

# AIREBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT FORUM



Minutes for the 5th Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 13th June 2019, 7.30pm  
At the Fellowship Room, Guiseley Methodist Church

## 1. Apologies

Stuart Andrew, Roger Halliwell, Colin Campbell, Ken Cothliff, Eleanor Thompson, Alex Denton, Brian Broughton, Frank la Corte, Maureen Davies, Roger Davies, Stuart Garforth, Peter Kirkby  
**Present**, Jennifer Kirkby, (Chair) Lynda Kitching ( Vice Chair), Elizabeth Kirkpatrick (Minutes), Richard Webster, Clive Woods, Mark Rollinson, Councillor Graham Latty, Paddie Breeze, Kay Easton, Malcolm Easton, Edward Easton.

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

The minutes were passed as a true record of the 4<sup>th</sup> AGM.

## 3. Chair's Report - What has been achieved ( The slides which were used at the meeting are attached and give an overall view of what the Forum has worked on in the last year)

### a) Initiatives - 2018/19

- The Neighbourhood Plan has progressed and more evidence has been gathered through community engagement
- At the LCC Development Plan Inspector Hearings, evidence was presented by members of the Forum regarding the Aireborough Housing Market Characteristic Area.
- Aireborough NP evidence has been presented during strategic development consultations e.g. LBA Airport development, Esholt development.
- The Guiseley Gap Walk was an initiative to Link Aireborough to Leeds 'City of Culture' Strategy'
- The Forum has supported the Development of Guiseley Wells Pocket Park and other community initiatives.

### b) The Neighbourhood Plan.

The process of building a Neighbourhood Plan was outlined and our progress so far.

#### Our Evidence Base

We have now a comprehensive library of evidence which has taken time and much hard work to compile, not least a study by The Academy of Urbanism who took all our evidence and came to the conclusion that biting off chunks of the Green Belt around our towns was not a good idea and that creating a larger settlement with adequate infrastructure could future proof Aireborough in terms of numbers of houses for many years to come.

#### The Urban Room (Aireborough Place Space)

Our evidence base and displays of initiatives were presented here, which seemed a preferred option to formal meetings. (See Secretary's Report).

### Policy Writing

We have begun to identify from our evidence and following our vision, policies which will structure our Neighbourhood Plan. In doing this we have looked towards other Neighbourhood Plans which have been held up as good practice.

c) The Leeds Development Plan

This process has been a roller coaster. To begin with the controversial 'Broad Locations' were thrown out by the inspector, who also asked for many modifications to be made to the plan. There were a huge number of irregularities which is why we enlisted a barrister to help put together a comprehensive and lengthy response to the public consultation. The barrister found that the proper processes had not been followed and that there were no exceptional circumstances for our Green Belt sites to be used for housing. The barristers fee was met by crowdfunding and all but a few pence was raised which only reinforces the strength of feeling by residents against the SAP earmarking swathes of our GB for development.

Along side this there has been a review of the Leeds Core Strategy which is currently in the process of having its second public consultation on its modifications.

d) LBA Link Road Consultation

A representation was sent to LCC in response to the Leeds Bradford Link Road consultation.

e) Strategic Development Consultations

The Forum has been instrumental in helping residents with responses to the consultation on the planning applications for housing on the Coach Road Allotments.

f) Transport

Aireborough and Leeds Civic Society have been working together on Leeds Clean Air Zone. Pollution monitors have been positioned in strategic places, the results showing that certain junctions in Aireborough have significantly high pollution levels, higher than acceptable. Clive Woods has the option of 20 more such pollution monitors which will be positioned around Aireborough, monitoring noxious fumes due to congestion on our roads.

g) Coach Road Allotments

The Forum has been keen to see a suitable plan for the allotments should they be developed. In conjunction with a student from Newcastle university under the guidance of her lecturer, innovative plans have been drawn which have been helpful in formulating an acceptable outcome.

h) Yorkshire Water Plans For Esholt

Although in Bradford Authority, plans for housing in Esholt will impact on our infrastructure.

i) The South Pennines Regional Park

Aireborough is the only part of Leeds which is within this regional Park, which, when the Park is designated could have positive effects for the area.

j) Leeds City of Culture Strategy

This project was supported by

The Guiseley Wells Pocket Park

This became about because of the vast amount of tarmac which was laid by the developers on Springfield Road, resulting in it becoming a virtual car park and belittling the historic significance of the area. Consultations were held on Easter Weekend 2018 and plans drawn up

to enhance the area. Since then very significant flags have been laid, but unfortunately plans for planters and benches have stalled due to planning failures within LCC. However things have started to move again and we should see an improvement in the near future.

#### The Guiseley Gap Walk

The North West Leeds Country Park includes footpaths which traverse North Leeds. One of our members decided that a Guiseley Loop walk should be planned and mapped. It has now been published in the form of a leaflet entitled, "The Guiseley Gap Walk" and has been made available in libraries around Aireborough and is proving to be very popular.

#### **4. Secretary's Report on Engagement**

A report about engagement and how the Forum has consulted with residents in the past year and since 2012

In June last year, we opened an "Urban Room" in Guiseley. We named it the Aireborough Place Space. It fulfilled a need; engagement with the residents of Aireborough, Our Place Space or Urban Room was all about engagement. The Neighbourhood Plan comes from the people and not just Forum members but any resident concerned about what is happening to their area.

We can't claim the idea for ourselves. It was an initiative thought up by an architect called Terry Farrell, whose idea was that towns and cities should have urban rooms which were all about urban activism - about engaging people with the planning of their environment; a hub where people could visit to understand and debate the past, present and future of their place.

Our Place Space was a venue which was open frequently and was furnished with displays and information. The displays were primarily about the Forum and the Neighbourhood Plan; our evidence base, opportunities for people to make suggestions, and also about the two important reviews LCC were making on their CS (the numbers of houses allocated) and the SAP (where those houses were going to be built). (Residents are very angry with the site allocations planned for Aireborough and many came to find out more)

It was also an information centre where people could find out about planning applications, initiatives such as the Wells Pocket Park, leaflets about "friends groups" and voluntary organisations. It was a place where people could be listened to and didn't have to attend long meetings in order to ask a question in aob at the end.

Whilst we were trialling this initiative we suspended our bi monthly meetings, and footfall through the Place Space door far outnumbered attendances at previous meetings in the same time scale.

We could only manage to afford the Place Space because of the generous help from St. Oswald's Church who let us have their old parish rooms for a very very reasonable donation. Unfortunately St Oswald's has had to hand the room back to the diocese now they have newly refurbished premises, and the diocese is selling the old Parish Rooms. (Obviously we cannot afford to buy them) We think the initiative was a success, and if the opportunity should arise for a suitable venue we would like to continue.

In the room we have met with and engaged with all manner of people; members of LCC Neighbourhood Planning Team, The Academy of Urbanism, a representative from 'Locality' (a government based group who provide support for Neighbourhood Forums), councillors, MPs, the Lord Mayor of Leeds and many residents from Aireborough.

Outside the Urban room The Steering Group have networked, working on expanding their knowledge, attending conferences and seminars specific to Neighbourhood Planning. In November last year we had a "Big Catch up Meeting" the last time we used the Place Space where we brought residents up to date on CS and SAP and where we were in writing the Neighbourhood plan.

Since then the Steering Committee have been working hard on their allocated sections of the NP, using our evidence base and networking with others to bring the Plan to a conclusion. We may have lost our Place Space, however, we have always had a Virtual Urban Room in the form of our website, where you can access everything the NF is doing or has done alongside a library of information on N Planning, help on how to respond to LCC consultations and up to date news of what is happening to Aireborough. LCC in one of their newsletters to NFs in the Leeds area held our website up as an example of good practice.

Aireborough Voice on Facebook is a virtual newspaper for the Forum and other voluntary organisations in Aireborough, supplying its readers with news of events etc and is viewed by thousands of people every week.

Both the website and the Facebook page are maintained by JK.

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Every Neighbourhood Plan has to have a Consultation or Engagement Statement, prepared to fulfil the legal obligations of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. They state that a Consultation Statement should contain the following:

- a) Details of the persons and organisations that have been consulted about the proposed neighbourhood development plan;*
- b) How they were consulted;*
- c) Summary of the main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted*
- d) Explanation of how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in the proposed neighbourhood development plan.*

The Aireborough Neighbourhood Development Forum has been in existence since 2012 so as you can imagine there have been many many consultations, meetings and discussions, all of which have been well minuted and documented.

It fell to me to wade through all that the NF has done to consult with people and organisations and present it in a format that is acceptable for an inspector to be able to tick the box that says that the ANDF has indeed consulted with the community and stakeholders and how those consultations will be addressed in the NP.

I have by no means finished this task, as we have not finished consulting and engaging but already the document runs to 20 pages in table form; it was by going back to the beginning and writing everything down that I became overawed at the amount the Forum has achieved since its inception.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Please see slides 26 and 27 which are calculations showing the finances for 2018 and 2019. The finances were accepted by those present.

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

The Membership was emailed asking for new nominations to the Steering Committee. However no new nominations came forward.

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

Frank la Corte, who was Housing & Infrastructure Project Manager has had to stand down from his post due to family commitments, but is continuing to help where he can and is maintaining the planning application section of the ANDF website

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
Community Events Manager and Urban Room	Richard Webster
Transport infrastructure project manager / Heritage	Clive Woods

Mark Rollinson was co-opted to the steering committee last year and has been working on Transport, Greenways and an Aireborough Cycle Route.

We now therefore need to formalize Mark's position. Mark Rollinson was nominated by CW and seconded by RW and was unanimously elected to the steering 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 EK and RW will stand down.

Elizabeth Kirkpatrick was nominated for re election by JK and seconded by MR and unanimously re elected to the Steering Committee

Richard Webster was nominated for re election by JK and seconded by CW and unanimously re elected to the Steering Committee

#### **7. Identifying Community Assets of Value**

RW is in the process of compiling a list of Community assets and asked those present to help identify any they could think of and contact him by email.

#### **8. AOB**

JK informed us that she had enlisted Eleanor Thompson to help with the Green Infrastructure chapter of the NP

The meeting closed at 9.15