

## Welland Neighbourhood Plan Forum (“the Forum”)

### Minutes of Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at The Royalist, Western Avenue, MH

1. Attendees: Susan Garon (SG) **Chair**, Roy Saint (RS) **Vice chair**, Linda Pentland (LP) **Secretary**, Alan Good (AG), Bob Bellm (BB), Lesley Morgan (LM), Alex Shelton (AS), Bruce Durham (BD), Halina Pasiecznik (HP), Stephen Ball (SB), Garry Davies (GD), Carole Clementson (CC), Kerry Ward (KW), Quentin Bell (QB)

**Apologies:** Cathy Holder, David Notter, Julian Webber, Cllr Darren Woodiwiss, Tracey Foster

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

#### 3. **Matters Arising**

Stuart Road Allotments – we understand that all are now let and there is a substantial waiting list but plots still not inspected or maintained. Further action can only really be taken by HDC. However it seems unlikely at the moment that the plan is to close the allotments.

SG has tried to contact Lubenham PC for more info on the planning decision last meeting but had no reply. BD provided SG direct contact details for a member of the Parish Council.

LP has an offer from VASL to use their Harborough Mail blog to request volunteers and will do so.

LP now trained to put together our website – NW and TF volunteered to proof read before it goes live.

**Action: LP to draft and liaise with NW/TF and LCC**

**Action: SG to attempt to contact Lubenham parish council again.**

#### 4. **Locality leaflet – Keeping it Simple**

A publication by Locality was circulated between meetings and SG asked for comments.

BD asked that we not lose sight of the necessary details whilst also appreciating the need to keep the plan as simple as possible.

AG also pointed out that if we follow what is set out in the publication a fair percentage of the background in the document Roy has drafted will not be needed. We should bear this in mind when progressing the document.

#### 5. **Roy document – Towards a Neighbourhood Plan**

The initial draft of Welland Neighbourhood Forum priorities was circulated between meetings as promised, and comments and amendments invited.

1. LM has comments to add re Gracelands and will forward a draft to Roy.
2. AG suggested that the content now go back to the sub groups to update and refine.

3. BB and RS commented that the next step in the process will be for the policies to be drafted, based on the priorities identified and with due regard to the Local Plan.

SG requested that any further amendments/additions/refinements be forwarded to RS (via the [wellandplan@gmail.com](mailto:wellandplan@gmail.com) email address) in a format that can be cut and pasted into the document.

## 6. Consultation

The meeting ran out of time for discussion on this point specifically, though it did arise as a general point around community engagement.

AG repeated the point raised at many meetings so far, that we need a communications strategy which incorporates social media as well as other avenues, so that the whole population of the ward can engage in this process.

AS provided some statistics relating to social media which indicated that on Facebook at least, local community groups attracted a far greater audience than official channels such as HDC and LCC, so our own social media should be seen as very important.

## 7. AOB

BD updated the Environmental sub group work, specifically around flooding. More flood wardens are needed, ideally each street should have one – they are the eyes and ears of the community when it comes to flooding.

BD also reiterated the importance of reporting flooding events so that something can be done about them. He asked that we all ask our friends, family, neighbours etc who live in MH whether they have ever been flooded and report any properties that have to him or to Harborough Town Hub.

BB commented that this another example of a priority that can give rise to a policy.

The entrance to Gracelands and pedestrian access around the farm shop was discussed. It is not clear who owns that piece of land.

BB may have some info and will report back next time.

**Action: LP to ask her contact if he can help with this.**

HP raised the issue of parking and pavement parking. Whilst acknowledging the difficulties, especially around the eastern part of the ward but also in the new build areas, it was agreed that we should look for innovative solutions from other areas. It is an issue we have in common with other wards and again could give rise to a common policy.

BB advised that this forum will be commenting as a group on the LCWIP cycleways survey, but also invited each of us as individuals to have our say. LP to circulate the link with these minutes. Comments need to be in by 24<sup>th</sup> October.

### Actions

**All - advise BD of flooding as above**

**LP – ask about Gracelands entrance ownership**

**All – note survey and participate if possible**

KW asked about the future of the local bus services – BB advised Harborough Transport Alliance are looking at this but funding for the near future had recently been confirmed.

CC raised on email the issue of Redrow developers passing responsibility for landscaping their parts of the Farndon Fields development back to the residents despite have already charged them for this. SG will feed back to CC that where this has happened on other parts of the development forming residents associations has proved the most effective response. BD – is this another potential policy – planners to check for unfair/unreasonable contract terms such as this when granting planning permission in future?

SG reported that at the Harborough Town Hub meeting last week a discussion arose around whether it was desirable to have a longer-term plan to form a town council as a result of the work we are doing now. SG mooted the possibility of having a note in the Welland Plan to say that we reserve the right to consult on having a town council at a later date, her concern being that if we don't put this in our plan HDC will not allow us to form a Town Council later. BD explained the origin of the Hub and the intention for it to be that co-ordinating body which persists beyond the 5 year cycle of the Forums. LP reminded that there had been reservations at the Hub meeting about mentioning the possibility of a town council in the plans. SG and LP agreed to do more research into the pros and cons of this, and the implications of a town council before agreeing whether it should feature in our plan. NALC should be able to help with information, amongst other bodies.

**Action: SG/LP to research and report back**

**8. Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 5.30pm – 7pm at The Royalist.