

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

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

- 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), Darren Woodiwiss (DW – Councillor) Halina Pasiiecznik (HP), Stephen Ball (SB),

**Apologies:** Cathy Holder, David Notter, Garry Davies, Nicola Webber, Gillian Baverstock

- Minutes** of last meeting were agreed.

### 3. **Matters Arising**

Arts Centre – LP met with Ray Smyth from MH Story Centre to see how we can help them. Primarily they are looking for premises fairly close to town centre, to rent or buy (preferably buy). Something similar to St Hughs Hall which is now sold. If anyone on the Forum knows of anywhere in our ward please can they let LP know. DW and BB mentioned possible s106 monies which may be available for exactly such a project.

**Action: LP to feedback to Ray.**

Stuart Road Allotments – Ann has received a reply from HDC advising they are all let, but many are not being maintained.

**Action: Ann will report next meeting on how this progresses.**

Langdale Walk – after some initial confusion LCC have now confirmed that they will place bollards to prevent vehicles using this pathway. Thanks to BB for taking the issue on and enabling this successful conclusion.

### 4. **Working Party – Communications and Consultation**

It was generally agreed that we need a strategy for communicating and consulting with the residents of our ward in order to get feedback on the neighbourhood priorities and engage them in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process. Many ideas have already been mentioned but we have yet to implement any of them e.g. having a stall/stand outside the shops for a day, having feedback forms in the Royalist bar, putting on Facebook, leafleting households, contacting schools etc.

Agreed to ask for voluntary help with this, as well as with Project Management (see below) from outside the Forum.

#### **Actions**

BD to put a shout out on FB groups

LP to ask VASL for help with advertising

AG suggested HDC newsletter

LP to train with HDC to put the free website together

### 5. **Updates from sub groups**

We did not go through specific feedback from each group. All 4 groups now have priority statements ready albeit in different formats.

Agreed that group leads will forward their most up to date priorities to LP to be circulated with these minutes.

SG suggested we are now in a position to start putting dates in place for drafting and that the priority statements should now be formatted ready to slot into the NP.

There was some discussion about the next steps in the overall process. BB suggested asking Matt Bills (HDC) to get clarity and LP suggested SG raises this at the next Harborough town hub meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October. Project Management volunteer also suggested so that we can get actions and dates identified.

**Action – LP circulate priorities with minutes**

**Action – SG discuss at HTH**

**Action – LP source a list of consultants who have drawn up previous NP's.**

## 6. AOB

Funding – LP noted that funding for 2023/24 has been released. Believe we are eligible for up to £10k over the life of the Forum to be spent on developing the NP. We apply each year for what we can spend each year as any underspend has to be given back.

A detailed budget needs to be compiled for the activities that we can realistically complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, and then an application can proceed.

Harborough Town Hub should be able to hold the funds on behalf of all of the NF's.

BD is stepping down as lead on the Environment group. He has asked the other members for someone to take this on and will repeat that request. However as the initial work of the sub group is complete this may not be as urgent as it would otherwise be.

Harborough Transport Action (HTA) have a current campaign on pavement parking, which seems to have become the norm in many places across town. Whilst recognising that it is sometimes necessary, HTA aim to educate drivers as to the potential adverse consequences. BB asked that all members let him know if there are aware of any incidents caused by pavement parking such as injuries, damage etc.

**Action – All advise BB as above**

BB advised that LCC will start the initial consultation on the Market Harborough LCWIP in the next few weeks, and there will be opportunities for Welland NF, but also individuals to post comments and suggestions.

SG raised concern about a report of HDC planners disregarding the Lubenham Neighbourhood Plan and granting planning permission for some development in the village. More info required to investigate this.

BD has a contact on Lubenham Parish Council and will ask for more info.

DW offered to investigate if we can get a planning reference for him.

## 7. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 5.30pm – 7pm at The Royalist.