

Welland Neighbourhood Plan Forum (“the Forum”)

Minutes of Meeting held 13th July 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), Bruce Durham (BD), (TF), Simon Hobbs (SH), Kerry Ward (KW), Bob Bellm (BB), Lesley Morgan (LM), Garry Davies (GD), Nicola Webber (NW) Julian Webber (JW), Alan Clementson (AC), Carole Clementson (CW), Ann Morris (AM)
2. **Apologies:** David Notter, Martin King, Tracey Foster, Catherine Holder, Christine Barrett, Gillian Baverstock
3. **Minutes** of last meeting were agreed.
4. **Matters Arising**

Langdale Walk – we received a reply from LCC which indicates that they are not solely responsible for this issue – it needs to be raised with Harborough DC. Better signage may be a start though, and this would be for LCC to deal with. A rising bollard may also be a solution.

Action - BB and SG to discuss next action outside the meeting

Arts Centre – After discussion of various options for a potential venue in Welland ward for an Arts Centre, it was agreed that we should as a Forum contact Harborough Storytellers to see if we can help.

Action – SH to pass contact details to LP to get in touch.

5. Updates from sub groups

Transport – BB updated. LCC have brought forward their programme for active transport – it will now start this year and will be designed and implemented collaboratively rather than being imposed from above and inviting comment when its already too late. Section 106 money is available to help fund the implementation. Cllr Barry Champion has been very supportive. The sub group have also drafted their priority statements to go out for consultation to the wider population of the ward.

Finally, they have identified the need for, and started forming, a stakeholder group including schools, disability groups etc to get feedback as the groups work develops.

Built Environment – RS updated. Roy has taken on this sub group so work has only just begun. First step is to survey and document the current land use in the ward and the recent history of land use. He will also be looking at priorities such as the future plans for the land at the end of Angell Drive and maintenance of the green belt between Market Harborough and East Farndon/Lubenham.

Action – all to consider whether they could join this group to work with Roy. Let LP or RS know.

Social and Community – LP updated. First meeting held and the priorities discussed. More detail definitely required on almost all of the suggested issues raised at the beginning of the NF process. Next step will be to work some of these issues up into priority statements to consult with the wider community.

Example priorities are Burford Green area as a “centre” for the ward, provision for and engagement of young people and community support for senior citizens, those not in work and pre-school children.

Finally the PPG are to survey the whole population of MH about the lack of availability of appointments at doctors surgeries. LP has suggested that the PPG involve the Forums in disseminating the survey.

Environment – BD updated. The group have now created their list of priority statements too. The work on flooding measure is going well. Suggestion that there should be a Flood Warden in each ward, and that a single point of contact phone number be created for the town as there are currently 6 different possible start points for reporting flooding. An app for mobile phones has also been suggested.

6. Harborough Town Hub (HtH) update

LP updated - funding bid turned down for website. HtH have now been offered the opportunity to have a free website via LCC in similar format to the sites being offered to the forums. The hope is that it will be possible to then link the forums through this site. Welland NF still need someone to agree to be trained to set up and maintain our site.

LP also confirmed that HtH are now considering setting up as a Community Interest Company (CIC). This will enable the hub to administer the finances for the Forums if they want that, enabling them to apply for funding without necessarily having to set up as a charity or company themselves. Chair of each Forum will be invited to be part of the CIC.

7. AOB

We still need a volunteer to set up and maintain our website. It need not be a member of the Forum, or even a resident of the ward. **LM** has a contact who may be prepared to help. LP to ask on FB otherwise.

Action – LM to advise **LP**.

LP/SH confirmed that no objections have been received so this Forum designation should hopefully be complete early next week.

Allotments – there is still concern about the future of the HDC allotments between Stuart Road and Welland Park Road. This falls into the remit of the Social and Community sub group.

Action – AM and LP to draft an approach to Harborough DC, copy to Cllr Woodwiss.

Action – all sub group leaders to forward their priorities to **LP** to prepare an overall document for consideration.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th August 2023 5.30 – 7 at The Royalist.