

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

### Minutes of Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at The Royalist, Western Avenue, MH

1. Attendees: Roy Saint (RS) **Vice chair**, Linda Pentland (LP) **Secretary**, Bob Bellm (BB), Alex Shelton (AS), Quentin Bell (QB), Tracey Foster (TF), Marcus Stanway-Williams (MSW), Bruce Durham (BD), Garry Davies (GD), Cllr Darren Woodiwiss (DW), Cllr Phil King (PK), Ann Morris (AM), Halina Pasiecznik (HP), Tim Durham (TD), Carole Clementson (CC)

**Apologies:** Susan Garon, Lesley Morgan

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

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

Farndon Road junction – BB and Cllr King updated. The County Council say that a dropped kerb crossing is justified but as this would also require construction of a new footway along the frontage of the farm shop they don't have funds to carry out the work. All similar improvement schemes in town are deferred until the revised Market Harborough Transport Strategy is published, probably late 2024. We should still write this into our Neighbourhood Plan. And in the meantime Cllr King stressed the need for us to continue to gather evidence to support the need.

Allotments – LP has had a response from Diane Peacock at HDC broadly supporting the idea of WNP volunteer group clearing a couple of the difficult-to-let plots and is just awaiting clearance from her boss. HP volunteered to join the working group once the go ahead is given. Cllr King noted that a question has recently been raised in cabinet regarding waiting lists for HDC allotments – each plot has a list of between 80 and 100 at present. Cllr Woodiwiss agreed to take further. LP to forward to him the plot numbers advised by HDC.

Skippon Close – AS has visited the site and made detailed notes of the size of the plot. RS confirmed this has been added to the Built Environment group work.

#### **Actions**

**DW to obtain further information re allotments. LP to send him plot numbers.**

#### 4. **Harborough Town Hub (HtH) update**

RS gave an overview of the recent symposium. In essence it is agreed that many of the policies of the 4/5 Neighbourhood Plans for MH will be common across all of the Forums. So the working groups are working together to produce common policies, to which each ward will add their own ward-specific policies.

A common Communications Strategy is to be drafted, and common Finance policy has been broadly agreed.

The fate of the Town Centre Forum is still being agreed but in the meantime Logan ward have taken part of the Town Centre into their potential designated area and have agreed to consult across all wards on matters affecting that part of the Town Centre.

Cllr King pointed out the current debate around the HDC Local Plan revision, noting that any Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in conformity with whichever is the current Local Plan at the time of its adoption.

The only action we can take to mitigate the immediate effect of this is to ensure our Neighbourhood Priorities are submitted to HDC as soon as possible.

To move us closer to this RS has begun to gather ward data (LP to circulate with these minutes) which should help with our consultation work.

AS, LM and LP have met to begin our communication/consultation strategy. LM has collated a diary of the actions taken so far, as the beginning of our Consultation Statement – a required part of our final submission.

AS has pulled together a list of Stakeholders – businesses, schools etc with whom we must engage. This list also to be circulated with the minutes and any additions emailed in to the generic email address please.

### **Actions**

**MSW to check what other ward level data is available from HDC.**

**LP circulate relevant paperwork with minutes**

**All to gather more information – specific contacts ideally – for stakeholders**

## **5. AOB**

Three plots of land within the ward – footpath alongside Farndon Road, land at top of Lindsey Gardens and land between Essex Gardens/Balfour Gardens including a number of footpaths in that area – have been sold off, presumably to developers, since last meeting. These spaces were not sold by HDC, they are thought to have been owned by the original developers having never been adopted by the local authority. Some concern had been expressed regarding the potential for even more development in the ward on these few remaining green spaces. It was confirmed that at least 2 of these are designated Open Spaces in the current HDC Local Plan and are therefore protected from development by this designation. The desire to maintain them as Open Spaces should however be reiterated in our Neighbourhood Plan (assuming that is what is wanted by the ward). BB suggested we consider getting them designated as Green Spaces – this is the highest level of protection possible but difficult to get land like this designated in this way. We could also approach the purchaser to take on maintenance of them as green spaces on a voluntary basis.

A more general discussion around open/green spaces arose, and we agreed to do an audit of them across the ward, firstly with a walk around and then MSW will find out which of them is owned by HDC.

### **Actions**

**AS to start audit of green spaces across the ward**

Section 106 monies – BB suggested we identify what monies are available for Welland under the various headings so that we can target specific projects. For example there is £152k available from Farndon Fields phase 3 that needs to be spent by March 2026. BB agreed to take on identifying the funds.

Cllr King pointed out that the Infrastructure Levy will shortly replace S106 Developers Contributions but in any event our Neighbourhood Plan should ideally have a long list of what we want to spend it on. Any projects we identify must arise as a result of the population increase i.e. be a consequence of the building development having taken place. RS will provide a link to the site where ward data can be found.

### **Welland Transport Policies**

A set of draft transport policies has been forward to Roy, and circulated to the other Neighbourhood Forums. A meeting between the Transport leads is to be arranged in the New Year.

### **Market Harborough LCWIP and town centre pedestrianisation**

Harborough Transport Action are encouraging the County Council to model the impact of pedestrianizing the town centre, and to engage with the Neighbourhood Forums over the next 12 months as they develop the LCWIP.

### **Actions**

**RS provide link and LP circulate**

**All 4 working groups consider suitable projects**

**BB identify funds and supply list to circulate with minutes**

**6. Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 5.30pm – 7pm at The Royalist.