

Welland Neighbourhood Plan Forum (“the Forum”)

Minutes of Meeting held 8th February 2024 at The Royalist, Western Avenue, MH

1. Attendees: Susan Garon (SG) **Chair**, Linda Pentland (LP) **Secretary**, Bob Bellm (BB), Alex Shelton (AS), Bruce Durham (BD), Ann Morris (AM), Alan Good (AG), Kerry Ward (KW), Lesley Morgan (LM), Garry Davies (GD)

Apologies: Roy Saint, Marcus Stanway-Williams, Cllr Darren Woodiwiss, Cllr Rose Forman, Halina Pasiecznik, Tim Durham, Alex Gratrix

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

3. **Matters Arising**

Allotments – Social and Community group met at Annes house and visited the allotments, which were in better condition than expected. LM has recently taken one of the vacant allotments on and we are now aware that several others have also been taken over. One outstanding point is that the gate lock at the entrance is broken – the plot holders are sorting this out.

Open Spaces audit – Marcus has gone through the list of spaces and identified those owned by HDC. Further identification of landowners is now on hold until we have some funds to research via Land Registry. In addition it was noted that the strip of footpath along Farndon Road which was recently offered at auction has now sold for £3k.

Section 106 monies – As noted last meeting BB has circulated the list of available monies and confirmed that 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. We are still waiting for a date for the meeting with HDC to include all 4 Forums. In the meantime ideas for potential projects are still being collected. Examples discussed were:

Linking the 2 play areas on Farndon Fields estate with a bridge. We have an idea of costs.

Redevelopment of the Scout Hut on Farndon Road

Create a dog run/ Improve the sports/play equipment/plant some hedging on Burford Green

Develop the Square in front of Londis

Develop the space at the end of Angell Drive which no longer has planning permission for housing.

Further ideas are invited.

Logo – BD designed a logo for Welland. HtH Communications group have suggested that each Forum use the HtH logo as a template, personalising it with their own picture. This is now in hand and an initial design will be circulated shortly.

Burford Green Village Fete – BD updated on this event planned for June. 8 people have agreed to help and HDC have all but agreed for it to go ahead. DW and TD are currently leading the project. Suggested it be called Princes Park Village Fete to clear up the confusion around what the event is about.

Actions

All to consider ideas for s106 projects

4. Neighbourhood Plan update

BB - Transport steering group (all Forums) met and drafted common policies which BB has now put together in a document – first draft of what the consultants can put into a final plan. It's a working document so still being updated. Welland specific policies and projects are to be added and will then be circulated. The idea is that all steering groups adopt this format.

BD - Environment steering group have followed similar process, with BD pulling together common policies for flooding and Judy Burrage doing the same for environmental issues.

Built Environment – no update. SG noted that households on new developments across town had received letters from Neil O'Brien MP asking for feedback on issues they had had to identify common issues to be raised with developers. A suggestion was made that maybe complaints against developers could be logged in future and used to prevent repeat offenders being granted planning permission in future unless they act decisively to resolve issues.

LP – Social and Community (S&C) working group have met and reviewed the priorities already agreed. LM surveyed the lunch club at The Royalist to get more feedback on them. There is no steering group as yet for S&C but hopefully this will be resolved at the next HtH symposium in March.

5. AOB

HDC have requested a meeting with the Forum Chairs and Secretaries 26th February to update us on the new Local Plan – SG and LP to attend and feedback.

At last HtH meeting it was agreed that the Town Centre MH will not have a separate Neighbourhood Forum as there is no enthusiasm for it amongst local businesses who are still coping with the fallout from Covid and challenging trading conditions. Instead Logan Forum will include the town centre. In order to ensure that everyone has a voice in what happens in the town centre all forums will have input into a steering group for the town centre.

Our AGM will be held at the April meeting on 11th April. LP looking for an alternative venue.

6. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 14th March 2024 5.30pm – 7pm at The Royalist.