Minutes of Steering Committee No 41, Thursday 7th March 2024,

At The village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green

6.30pm to 9.00pm

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

1) **Apologies for Absence;** Erik Juul-Mortensen
2) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 40;** Approved
3) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed**; none.
   Mike reiterated the importance of declaring any interest in topics, however slight so that the Committee can discuss the implications and act accordingly.
   In particular, the reputation of the Forum and its authority on giving an opinion on Planning matters depends on its integrity and equally importantly its perceived integrity.
   If any committee member has even the slightest interest in a planning application or potential planning application, then it should be declared at the earliest possible moment. Such interest could be a desire to get an application approved or disapproved for personal gain (whatever that potential gain is, perceived or real) Such matter could for example (but are not limited to) be a members own planning application or one nearby that might impact on their own property or convenience.
   Having been alerted, the Committee has then the opportunity to discuss the matter and decide, based on the potential for damage to the integrity of the Committee, the best course of action. The course of action would range for no action, through recusing the member for discussions on the particular item or the whole planning section, asking the member to resign temporarily to asking the member to resign permanently.
   The importance of the earliest declaration possible is paramount, allowing the Committee to manage the situation and record their reasoning in the minutes as a record for all to see.
4) **Rob Buick.** Mike reported from a recent conversation with Rob and in an e mail , he felt he had been forced to resign by a kangaroo court.
   Mike suggested to the Committee that he could be brought back to a future meeting present his case again and for the committee to decide.
   The committee unanimously confirmed that the meeting at which Rob was asked to resign was conducted in a proper manner with individual committee members making up their own minds as to what should happen and which resulted in accepting his resignation.
   The committee unanimously confirmed that Rob should not be invited back to review the decision, and that the matter should be dropped, with a review only if and when his sons planning application on Rob's land has finally been settled.
5) **Financial Report**: Fred presented the accounts, and the remaining funds available was noted.

6) **Sourcing of Funds:** We obviously need some modest funds to continue. Mike will ask Marisa Heath whether she will release some funds to cover our expenses through 2024/25.
   Project funds are another matter and will be applied for from various sources at the appropriate time.
7) **Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan**
   a) Parking and Speed Limits; Albert reported on progress per the attached report. he also made the Committee aware of the immediate problem of a Surrey CC proposal to remove 7 parking spaces in the Central Area and gathered the Committees signature (along with over 200 others already gathered) to submit to SCC before tomorrows deadline for comments.
   b) School Tree Planting. Debi reported that 36 trees will be planted by children of the Catholic Primary School on Monday 11th M at 2.20pm and that the remaining trees will be given to Andrea Berardi's group to plant on the Forest Estate. The committee congratulated Debi on the success of the project.
   c) New Trees project. Mike was concerned that the Berardi group seem to be undertaking tree planting on the Forest Estate without co-ordinating with us, even though the Placemaking proposals are know to them.
      Mike will produce a scope of works for the remaining greening projects (also needed for the Charity submission- see below) and then we will approach them and see if we can work together.
   d) Forest Estate Garden Project. Ditto (c)
   e) Central Area remodelling and signage. Majority of design and method statement work done.
   f) Refurbishment of Public Footpath in Bagshot Road (opposite Fletcher's Garage) running down to Blays Lane. Mike to prepare design and method statement.
   g) i) Path from Bond Street to Savill Gardens. It was agreed this project would only happen if it was included in Aroras planning application for his golf Course (If that ever happens)
      ii) Establishing cycle routes and road markings. This was not discussed.
      iii) A30 improvements. Mike reported on a meeting he attended at RHUL (The Runnymede Consulting Group RHRCG) at which Transport and transport related infrastructure was discussed. Minutes attached. Three interesting bits of information. (1) That RHUL will be installing a path from roughly the Packhorse Inn to Harvest Road that the public can use (foot and cycle) (2) That the RHUL bus can be used by residents (already known but now to be advertised and (3) The National Cycle Route is now routed up Egham Hill and there should be funds allocated for its installation. The question is where and when (and what)
8) **The Englefield Green Community Trust.**
   Surrey CC Voluntary Support have advised on the wording of the new application objectives and advised that we would be best to start with a number of specific projects that we would need to describe and cost in our submission.
   MFK agreed to produce the relevant documentation for the Central Area remodelling, Bagshot Road – Blays Lane Public Footpath including provision of a

Cycle Route, the Forest Estate Gardening Project, and the Forest Estate/ Bond street roadside greening project.

9) **Crown Estate follow up.**
   Mike explained that at the meeting with Nick Day we discussed the possibility of the Village Shop having an outreach desk in the Savill building. Mike to follow up as we don't know what EGVRA is doing (if anything)
10) **Planning**
    a) Fairmont- await date of Council Meeting.
    b) Birchlands- Alan monitoring- some confusion as this is an SCC Planning submission to itself and does not seem well co-ordinated with RBC. Alan will pursue to clear up what is happening, where, and when, and whether we can have more effect on the outcome.
    c) Barbara Clark House. Alan monitoring- RBC are close to completing the sale with P and Alan in touch with their development manager.
11) **Website.** The website is still down. Rob still has the membership list. Melanie will talk to Rob and try and extract the membership list and re-establish the website, even if this is only a temporary one.
12) **AOB-** EGVNF Constitution – it was agreed that the Constitution needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect best practice. Alan agreed to take this work forward. The need for a Code of Conduct based partially on the notes under (3) above was not discussed but was noted in discussion after the meeting.
13) **Meeting closed at 9.0pm.**
14) **Next Meeting-** 6.30pm 11th April 2024 (probably at the Village Centre- TBA)