount we have. Nor have they met their target for the previous 5 years of the existing Core Strategy.
11. Otherwise, we are progressing with the Housing element of the NP, which we hope to have in draft form by March.