**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

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

**28th March 2024**

**APOLOGIES**

Nicola and Martin Rudge

Sally Garner

The meeting was attended by 8 residents.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Smestow Valley Attraction**

Neal Kelshaw updated the meeting on his previous meeting with David Guest (DG) and Rachel Arnold (RA) and issued a 2 page report. DG and RA have agreed to attend a meeting of the Forum to present their activities and discuss future involvement. The meeting was originally scheduled for 2nd May but this needs to be changed since we will not be meeting on Local Election day.

**Broadband Poles**

NK has not yet received a response from BT regarding the letter he has sent to them raising objections regarding their proposals for this pole in Lower Green.

**Tettenhall Station**

Again NK was still awaiting a reply to his letter to the West Midlands Transport Authority insisting on consultation. Robin Hacking (RH) drew the meeting’s attention to the latest Andy Street publication implying that feasibility studies have been completed and station design is the next step. This is inconsistent with the Transport Authority’s communication and it is not clear whether a site has been selected and confirmed.

**Leaflet Printing and Costs**

RM and NK tabled versions of a proposed leaflet for information, it having been discussed at the Steering Group. There was agreement that a single sheet eye-catching A5 leaflet should be produced for a widespread leaflet drop to all properties in the district at the appropriate time. Nick Berriman (NB) was consulting regarding the 2 styles and contents with The Studio in Tettenhall to get the benefit of their marketing expertise. NK said that he had received 2 further donations which will pay for printing and distribution.

**PLANNING ALERTS**

RH is now in receipt of outstanding planning alerts in the area. He selected 8 examples for consideration regarding the type of planning alerts the Forum might want to consider in detail. There was a discussion on some of these but since most of them are historic no particular concerns were identified. This will be a regular item on the agenda so that any new planning proposals can be considered for appropriateness in relation to the guidelines in the current Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that the broadband pole did not appear in the planning applications since these matters are dealt with under delegated powers and therefore we must be particularly vigilant as these proposals are only usually noted to a couple of very local properties via a bill posted on a gatepost or lamppost.

RH also drew the meeting’s attention to the fact that out of 53 planning applications currently outstanding 19 related to trees, 5 of which being for felling orders. NK informed the meeting that he had seen information from English Woodland (an offshoot of National Trust) who had funding for planting mature trees and we should establish contact with this organisation with a view of obtaining funding for planting new trees to replace ones being felled for safety reasons.

**TETTENHALL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST**

NK reported on the progress being made by the Steering Group regarding the legal structures and organisations, committees needed to support the new district wide Forum. NK tabled a draft document regarding the Memorandum and Articles for the proposed Community Interest Company. Two directors are required and have been identified for incorporation. The Company will have the ability to hold funding for the benefit of the whole community and after approval from Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) that the organisation and structure meets the requirements of the Neighbourhood Act some funding from the Council will be available to support the creation and early stages of the new arrangements. Forum members will need to be prepared to elect representatives as Trustees of the company in the not too distant future.

It has been proposed that the Trustees should be thought of in terms of the 12 quite distinct neighbourhoods forming the district of Tettenhall. It has been appreciated that not all of the 12 districts identify empathetically with Tettenhall and that the Forum should be inclusive in relation to these 12 districts.

**WOLVERHAMPTON LOCAL PLAN**

NK confirmed that he had drafted a corporate response from the Forum and RH confirmed he is also working on his own individual submission. Members were encouraged to submit their individual responses to the plan which need to be in by 10th April.

Particular concerns were discussed regarding the plethora of major developments currently proposed outside the district’s boundaries in eg Perton, Bilbrook and Penkridge, particularly in relation to significant increases in traffic flow through the district.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will need to increase, not just in terms of numbers but also in terms of participation from the 12 localities and in relation to, for example, age and ethnicity.

**ROCK JUNCTION**

There was continuing and increasing concern regarding the lack of response from the Council in relation to their promises to provide drop-in sessions and respond to reservations and objections raised by residents in relation to the Council’s initial intentions. We have also still not received a response to the 6 point plan proposed as a constructive alternative to the Council’s intentions. Notwithstanding the importance of setting up our legal structures in a professional manner and gaining acceptance for them from the Council we must retain our focus on this important item which has been a rallying cry for local residents. It is important not to lose momentum on this issue and NK agreed to write to David Pattison regarding a formal update on the Council’s response.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed that meetings will now revert to fortnightly and Jane Meek (JM) offered to make enquiries regarding other meeting venues in other localities in the district to

Improve our geographic coverage within the district.

Marion Reeves Winspur (MRW) reminded the meeting that the small end of the main room of the cricket club appeared to be reserved for a PACT meeting on 11th April as well but no details are yet available.

Next meeting of the Forum is on 11th April 2024 at Wolverhampton Cricket Club at 6.30 pm.

ACRONYMS

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| CBS |  |
| CIC | Community Interest Company |
| COO of WCC | Chief Operating Officer of Wolverhampton City Council |
| CRU |  |
| DPD | Development Plan Document |
| MOA | Memorandum of Association |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NNPF | Natural/Neighbourhood Planning Framework |
| NP | Neighbourhood Plan |
| SCI | Statement of Community Involvement |
| SOR | Statement of Requirements |
| SPD | Supplementary Plan Document |
| SSP | Site Specific Policies |
| TCF | Tettenhall Community Forum |
| TDCC | Tettenhall District Community Council (defunct) |
| TDCT | Tettenhall District Community Trust |
| TNP7 | Designated Area of the Plan – Regis & Wightwick Wards |
| WCC | Wolverhampton City Council |
| WLP | Wolverhampton Local Plan |