**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Meeting held in The Swan, Compton**

**21st March 2024**

**ATTENDEES**

Apologies – Sally Garner, Kirstie Westwood, David Baker, Sally Hathaway.

The meeting was attended by 12 residents.

**MINUTES AND PREVIOUS ACTIONS**

These minutes, and minutes of previous meetings, can be accessed by links on Tettenhall Facebook page.

All outstanding actions covered by agenda items.

**PLANNING ALERT NOTIFICATIONS**

Neal Kelshaw (NK) is already receiving Local Planning Applications relevant to the Tettenhall district. These come through weekly and should be scanned for any items of wider and general concern to the Forum. Robin Hacking agreed to review these weekly updates and prepare a summary of any which need wider consideration and action.

**ACTION** – Robin Hacking (RM) to review weekly Planning Applications and report to the Forum.

**SMESTOW VALLEY AND TOURIST ATTRACTION PROJECT**

This project has wider implications and sources of funding. NK is planning to meet with Rachel Arnold and David Guest on Friday 22nd March to identify further areas of co-operation and involvement.

There is an opportunity to invite David Guest to a future meeting to explain the project further and NK undertook to arrange this when they meet.

**ACTION** – NK to meet Rachel Arnold and David Guest and report back.

**BROADBAND POLES PLANNING APPLICATION**

NK advised members to look out for items such as this which BT routinely justify under Permitted Development hence plans for erecting these poles do not appear on our weekly list. See Tettenhall Community Forum case study TNPLG-24-3 Broadband Poles Complaint. Please be aware that proposals for poles in other parts of the district may not benefit from protections enjoyed by Lower Green.

This particular plan was for a 9m pole notified by one single notice on a lamp post near 7 Lower Green. This is an example of the general policy where BT are seeking to proliforate these poles to improve their connectivity. This is attracting nationwide concern. The Times reported on 16th March opposition to this via a Private Members Bill subsequently superceded by a letter sent by the current Minister for Data and Digital Structure. In this particular case, because of established Local Protections, BT will have to seek Planning Consent due to an Article 4 Direction and are obliged to consult with the Forum. NK has written a strong letter on our behalf indicating our objections to this pole and establishing our right to be consulted.

**WOLVERHAMPTON LOCAL PLAN**

A discussion ensued regarding how Forum members could effectively respond to the issues and Preferred Options for Consultation dated February 2024 and noted that responses were required by 10th April 2024, which is a short timescale to respond to such a large document. Noted that the members felt the document was very general and difficult to respond to in particular terms however it is very important that as many members as possible submit their views. It would be valuable to stress the continued importance of the current Neighbourhood Plan and in paricular the guidance it gives on maintaining and enhancing Green Spaces, protection of Green Belt, building styles and density, to be sympathetic in relation to the specific neighbourhoods of the district, eg the policy of building higher and more densely proposed for the City Centre area is not appropriate.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Steering Group continues to work on identifying the appropriate structures and wider communications strategy following the meeting with David Pattison CEO of Wolverhampton City Council on 15th March. We are seeking a wide apolitical brief to support and protect the environment of the neighbourhood and to promote new initiatives for the benefit of the residents. Whilst the group will be apolitical it needs to formulate its relationship with the Ward Councillors urgently and the Steering Group members are continuing to seek a meeting with them.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Leaflet Printing and Costs**

The views of the meeting on communicating and leaflet dropping for the entire population of the area was discussed and the views will be communicated to the Steering Group at their next meeting. Preferences expressed were for a single A5 flyer professionally printed. Consideration to be given to a more inclusive picture map representation than the Tettenhall clock, for example an outline map identfying the 12 neighbourhoods making up the catchment area.

Further discussion took place around the likely pricing of leaflet dropping. Funds for this initial communication are currently available and further funding will be available circa £10,000 following approval and recognition by the Council of our structure and organization with a further £8,000 available under certain circumstances.

There is also £3,000 of funding which is potentially available left over from the previous Tettenhall Disctrict Community Council (TDCC).

**Traffic Abuse and Enforcement**

There is a need to collect wider information regarding traffic abuse and enforcement for further actions (eg see Rock Junction 6 point plan). With regard to the 6 point plan and objections raised the initial guidance given by the Council, that they would respond to objections and recommendations after 6 weeks of further work, has not materialised. Nicola Rudge (NR) has asked for clarification on the responses and has been told (post meeting) that the review is taking longer than anticipated, as explained on social media. NR has suggested that this response is innappropriate and that the Council should clarify directly to people who have taken the trouble to submit individual complaints and suggestions regarding the extended timescales and provide an update.

**Tettenhall Station**

Editions of the Wolverhampton Champion continue to advise that the feasibility study for Tettenhall Station has concluded and that detailed design can commence whereas Transport for West Midlands, whilst confirming their awareness of the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan policy TNPcc, say that they will be undertaking further feasibility work over the next 12 to 18 months. NK provided copies of his subsequent email regarding the Tettenhall railway station plans repeating our insistance on involvement and consultaiton in the feasibility study and plans and seeking clarification regarding the current state of play.

**Proposed Nearby Housing Developments**

NR idendified a substatial number of new properties over a range of sites in Brewood, Albrighton and Bilbrook amount to more than 1,000 new properties. There are various objections and consultation meetings taking place around the South Staffs area but these huge developments would materially affect the traffic flows through and around the Tettenhall district. NR provided information on the nearest of these, namely Bilbrook, and encouraged people to view the links relating to these proposed developments and sign any petitions. There is also a meeting planned for the Bilbrook proposal in Codsall Village Hall on Tuesday 26th March between 4.00pm and 8.00pm for anyone who wishes to attend.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Next meeting to be held at Wolverhampton Cricket Club, on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 6.30 pm.