



Woodford Community Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2015 AT 521 CHESTER ROAD, WOODFORD

PRESENT

Mr P Rodman Chairman
Mrs H Buszard Secretary

Dr D Buszard, Mr K Coxey, Mr B Leck, Revd D Russell, Mrs M White, Mrs M Wood

BY INVITATION: Cllr J McGahan, Cllr M Hurleston

APOLOGIES: Mr R Beatham, Mr R Berriman,

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Cllr John McGahan, who had been elected the previous November, and newly-elected Cllr Mike Hurleston, both representing the Bramhall South and Woodford Ward. For their benefit he gave a brief history of Woodford Community Council since its formation in 1974 and explained the background to the establishment of Woodford Neighbourhood Forum in 2013.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, HELD ON 17th MARCH 2015

(Minutes approved previously by email.)

There were no matters arising other than those already on the Agenda.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE

On behalf of the Treasurer, the Secretary reported that the current balance in the WCC account was £2,505. This included £1,100 that had been received as advance payment for WNF-related activities. Since the previous meeting two payments had been made for website maintenance and one for website hosting.

With regard to website sponsorship, the Secretary stated that she would be contacting Jackson Barratt & Gass shortly to invite them to renew for a further year. The Chairman confirmed that he had been in touch with Church Lane Garage and was awaiting a response.

Dr Buszard reported that he had recently received an email (via the Neighbourhood Forum email address) from Michael Cole, Business Development & Retail Property Director at Notcutts Ltd, outlining Company Plans for future investment in the Woodford Park Garden Centre and asking for support for its proposals. It was noted that WNF was still waiting for the Garden Centre's response to its Local Businesses Questionnaire and it was therefore agreed that when following this up, the opportunity should also be taken to propose that Notcutts sponsor the WCC website.

ACTION: Dr Buszard

4. STOCKPORT COMMUNITY HUBS FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Mr Coxey introduced his Discussion Paper, which he had prepared after attending the Seminar held on 25th March 2015, and outlined its main points. He said that it was now up to the Committee to decide whether to pursue the possibility of setting up a Woodford hub. His personal view was that WCC should be doing all that it could to encourage the local community to become more involved in supporting and helping neighbours. The Woodford War Memorial Community Centre (WWMCC) could provide excellent facilities for the hub and this would be very much in line with the objectives stated in its Constitution. Other local organizations such as the Church, the WI, the British Legion, etc could also be approached.

Various points were made during the ensuing discussion, including the importance of finding sufficient willing volunteers to bring the ideas to fruition, whilst not overlapping or diluting existing voluntary work in similar areas, and, not least, the need to identify whether there was a recognised social need within Woodford.

It was decided that the first step should be to consult the WWMCC Management Committee (which included a WI representative). Mr Leck agreed to raise this with the committee and suggest that Mr Coxey should be invited to attend their next meeting to explain these proposals.

ACTION: Mr Leck/Mr Coxey

5. WOODFORD AERODROME SITE UPDATE

The Chairman gave a brief summary of the position at the time of the last WCC meeting and reported that a third on-site meeting with Harrow, Forshaw Demolition and, for the first time, a Redrow representative, had been held on 2 April 2015. As well as providing a general update on progress - demolition on the north site (MED A) was over 80% complete and the work was moving away from Chester Road – there was further discussion on vibration monitoring and it was reported that an independent consultant had been brought in to verify the calibration of Forshaw's equipment. The complaint raised by the resident on Chester Road who had suffered structural damage was now in the hands of the Insurers.

It had been hoped that there would now be less disruption for residents, but the Chairman reported that at the beginning of May he had received a request for assistance from a resident at the end of Bridle Road (near to the gate to the site) because the contractors were continuing to drop huge lumps of reinforced concrete from a great height to break them up. This was causing severe tremors in his and the adjacent house and possibly others in the vicinity. The Chairman had immediately forwarded the complaint to Mark Nicholls, Technical Director of Harrow.

The Chairman reported that a separate meeting had been arranged by Redrow as the first of a series of liaison meetings with the Woodford Community in accordance with schedule 11 of the Section 106 Agreement. This had taken place at the Community Centre on 28th April 2015 and had been attended by several WCC and WNF members, representatives from Redrow and Harrow and, somewhat unexpectedly, by two lecturers from Stockport College, who had been there to talk about apprenticeships. After general introductions, there was a short presentation from Harrow on the development so far, and then Carl Taylor, who had just joined Redrow with responsibility for all the building on the site, outlined the next stages in Phase 1, including the construction of the sales village, with show houses near to the village green. There had also been suggestions of holding a public meeting and of distributing leaflets to residents closest to the development. With regard to the latter it had been made clear that any leaflets should be circulated to all Woodford residents, since everyone would be affected by the development.

Finally, it was reported that work on the Avro Heritage Museum had been proceeding very well and that it was expected that it would be ready to open to the public by mid-September.

6. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

Dr Buszard presented a short report on progress since the last WCC meeting. The main activities had been undertaken by the Planning Sub-group, which had met on a regular basis, focussing on the following.

- Developing themes and objectives for the Plan, based on analysis of questionnaires.
- Establishing that WNF qualified for and preparing the grant application to Locality (the contractor to DCLG). An application for some £5,000 out of a possible £8,000 had been made to cover some supporting studies and a further exhibition. An application for further funding could be made at a later date if required. Direct support from Locality experts on specific topics could also be available.
- It had been confirmed that there is a strong degree of similarity in planning aspects between Woodford, Poynton and Adlington and that there was therefore an opportunity for sharing/commissioning joint supporting studies.
- The Business and Charities questionnaire had been distributed, but so far there had been a very poor response rate. It has been decided that WNF members should follow up by direct contact with key recipients.
- Two exhibitions have now been planned to consult Woodford residents. These are set for 13-14 June and 12-13 September 2015 in the small hall at the Community Centre. Preparation of the panels for the June exhibition was in hand. Promotion will primarily be by leaflet drop to residents plus a banner at the Centre and support from the Newsletter/website.
- The target date for completion of the Plan March 2016.

(b) e-Newsletter /Website

It was noted that no newsletters had been circulated since the last meeting, but the website had been updated as required.

(c) SEMMMS Update

It was noted that initial work was progressing and a large number of trees had been cut down, but there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(d) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

Mr Leck reported that a meeting of the Management Committee had been held the previous week to consider plans for essential work and future proposals. The latter included putting together a request to Redrow for a grant to extend the Centre in order to be able to accommodate the new residents on the development.

(e) Stockport Council Issues

It was noted that the recent Stockport Council Elections had resulted once again in a Council with no party in overall control. The Lib Dems still had the most seats with 26, Labour held 21, Conservatives 13 and Hazel Grove Ratepayers 3. Sue Derbyshire would remain as Leader of the Council.

(f) Neighbourhood Watch/Crime

The Chairman drew attention to the latest crime perpetrated in the Bramhall area, whereby criminals posed as plain clothes police officers to gain entry into a house and rob the householder. Further details were given on the Neighbourhood Policing Page of the website - <http://www.woodfordcommunity.co.uk/neighbourhood-policing.htm>

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Local Planning

In response to a query about local planning applications relating to Woodford, it was noted that these could be found, and full details accessed, via the SMBC online database - <http://planning.stockport.gov.uk/PlanningData/AcolNetCGI.gov>.

New applications were also discussed at the local Area Committee meeting, which was open to the public.

7.2 Moor Lane Parking

Concern was expressed over inconsiderate parking in Moor Lane.

7.3 Community Centre – Incursion by Travellers

It was reported that Travellers had recently been in the vicinity of the Centre. A query was raised as to whether Cheshire East was again proposing to allocate land adjacent to Woodford (near to Total Fitness) for a Gypsies and Travellers' site. Cllr McGahan agreed to investigate.

ACTION: Cllr McGahan

7.4 Land near to Deanwater

The Secretary reported that she had received an email enquiring who might be responsible for the land by the old bridge over the River Dean, since it was felt that the area was in need of a tidy up. It was confirmed that the boundary between SMBC and Cheshire East followed the line of the river and thus most of the land lay within Cheshire East's jurisdiction. The Chairman offered to contact Barry at the Deanwater regarding the land on the Woodford side. The Secretary would respond accordingly, but also mention the annual Keep Woodford Tidy day.

ACTION: Chairman/Secretary

7.5 Judicial Review requested by Mr Kingsley

It was noted that nothing further was known at this stage.

(Secretary's Note: We have subsequently been notified that Mr Kingsley's application for Judicial Review has been refused on paper by a Judge.)

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 21st July 2015, the venue to be confirmed nearer the time.

Approved *Date*.....