**Minutes for Committee**

**7.30pm, Tuesday 21 June 2016, Children’s Centre**

**Present**

Brian Willman (Chair)

John Goddard

Geoff Bond

David Williams

Stan Shaw

Brian Waters

Jean Loveland

Danielle Coleman

Lisa Fairmaner

**In attendance**

Brian Waters

David Lamb

Siriol Davies (Co-ordinator)

1. **Apologies** for absence were accepted from Justine Glynn, Penny Frost, Andree Frieze, Chris Ruse and Helen McNally.

2. **The minutes of the Committee meeting of 24 May 2016** were approved with two amendments i.e. to include the cricket pavilion in the list of ideas raised at the Open Spaces and Community Facilities workshop (item 6) and to confirm that St Michael’s Convent grounds have been designated as Other Open Land of Townscape Importance on the LBRuT draft village plan (item 7).

3. **Matters arising** not covered on the agenda:

Re. response of Forum to Beechcroft plans for St Michael’s Convent, GB and BWn had met with them, but not sent a formal response. GB volunteered to send a reply, in consultation with LF.

Re. Anne Powell’s suggestion of looking at the long-term future of H&P, GB will ask her if she wants to engage with this.

Re. progress of policies – all except two were ready for the consultant.

4. **To discuss and approve the updated policy for housing**

Comments included:

Querying the 50:50 basis for affordable homes in new developments of over 10 homes (point 2). 50:50 is in the London Plan but is not always viable. However, the policy could say that we ‘share’ or ‘support’ the aims of the London Plan in this regard. This puts the onus on the developers to justify any decrease.

Can we specify 4 beds (point 1)? We can, but if the site is not suitable (e.g. a listed building), then it will be exempt.

The reference to ‘all’ housing areas in the first line should be deleted.

The policy needs to be flexible.

Housing should be on the agenda of the next meeting. The committee thanked LF for her work.

5. **To discuss and approve the updated policies for open spaces and community facilities** following the workshop on 12 May

Comment included:

The policy was excellent and very well written.

Could there be mention of cricket, commercial dog walking and improving playground provision (all comments from the public)?

Cricket is mentioned twice and is in fact protected on the Common by a bye-law; the problem of commercial dog walking on Ham Lands is a matter for the Council, rather than the Forum; Sandy lane playground is mentioned under Facilities, rather than Open Spaces.

There is mention of the NF as a body in the future, but will it continue to exist? Leave a mention of ‘relevant bodies.’

Re. Ham Common Woods, perhaps maintenance should be described as ‘regular’, since occasional drastic action is not conducive to good long term management.

Why is St Michael’s Convent mentioned here, as it’s in the Opportunities for Change section? It is there as OOLTI (see 2. Above), but is better left out here. There is a campaign to designate it as a site of importance for nature conservation.

Perhaps youth could be more mentioned in Community Facilities, policy no. 2.

Reference to a community trust holding venues for hire is impracticable.

The Committee thanked DL for his work.

6. **To discuss the Ham Close consultation meetings**

LBRuT and RHP are holding a series of workshops in June and July, with topics which in some cases mirror the Forum policy areas. SD to send link (hamclose.co.uk)

to all members of committee and drafting team so that they can book places and keep her informed; she will monitor attendance so that the Forum has a presence at all of them.

Anne Marie Lewis has volunteered to help and has experience in assessing financial viability. SD to ask her to attend the relevant workshop and invite her to the next committee meeting.

A stakeholder reference group for Ham Close is also being set up. The Forum is invited to send one delegate. The first meeting is on 4th July. In the absence of Justine Glynn, BWn will invite Chris Ruse or Justine Langford to attend.

7. **To review our work at Ham Fayre**

LF and SD reported back. The fair was quite busy.

H&P in 3 words – there were 35 words suggested, the most common being ‘green, beautiful, community, friendly, calm.’

There were general comments re. trees, elderly housing (in favour), cycle paths (how to avoid flooding), dog walking (complaints), a bridge, green space and Ham Close. Some Ham Close residents felt ignored by the Forum. There is a need for distance, but it is important to explain that our policies apply to all sites and that we cannot take a particular position on this potential development when no clear consensus has yet emerged. BWn will consider some text for the H&P magazine to this effect.

Travel questions –

8 people were in favour of a bridge to Twickenham

9 people wanted to promote walking and cycling

10 were in favour of a 20mph speed limit.

8. **To be updated on the financial position**

JGd gave an update, as follows: £8,680 has been received as grant funding. The total in the account is therefore £11,100. He has asked for another £2,800 from LBRuT. It might be possible to get another £6,000 from the Locality. We can pay £3,600 for the consultant. CR had applied for technical support; this is topic related and quite restricted. JGd to chase.

The consultant would need all the policies at the same time.

The retail policy is at an early stage (SS had met with Petra Braun, Chris Ruse and Justine Langford).

BWn had emailed Pam Fleming, but had no response to date.

She had written a critical piece in the Richmond and Twickenham Times about our NP. This was felt to be puzzling, given the national policy to promote NPs. JLvd will take it up with her.

DC suggested updating the timeline – BWn to ask CR.

The chair thanked JGd for his work.

9. **Any other business**

LF announced that she has a new job in planning in Kingston and therefore will need to step down from the committee, to avoid a conflict of interest. However, she will stay on the drafting team and offer technical help. The committee congratulated her on her new role.

10. **Date, time and place of next meeting** – 7.30pm, Tuesday 19 July 2016, Children’s Centre