

Minutes of Steering Committee No 48, Thursday 10th October 2024,

At The village Centre, Victoria Street, Englefield Green, 6.30pm to 9.00pm

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

- 1) **Apologies for Absence;** Terry Barnett, Erik Juul-Mortensen
- 2) **Welcome guests;** Trevor Gates, Andrea Bernardi and Tanja Rodenburg.
Mike explained that Trevor and Andrea were present as Councillors in order to discuss how to try and move certain stalled projects forward.
Tanja has offered to assist the Committee, for which she was thanked, and is present as an introduction to what we are doing.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 47;** Approved (subject to minor changes- revised minutes circulated shortly after the meeting)
- 4) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** none.
- 5) **Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan**
 - a) **Transport Hub.** We have submitted a design, method statement and price for the work to Marisa Heath who has disappointedly reported that Surrey Highways object to anyone other than their own contractors working on the area, and were therefore not allowing us to proceed. Following discussion, it was agreed that Trevor would press Marisa (again) to arrange a meeting between the Forum and Surrey Highways.
 - b) **Bond Street Hedges.** Again, disappointment that despite Surrey CC agreeing to fund and carry out the planting and 3 years maintenance, RBC refused to allow it on their land on the grounds that the location was unsuitable (despite it being a recommended location in the NP) and that they could not afford the Maintenance after the 3-year period was up.
After a discussion about where the (unreasonable) objections came from, Andrea suggested that a meeting with a new RBC appointment, a Parks and Green Spaces manager might move things forward. He agreed to try and arrange a meeting.
 - c) Other tree projects- no comments
 - d) Forest Estate Garden Project- still in abeyance.
- 6) **Accounts;** Mike reported that Surrey CC funding is now approved (at last) and we should expect it to be deposited in our account in the next few days.
- 7) **Application for Redesignation of the Forum.** Committee voted unanimously for us to re-apply. Mike has prepared and will submit a draft application
- 8) **Website, Facebook, Membership.** It was agreed that the website needed updating and Mike will update all the technical material (minutes etc) and a revised front page. Melanie will then have a look at it and edit to make it more interesting.
It was also agreed that we need to try and increase membership and that this would only be achieved by knocking on doors. This was deferred until we were happy with the website and the Facebook page, with possible organisation after the next monthly meeting.

9) Further Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan

- a) Parking: Albert reported that door to door enquiries have been completed and analysis is under way.
- b) Speed Limits and One Way systems. It appears that Marisa Heath has persuaded Surrey Highways to prepare a 20mph scheme for Englefield Green and that might be in the budget for next year.
One-way systems still need pushing. Alan is getting no response from Surrey Highways on this matter but will keep trying.
- c) The A30, Liveable neighbourhoods, National Cycling route 4; All will need monitoring, and we will need to keep a high profile with the relevant Authorities to ensure that these items stay or are brought to the top of the pile in the Surrey CC Highways 'to do' list.

10) Planning;

- a) Fairmont tree houses- No further news- monitor!
- b) Oaklands- Mike told by Ashley Smith that the complaints were investigated and 'monitoring' is taking place (i.e. nothing is going to be done about anything)
- c) Birchlands- Regretfully passed by Surrey CC committee without reference to our comments
- d) Barbara Clark House- Still nothing seems to be happening at the moment.
- e) Oaklands driveway. This is a new one that has just come in, involving an extensive new drive through greenbelt and needs investigating. No reference number received yet.

11) AOB- Albert is pursuing RBC in respect of the two planning applications by RHUL for an access road and footbridge to allow the Rusham Park existing car park (approx. 400 spaces) to be used for the University. Besides some technical points raised, it is felt that RHUL should provide funds so that RBC can carry out a further study into parking stress in EG and that RHUL should revise their Parking Policy to take advantage of the additional spaces to relieve the stress in EG and Egham. Certain conditions in the original permission for Rusham Park development are relevant to this approach. Albert will pursue this with the relevant planning officer.

12) Next Meeting- 14th November 2024