Minutes of Steering Committee No 39, Thursday 11th January 2024,

At The village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green

7.30pm to 9.35pm

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

1) **Apologies for Absence;** None
2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 38;** 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) **Resignation;**
   Terry resigned as Deputy Chair but wishes to stay on the committee.
   The committee thanked Terry for his input as Deputy Chair over the years, agreed that he should stay on as a committee member and appointed Alan Sloan as his replacement as Deputy Chair.
6) **New Mission Statement and Objectives**
   The committee approved the new Mission Statement and objectives. These will come into effect once the Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' (which is when the RBC Planning Committee approves the NP, understood to be at their meeting on the 31st January 2024. Note also that the 'legal challenge' period of 6 weeks is to allow specifically for a legal challenge to the way the Referendum was run, not the NP. This period ran from the 14th Dec and therefore finished on the 25th January 2024)
   The mission statement and objectives read as follows;
   Mission Statement draft
   To promote physical enhancements in the public and private realm of the East and West wards of Englefield Green to improve the area for the convenience and wellbeing of the residents.
   Activities
   The following actions will be taken to achieve the mission statement;

a) Monitor all Planning Applications and engage with RBC planners to ensure, as much as possible, compliance with the Neighbourhood Plan and best and most suitable design.
b) Undertake alterations and improvements to the Neighbourhood Plan in response to changed circumstances, changes to hierarchical planning directives and the like.
c) Engage with the relevant authorities to promote improvements in the public realm in accordance with the NP advisory 'Placemaking' and any further suggested improvements.
d) Instigate or undertake physical improvements to the public realm (where such improvements are beyond the remit of the relevant authority), through a CIO or CIC, and by seeking grant and other funding.

e) Actively seek new ideas from residents and businesses for physical improvements to the public realm.

7) **The Englefield Green Community Trust.**
Fred reported that our application to form a Charity had been rejected with a fairly comprehensive explanation and advise.
It is proposed to try again with modified and more limited objectives. Fred was given a contact in Surrey CC who are specifically there to advise on Charities and similar matters and will be contacting them.

8) **Organization of subgroups**
Mike explained that it might be better to have subgroups of 2 or more to progress projects, rather than progress with individuals as the sole promoter.
Terry volunteered to assist Debbie with the school trees project, and to include the ‘green routes’ and verges greening as an ongoing and associated project.
Albert felt the speed limits and parking projects required only one person at the moment but may require others at a later date.

9) **Progress on Projects**
   a) School Tree Planting- Debi awaits the tree packs and will be perusing the school regarding the organisation of the tree planting. What happens to the excess trees needs to be determined and preparations put in place for this to happen. These could be used in verges per the recommendations in the Environment Report but this will require co-ordination and agreement with RBC and local councillors.
   b) Parking and Speed Limits. Albert presented an update on his research into Surrey CC procedure for assessing whether a speed limit is required, and will now start to build cases for the speed limits we are proposing.
   c) Central Area Remodelling and Signposts- Alan did an assessment of the sign post requirements and Mike incorporated them and other suggestions into a single package, which he costed out. MK apologized for submitting the application for S106 funding one day late which resulted in it being rejected and us being asked to put it in for the next round of assessments which will be in March.
   d) Forest Estate Garden- MK to produce a sketch and submit an S106 application
   e) Other projects.
      i) 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?
      ii) A path from Bond Street to the Savill Building?
      iii) Establish cycle routes with road markings and minor road improvements?

10) **Planning**
   a) Fairmont- Mike and Amanda (EGVRA) met with Arora on the 28th December, at which he continued to express a desire to fund improvement projects for the benefit of residents, and requested a list of potential projects.
   It was agreed that it was inappropriate at this time to provide him with a list and an e mail saying as much was approved.

b) Birchlands- needs monitoring. (subsequently we received notice of a planning application by Surrey CC for the site to which we will be responding)

c) Barbara Clark House. We have Councillor support for a change in design and we need to follow this up.

11) AOB- Our relationship with EGVRA was raised. It was felt that we should develop a much closer relationship with EGVRA, perhaps integration, so that our work can be co-ordinated with theirs.

Because we hare a statutory body and have a separate constitution it is necessary to have some separation, but that is not to say that we could become (as we were before) a sub committee of EGVRA.

Mike will progress this. Alan will suggest it at the next EGVRA meeting.

12) Meeting closed at 9.35pm.

13) Next Meeting- 7.30pm 15th February 2024 (probably at the Village Centre- TBA)