

Minutes of Steering Committee No 54, Thursday 8th May 2025,

At Kitewood, Wick Road EG, 6.30pm to 8.45 pm

- 1) **Present:** Mike Kelly (Chair), Alan Sloan, Albert Jamieson, Fred West, Erik Juul-Mortensen
- 2) **Apologies for Absence;** Melanie Frobisher, Terry Barnett
- 3) **Approval of Minutes of Meeting No 53;** Approved
- 4) **Declaration of personal interest in topics to be discussed;** none.
- 5) **Accounts;** Fred indicated there was no change to the previous report, and that he had been obtaining quotes for insurance.

It was agreed by all that insurance was urgently needed to cover our activities, but that we had no funds at the moment to purchase it.

Mike is chasing Marisa Heath to obtain more funds, and was given the impression that it could be soon, but nothing is moving at the moment.

Albert suggested that we could re-open the Neighbourhood Plan, and as a result obtain a grant from Locality.

Mike said he would look into it and pass on any information obtained for comment.
- 6) **a) Membership.** Further flyers have been distributed. Roughly 70% of the village has probably now been covered by our door to door knocking, but only a total of 20 have registered, mainly on line.

It was felt that if we manage to get the grants for the central area refurbishment, then we should see greater interest if it is well advertised.

An increase in advertising what we do is needed- many on the door step thought we were EGVRA.

b) Volunteers.

 - i) 'Tree and Hedges' committee member- no response to circular.
 - ii) Someone to redesign the web site is needed
 - iii) Ideally a Secretary is needed, so the Chair does not have to act as Secretary, as is happening at the moment.

c) Fund Raising- Terry has talked to the Co-op and we need to apply for funds-funding for maintenance of the central area once it is refurbished? Desperately needed funds to keep us going if Marisa Heath can't provide any?

d) Commercial: Mike has asked Eric if he could start liaison with the businesses in EG, with a view to forming or enhancing (if it exists) a grouping of businesses that could advise us and assist in proposing ways that business (particularly shops and pubs) can be enhanced through physical improvements to the village and strengthened connections with assets such as the Great Park and Runnymede
- 7) **Infrastructure Development Schedule-**We still await confirmation that some or hopefully all of our projects are included on the IDS.
- 8) **NDHA update.** Assessment of complaints being analysed by the consultants on behalf of RBC. 8 sites are being reviewed. Awaiting outcome.
- 9) **English Devolution White Paper.** On 18 March an application was submitted to Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) for a community governance review to be

undertaken in accordance with section 80A of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Subsequently RBC confirmed that it was a valid application and have advised that they aim to have a report which will agree the Terms of Reference of the review for the June meeting of the Corporate Management Committee and then to a Full Council meeting in July to agree.

RBC have advised that the timetable for carrying out the review is broken down into numerous stages and can take up to 12 months to finalise”.

10) Projects arising from the Neighbourhood Plan

- a) **Parking Pilot Project:** Our PPP CPZ application was withdrawn pending clarification that the RHUL sub-committee chaired by RBC Cllr Berardi has no standing to design the CPZ. SCC Cllr Heath, who supports the CPZ and our stance that it must be SCC designed, has intervened at our request to clarify the misunderstanding created by an email from SCC Parking. Once this is accomplished our application will be resubmitted. The Forum notes the “Vote NO” campaign conducted by the sub-committee to the CPZ contemplated by our application, as is its right to do so per the SCC Highways process.
- b) **Speed Limits and One Way systems.** Approval has been obtained for Speed limits on Prune Hill, Bakeham Lane and Callow Hill and are being progressed at Surrey CC. They are also studying proposals for 20mpg in the village and will shortly come up with a proposal.
No news or action on one way systems.
- c) **The A30, Liveable neighbourhoods, National Cycling route 4;** No news
- d) **Transport Hub.** Drawing for inclusion with the S278 agreement have been approved by Surrey CC.. Mike continues to respond to a number of questions and suggestions from the Surrey CC Placemaking Dept., who have asked that the S278 is submitted as soon as possible, as well as details of the paving. Mike is working on these things with the nominated contractor.
- e) **Bond Street Hedges.** Video meeting with RBC officers took place on the 13th March with promises of action within two weeks by RBC officers. Despite e mail follow up by Mike, there has been no response. It is now nearly 2 years we have been asking with no response. It is obvious that permission to use RBC land is a major stumbling block, that we are unlikely to get any funding if permission is not given prior to the application, so pursuing that is a priority.
- f) **Other tree projects-** no comments
- g) **Forest Estate Garden Project-** still in abeyance.

11) Planning;

- a) Birchlands- Mike to remind Xavier Brice re the St Judes road crossing.
- b) Barbara Clark House- The site is now on the market. It would appear that RBC have spent considerable sums on this project which now appear wasted. Should we be writing to RBC on this matter?
- c) Our three RHUL planning variations of conditions objections for Rusham Pk MSCP and use of George Eliot Halls have resulted in engagement with the two relevant RBC planning officers and the Planning Policy Dept. Albert is arranging

a meeting with RBC planning in June. Cllr Gates has succeeded in “calling in” the GEH application and we await the date of the meeting from him on this.

12) AOB-

Action left from previous meetings; Meeting with Windsor Park; Mike would try and set up a meeting with Nick Day.

Reminder (again) that there is the £100,000 CIL money from the N4 cycle route improvements to consider!

Greenwood Signs (Funeral Director on St Judes Rd- erected illegal sign)- complaint sent- no response so far but subsequent to the meeting news was received that he had been served an enforcement notice and had removed the sign.

13) Next Meeting- 12th, 13th or 16th June 2025