

Minutes of Steering Committee No 38, Thursday 16th November 2023,

At The village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green

7.30pm to 10.15pm

Present: Mike Kelly (Chair), Terry Barnett, Alan Sloan, Fred West, Debi Hallett, Albert Jamieson, Erik Juul-Mortensen, Rob Buick

- 1) **Apologies for Absence;** Melanie Frobisher, **Welcome;** Erik Juul-Mortensen, who is attending his first meeting.
- 2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 37;** Approved
- 3) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** none.
- 4) **Financial Report:** Fred presented the accounts, and the remaining funds available was noted.

5) **Advertising the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum**

Debi has produced a banner which has been approved by the Committee. Mike will proceed with ordering it. Debi has also produced a first draft leaflet, which after some discussion she will alter and send to Mike to order. Distribution of the leaflets by the committee and friends around 6th to 12th December. Volunteers for each street required.

6) **The Englefield Green Community Trust.**

The documentation for the Trust was submitted by Fred about 2 weeks ago, and we have not had any reaction from the Charities Commission. Apparently, there is a back log of applications and it may take up to 2 months to process.

7) **Progress on Projects**

- a) **School Tree Planting-** Debi has had confirmation that Tree packs, totalling about 200 trees, will be delivered to St Cuthbert's School, by the Woodlands Trust in March 2024. Debi is trying to organise the school but is not getting much response. She hopes this will improve after Christmas when there are less distractions.
- b) **Forest Estate Tree Planting-** agreed to postpone this to the Nov 2024 planting time so we can learn from the St Cuthbert's planting.
- c) **Parking.** Albert presented a summary of the various reports (of which there are a number). Fundamental problem seems to be that there are an average of 1.8 cars per student household in the central area, which brings into question whether there more cars than street parking spaces. Only around 40% of residents were in favour over a number of recent surveys.

It was felt that CPZs as recommended in the Placemaking proposals were probably not the answer. It was also felt that our Councillors are either aware of this or are ignorant of the reports and their conclusions.

Albert to draft letter to Councillors explaining the conclusions of the reports and suggesting that the residents be properly informed, to see if any further suggestions are forthcoming.

- d) Speed Limits- Given that Albert has had considerable more success at liaising with Surrey County Council on parking than Mike, Mike has handed over the Speed Limit 'portfolio' to Albert.
- e) Central Area Remodelling- MK presented sketches of the Central Area showing what it might look like after renovation and refurbishment. Various suggestions were made, and Mike will incorporate these into the Scheme.
The importance at this stage is not to finalise the layout (which may require an open discussion with residents) but to get a scheme together so that initial prices can be estimated and S106 money applied for.
- f) Signposts- MK and Alan to meet to sort out some quantities and locations so that we can produce an estimate for S106 funding application.
- g) Forest Estate Garden- MK to produce a sketch
- h) Other projects. Refurbishing of the path/ cycleway between Bagshot Road and Bays Lane (alongside the Grave Yard) in preparation to make this a part of the cycle routes through the village?

8) Planning

- a) Fairmont- A further Forum letter has been submitted. A reminder to Forum members has been sent, and a number of further letters have been sent in by residents.
It was noted that there were some apparent errors in the as built areas quoted in Applicants submission, and this was being pointed out in submissions to the Council.
Bulkley Cottage. Letter submitted by the Forum and EGVRA informed. It was noted that the recent Conservation Report noted that the House was an important and prominent feature in the Conservation Area, and we therefore hope the Conservation Officer will write objecting.
- b) 25-26 Victoria Street. Alan reported that both building had been approved as HMOs with 6 bedrooms (and therefore did not require an HMO licence).
Unfortunately there is nothing further that we can do and the development is now approved by RBC Planning.
- c) Birchlands
- d) Barbara Clark House.

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

10) Next Meeting- 7.30pm 14th December 2023 (probably at the Village Centre- TBA)