



Minutes

Committee meeting 14 March 2022 held at The Ruby

Item	Subject	Action
Part A - Preamble		
1	Present Anant, Annemarie, Ashley, Deborah (minutes), Patrick (chair) Observer Kara Ward Apologies Manish	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 7 February 2022 The minutes were approved.	
3	Dates of future Committee meetings 11 April; 9 May	All – note dates
Part B – Main Business		
4	Feedback following letter to Coldean Residents Association This was deferred due to the large number of items on the agenda.	

	<p>Open Forum meeting on 10 February with presentations by Robert Davidson (Principal Planning Officer, Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC)) and Sandra Rogers (Planning Manager, BHCC)</p> <p>Anant minuted the very positive response among residents to the most recent Open Forum meeting. The presentations were of high quality, and well received by a very engaged audience, who offered pertinent questions in addition to the Committee's prepared questions.</p> <p>Following a statement at the meeting by Councillor Martin Osbourne that the Council was passing planning applications because of the risk of the being subsequently sued on planning appeal, Ashley has made a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the Council for sight of all planning applications since June 2019.</p> <p>Ashley informed the Committee about the National Planning Framework Strategic Review, and the fact that the remainder of Coldean Woods has not been excluded from this review, so regardless of City Plan 2, this area of land remains under threat of development. Ashley noted that a petition would not be a suitable means of challenging this, and we should press for a public enquiry.</p> <p>Committee agreed that we will proceed to writing a policy on HMOs. Ashley has circulated the Neighbourhood Plan for Exeter St James to the Committee, which has many similarities with our ambitions. This will provide useful input for our own Plan. The Exeter St James Plan will also provide input for our next Open Forum meeting, provisionally set for May.</p>	
5	<p>Estate Agents boards</p> <p>Ashley reported on his contact with the Council regarding estate agents' boards remaining in situ, in contravention of Schedule 3 Part 1 3A(3) of the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. The Council has expressed a preference for receiving notifications electronically.</p> <p>Ashley has made a good contact with Marina Briggins at the Council on this matter.</p> <p>Ashley proposed that we approach estate agents directly before making a complaint to the Council. Ashley circulated a draft letter to estate agents. Committee agreed that this would be sent (as an email) for future contraventions, and a</p>	<p>Ashley – Continue to issue email warning to estate agents where necessary</p> <p>All – report estate agents that are in contravention to Ashley</p>

	complaint made if the board is not taken down within a reasonable time period.	
	<p>Grant application</p> <p>Patrick reported that the Notice of Interest in the Grant Application expired in January 2022. Another grant becomes avaiaavailable in April, which we can apply for, but this will delay receipt of a grant until May/June. Patrick proposed that in order to maintain momentum, the Committee could apply for a bridging loan from Anant and Manish, which was agreed by the Committee in principle, pending details of the amount required. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting Andrew has advised that we couldn't go down the loan route repaid from the future grant but it would have to be a gift).</p> <p>We agreed to establish Andrew's hourly rate so that we can propose a suitable amount for the loan. We would use the bridging loan to use Andrew's expertise to help us develop a policy on HMOS. This could be potentially presented at an Open Forum meeting in May (date to be confirmed). Following Andrew's advice this cannot be proposed.</p>	Patrick/Ashley – obtain quote from Andrew Metcalf
	<p>Green Open Spaces and Environment</p> <p>Deborah reported on the Consultation on the Biodiversity Strategy, which she attended (online). She drew attention to the provisions under the new Environment Act 2021, which will require developers to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity 'gain', which can be achieved either by creating habitats on site post-development, or by 'offsetting' developmental harm by acquiring protected green space in order to increase their biodiversity score – otherwise known as greenwashing.</p> <p>Deborah also reported on Polly Eason's recent communications with Councillor Martin Osbourne in relation to Coldean Community Organisation's (CCOrg's) proposed Environmental Recovery Plan for Site 21a and Site 21c. This Plan incorporates chalk grassland restoration, scrub clearance and potential for grazing.</p> <p>Committee agreed that we need a separate strategy for Coldean Woods as it is at high risk of development.</p> <p>Ashley proposed finding out which land in Coldean is owned by the Council. He will examine the land ownership records to establish this. Patrick noted specific sites at risk, including the cowfield, 39 acre and Coldean Primary School grounds.</p>	<p>Deborah – Circulate briefing on Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Deborah – Write and circulate 12-point plan on individual elements for our Environmental Policy</p> <p>Deborah – Draft strategy for Coldean Woods, in liaison with Polly Eason</p> <p>Ashley – research Council's landownership</p>
	Website	All (send bio)

	Deborah reported that this is ongoing. Annemarie has spoken to Annie, who is actively interested in the Forum's work. We have material ready to go on the site, so it is a case of having time to sit down and add material. Everyone will send a bio to Deborah to add.	Deborah – populate website
6	Projector/equipment update Anant said there was no need to buy or rent a projector, as we have one we can borrow.	
	Talbot Crescent update Patrick reported on the original application.	
	Communication update Manish has found a leaflet distribution company, SWAT Marketing, who charge £140 for 1,000-leaflet drop. They would need a week's notice. Anant asked about the cost-effectiveness of leafleting. Patrick said that the leaflet would promote the Forum's work and encourage membership and attendance at Open Forum meetings. We agreed that this was a good option to have, if needed.	
7	AOB Ashley reported on the need for an AGM by 7 August.	All – note date
14	Date of next meeting 11 April Meeting ended 8.08pm	