

Welland Neighbourhood Plan Forum (“the Forum”)

Minutes of Meeting held 11th January 2023 at The Royalist, Western Avenue, MH

1. Attendees: Susan Garon (SG) **Chair**, Roy Saint (RS) **Vice chair**, Linda Pentland (LP) **Secretary**, Bob Bellm (BB), Alex Shelton (AS), Quentin Bell (QB), Marcus Stanway-Williams (MSW), Bruce Durham (BD), Cllr Darren Woodiwiss (DW), Ann Morris (AM), Halina Pasiecznik (HP), Tim Durham (TD), Alan Good (AG), Kerry Ward (KW), Lesley Morgan (LM), Alex Gratrix (AG),

Apologies: Tracey Foster

2. **Minutes** of last meeting were agreed.

3. **Matters Arising**

Allotments – DW advised by HDC that all plots on the Welland Park Road allotments have been taken and are inspected regularly. Neglected plots can be taken back with just 3 weeks notice, and where this hasn't happened it is because HDC are negotiating with the tenant. We are encouraged to continue to gather evidence regarding the ongoing condition of the plots and can take it up with HDC if necessary. However it does mean that we no longer have the volunteering project available so a new project is needed. Suggestions are litter picking (HP), leaf clearance (BB), replacing the fence on Farndon Road (SG). Any other suggestions can be emailed to the generic email address wellandplan@gmail.com.

Green Spaces audit – AS has “walked the patch” again over the last month and collated a list of open spaces across the ward, together with some details of ownership. Next job is to identify ownership of the other areas if possible. BB suggested that we look at our open spaces to see whether any could be upgraded to Green Space status which gives a far greater level of protection. As an aside, and not in our ward but concerning everyone in the town, HDC are looking for ideas for use of the now disused bowling green in Welland Park. Suggestions so far are a community garden or a tree nursery for Harborough Woodland.

Section 106 monies – BB circulated the list of available monies after last meeting. Most are specific to the Development they result from. All have deadlines for being spent. If they are not spent they are returned to the developer. The monies can be used for physical infrastructure projects like building a youth club, or projects which enable links across the community. Several ideas such as linking the 2 play areas on Farndon Fields estate with a bridge were raised. BB suggested a meeting with Ruth at HDC who curates the S106 monies, to include all 4 Forums and MSW to discuss.

Actions

All to consider ideas for voluntary projects

LP to forward list of open spaces to MSW to identify HDC owned spaces

4. Working Groups update

BD - Environment group have drafted a flood plan for inclusion in the NP. The flood hubs are working well at collecting evidence which can be used to take action against future flooding. To meet with Environment leads from other forums to create common policies.

BB - Transport group are meeting with the other Forum leads to create common policies this Saturday.

RS – Built Environment are also meeting as above.

LP – Social and Community group are meeting next Wednesday to progress.

Actions

LP to circulate the current outcomes of the website poll on our priorities

5. AOB

Burford Green Festival

The idea of a “village fete” on Burford Green on 15 June 2024 has progressed – DW and MSW have raised with HDC and we now have an events planning package which lays out the actions required. Sustainable Harborough have a blanket type insurance policy which they may be willing to let us use. Juliette Maher lives in the ward and organises the summer fair and Late Night Shopping so may be willing to share her expertise.

A WhatsApp group now exists and more volunteers are welcome. Likely to be a relatively small event this year but could be bigger if repeated next year. Ideas included Sealed Knot re-enactment, war games, other games/events themed to events of 1645. There is a huge amount of heritage linked to Welland ward which is largely ignored. As MSW pointed out in Neighbourhood Plan terms heritage of this kind is great social capital and gives an area a sense of identity that we currently seem to lack.

Forum/ward identity

BD raised the need for the Forum to have a logo to create a sense of identity. He has had a first stab at one and will forward to LP.

Harborough District new Local Plan

The Regulation 18 consultation begins on 16th January – see HDC website for your chance to comment. DW asked us to bear in mind that at this stage the ideas presented are designed to test the boundaries so may appear to be extreme. Submit comments and feedback and if you can, attend the roadshow – the MH Town roadshow is on 24th January 2024. Groups can and should comment as well as individuals, so the working groups can comment as can the forum.

Publicity

DW offered a space in the Green Party newsletter which is going out soon. We can publicise the Forum to raise awareness.

Platform Housing

QB received a reply from Platform regarding the run down garages. They are undertaking a review and considering development of the area. Generally thought to be not unwelcome development given their current state of repair.

Actions

DW - Talk to Sustainable Harborough about sharing their insurance for the event if possible.

AG - to talk to Juliette Maher who may be able to give help and guidance.

TD – to progress the general idea of the Village Fete.

LP – to forward the logo to a designer contact to progress.

LP – draft para for Green Party newsletter.

All – comment on new Local Plan consultation from 16th January 2024.

6. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 8th February 2024 5.30pm – 7pm at The Royalist.