**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Meeting held in Flinters Bar, Wolverhampton Cricket Club**

**14th March 2024**

**ATTENDEES**

Apologies – Sally Garner

The meeting was attended by 13 residents, no Ward Councillors were in attendence.

The meeting was chaired by Robin Hacking.

Mr Hacking summerised the discussions from the previous meeting which had identified a number of areas where the residents wanted to see the current Neighbourhood Plan strengthened and some additions. These were summerised from the minutes from that meeting, which are available on the Tettenhall Community Forum Facebook page.

Mr Hacking reported that, together with Sally Garner (part time), they had attended the last of the Council’s drop-in meetings for residents and other interested parties affected by the Wolverhampton Local Plan which is now in development. Feedback in relation to Issues and Preferred Options Consultation will close on 10th April 2024. We were the only people to attend the drop-in and the officers present explained that there had been very limited attendance at the drop-in meetings other than the meetings held in the Civic Centre and Wolverhampton Library.

The officers showed us the map of the whole Wolverhampton Council area with all the main items and areas for future Investment and Development regarding housing and employment clearly marked. There were no items identified in the area of the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan (Wightwick and Regis Wards). The local towns, eg Bilston etc, were also clearly marked to identify areas for retail consolidation.

The officers explained that the Wolverhampton Plan was a high level strategic plan. “The collation and expressions of local peoples aspirations for the built environment and the safeguarding of the much loved charicteristics of a particular area like Tettenhall would continue to be enshrined in a locally focussed planning document such as the Neighbourhood Plan where one was in effect.”

We then sought clarity on consultation and the future currency of the Neighbourhood Plan and were told the following:-

Consultancy

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| 1 | The TDCC had a life of 5 years which is now complete and as such the Council is unable to consult what they consider to be a now non-existent forum. |
| 2 | We were reminded that any individual or group of individuals can ask to be consulted on any planning matter and the Council is obliged to do so. |
| 3 | The current Tettenhall Community Forum, in its current most basic construct (a legitimate group of residents acting in collaberation), can ask to be consulted on any planning matter and as a matter of record we have done so. |
| 4 | Apparently, according to the officers present, there was no legal requirement for the Council to publish WIDELY current and ongoing planning matters (eg only 3 adjacent properties were notified of the planning decision of Stockwell House). It is difficult to be consulted on something unknown until after the event. The officers informed us of an ALERT system where a resident or group of residents with a nominated contact would be alerted to planning proposals in a particular area. |

**ACTION** - The TCF should take advantage of this.

**THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

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| 1 | With regard to the current Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2026 the officers assured us that it would continue to act as a reference point for local planning decisions up to 2026. Beyond 2026 it would have the same influence as it had prior to 2026 unless it was in direct conflict with the then Wolverhampton Plan (which would be effective from 2026) in which case the Local Plan wold determine the outcome rather than the Neighbourhood Plan. |
| 2 | Whereas the Neighbourhood Plan is generally acknowledged to be an excellent document the plan cannot be tweaked, updated, added to to achieve minor beneficial imporvements, it can only be replaced (or not) by a new Neighbourhood Plan. It may be that a new Neighbourhood Plan is not just a cut and paste version of the existing plan but rather requires the same process to be used that was used in 2014 as updated by any legislative changes. |

It is not clear whether the exercise of producing a new plan would be as demanding of time and resource as was the case with the original plan.

**ACTION** - To determine what level of resource and expertise would be required to produce a new plan.

Neal Kelshaw commented that at numerous meetings with Ian Culley he had gained a different understanding of the currency of the current Neighbourhood Plan following the adoption of the Wolverhampton Local Plan in 2026, namely that because the Wolverhampton Local Plan would be the superior plan that the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan needed to be updated.

**ACTION** – Neal and Robin to clarify this discrepency at their meeting with David Pattison (COO) and Ian Culley at their meeting on Friday 15th March.

Further discussions took place regarding the items for inclusion, improvement and exclusion with regard to producing a new plan.

**TETTENHALL STATION**

The report on the proposed Tettenhall station is ongoing. We are entitled and would like to be consulted on the plan for the new Tettenhall station. The positioning of the station is not clearly understood neither is the stage of the consultation process that has been reached. A report is being prepared by Malcolm Rudge.

**ACTION** – Malcolm Rudge to produce a report.

**ACTION** - Neal Kelshaw to write to the Transport for West Midlands to establish the current situation regarding feasibilty plans etc.

**TETTENHALL ROCK JUNCTION SIX POINT PLAN**

The petition for a trial installation of 3-way traffic lights was presented to the Council at 4.00 pm this afternoon. There are further actions to progress particularly with regard to the prosecution of traffic violations at the junction as recorded by Council cameras.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Next meeting to be held at The Swan, Compton on Thursday 21st March 2024 at 6.30 pm.