

Minutes of Steering Committee No 27, Thursday 7th April 2022, 7.30pm to 8.45pm

Present: Mike Kelly (Chair), Rob Buick, Fred West, Terry Barnett, Alan Sloan,

Apologies for Absence; Debi Hallett, Melanie Frobisher.

- 1) Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 26;** Approved
- 2) Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** Rob Buick noted that the retrospective planning proposal to install an advertising sign for the Fairmont Hotel is adversely affecting his property, and Terry Barnett noted that the planning proposal to install flood lights on the Bishopsgate School Playing field would adversely affect his property if passed by RBC.
It was considered necessary to include these committee members in the discussions on these topics as their intimate knowledge of the applications and their affects are relevant.
- 3) Financial Report:** Fred circulated a financial statement prior to the meeting. It was noted that March 31st was the end of the financial year, and that unused grant is in the process of being returned to Locality.
Mike informed the committee that he would start the process of applying for the 2022/23 grant ASAP, as we will be needing to fund the remaining procedures (Reg 14 public consultation etc) as well as completion of the Plan by Sally Chapman.
Mike also reported that we had received a separate grant for the development of the Placemaking plans for the centre of Englefield Green and said that the Locality requirements (due diligence etc) were complete and a fund of £15000 would be available for this work in about 2 weeks.
Mike reminded the Committee that a dialogue was opened with a company called I-Transport, who provided a quotation for the work (which would be a review of the Placemaking proposals along St Judes Road, expert assessment and a preliminary budget- the limitations of the grant amount prevent the scope to be wider, but this is the main and most important section of the high street remodelling proposal). Mike confirmed that their appointment would involve just a letter of appointment, as their scope of works is already detailed in their quotation, and that they would not be appointed until the grant was in the bank, which he estimated would be in about 2 weeks.
Committee approved I Transport's appointment but requested that the quotation be sent out to them again.
- 4) Writing the Plan- review of actions left to take;**
 - a) Sally has asked that we chase up the report on the Conservation Area- Alan agreed to do that.
 - b) Sally asked that we review the demography of the area and had certain questions on it- Fred agreed to do that.
 - c) Ecology Study- No objections to the proposed designated Local Green Spaces have been received.

- d) Master planning, Blays Lane/Wick Road site and Kingswood Site – Final version is now complete and awaits sign off from AECOM. It was agreed to publish it to the web site now, and if there are any minor alterations in the next few weeks the revised document can replace it.
- e) Placemaking- The £15000 grant has been received as noted in (3) above.
- f) Views and Vistas- Now published on the web site.
- g) The draft Plan- Sally has been delayed a little but still hopes to finish mid late April. If necessary we will call a special meeting to discuss it, depending on timing.
- 5) **Planning Applications.** Terry reported a number of applications of concern and Mike agreed to draft letters for the committees approval on all of them;
 - a) **Fairmont Hotel-** retrospective planning application regarding 4 ‘Tree Houses’ that have been built in the grounds of Fairmont Hotel. We have already written to RBC objecting but it was felt this was so serious that a letter to our MP was appropriate. Mike to draft
 - b) **Fairmont Hotel-** retrospective planning permission for a lit sign with fountains at the entrance to the Hotel driveway. Mike has drafted a letter and Rob, who is more aware of the details, is adding some suggestions to it.
 - c) **Oaklands Park-** An extension of 30% has been granted on the basis that it is a new building in the green belt and therefore can be legitimately extended. However the building has not been complete and all the planning conditions (eg demolition of the original building) have not been complied with so we need to ask RBC to define what they consider is ‘finished’.
 - d) **Flood Lighting at Bishopsgate School-** a proposal to install flood lighting to a football pitch abutting private properties on a number of sides, in an area of the Green Belt predominately unlit at present. Concern regarding usage (thought to be so the school could hire out the pitch in winter) and noise and light pollution to surrounding properties. Mike to draft.
 - e) **Span Food Shop, St Judes Road.** Proposal to remodel, which in itself is a good thing. However, the design lacks any detail and it is felt it is necessary to point out the relevant section of our design codes and seek to have the remodelling match the Victorian frontages it sits alongside. Mike to draft.
- 6) **AOB-** Fred raised the question of the next AGM. Mike felt this should be in June which is the maximum allowed under the constitution after the financial year end. This would allow us to (hopefully) deal with getting the Plan out and undertaking the public consultation before holding it.
- 7) **Next Monthly Meeting; Thursday 5th May 2022 7.30 pm, and an interim meeting to be arranged if necessary once we have the first draft of the Plan.**