

Minutes of Steering Committee No 37, Thursday 12th October 2023,

At The village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green

7.30pm to 10.15pm

Present: Mike Kelly (Chair), Terry Barnett, Alan Sloan, Fred West, Melanie Frobisher, Debi Hallett, Albert Jamieson

- 1) **Apologies for Absence;** Rob Buick, Erik Juul-Mortensen
- 2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 36;** Approved
- 3) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** none
- 4) **Admission of new Committee Members.** In accordance with the Constitution, it was unanimously agreed by the existing Committee members to appoint Albert Jamieson and Eric Juul-Mortensen to the Steering Committee
- 5) **Appointment of Committee Officer.** Each year in accordance with the Constitution and after the AGM, Committee Officers have to be appointed. It was unanimously agreed to appoint the following officers;
 - a) **Mike Kelly- Chair**
 - b) **Terry Barnett- Deputy Chair**
 - c) **Fred West- Treasurer**
 - d) **Rob Buick- Secretary**
- 6) **Financial Report:** Fred presented the accounts. Funding has now been received for the 2023/24 period, and a payment has been made to our planning consultant for work done in preparing the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that expenditure beyond the Referendum was not allowed.
- 7) **Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan, updated with the recommendations of the Independent Examiner, has been approved by RBC and the date of the referendum set for 13th December.

It was agreed that the Committee would advertise the Referendum and canvass for adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan during the latter part of November and early December, when it was close enough to remind residents of the need to vote.
- 8) **The Englefield Green Community Trust.**

It was explained that the reason for setting up a Trust was to provide an entity to attract funding for capital projects in the area for the benefit of the residents and improvements of amenities, starting with the project suggested in the Placemaking Document that is part of the Neighbourhood Plan ancillary Documents.

The proposed objects of the Trust were read out and agreed to reflect this objective. It was agreed that the number of initial Trustees should be limited, though it was planned that the running of the Trust would be delegated to a Committee, set up once the Trust is established, and consisting of the Forum Steering Committee members. It was noted that once the Trust is set up, we would seek to appoint Trustees from outside the Committee who could contribute through their experience and status with our society.

Fred will submit the application as soon as possible.

9) Planning

- a) Fairmont- A retrospective Planning Application has been made for the additional area of hotel, car parks and exercise areas built without permission. An initial look at this seems to indicate that it is disappointingly deficient. MK will write objecting and will also write to the Planning Committee warning them that the present proposals are unacceptable and suggest the Committee persuade the planning Department to re-negotiate before it progresses to Committee and presents them with a fait-accompli where a decision to approve versus rejection would leave them in an impossible position.
- b) 16-18 Victoria Street- Disappointing but the conversion to Flat from commercial had to be allowed. However, a number of points have been raised with Planning and they have acknowledged them and written to the Applicant accordingly.
- c) 25-26 Victoria Street. This HMO was refused and a subsequent HMO application for no 25 approved. However, the whole building appears to have been converted and appears occupied. Alan to write on behalf of the Committee asking for an investigation.
- d) We should keep an eye on developments at Birchlands
- e) Barbara Clark House design remains a potential eyesore.

10) Progress on Projects

- a) School Tree Planting- Debi is progressing well with St Cuthberts School, is being advised by Richard Everett (Chief Forester) from Windsor Great Park, and will be applying for tree and hedge packs from the Woodlands Trust. Planting will be in March 2024.
- b) Speed Limits- MK reported that there had been little progress though he has joined forces with Mike Berry of RHUL to push for 30mph up Egham Hill and with Marissa Heath for 40mph up Priest Hill. Surrey Highways are a very opaque organisation to deal with.
- c) Cycle Routes- Terry is in contact with Bryce but cannot reach Kyle. There is little that can be done with the narrow streets of EG
- d) Central Area Remodelling- MK is preparing sketches of the area to illustrate what might be done. Much discussion needs to take place with residents before a scheme is settled on, though our councillor Trevor Gates is very keen on the scheme. In view of the large funding requirement for this it will only progress when the Trust is in place as the financial focus.
- e) Parking- Albert is getting into this and besides the reports and studies we also have some background from Trevor Gates. Marissa Heath is also familiar with the history of this but has not responded to e mails on the subject. Surrey CC is now responsible for parking schemes, having taken over recently from RBC. Albert will continue to burrow into this and come up with a plan of action.

11) AOB- None- Meeting closed at 10.15pm.

12) Next Meeting- 7.30pm 16th November 2023 (probably at the Village Centre)