**Minutes for Committee**

**7.30pm, Tuesday 16 August 2016, Ham Library Annex**

**Present**

Andree Frieze

Danielle Coleman

Chris Ruse

Justine Glynn

David Williams

Brian Willman (Chair)

Stan Shaw

Geoff Bond

Anne Powell

Lisa Fairmaner[[1]](#footnote-1)

Siriol Davies (Co-ordinator)

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Jean Loveland, Justine Langford, Penny Frost, Sarah Tippett, Andy Rogers, Annemarie Lewis and John Goddard.

2. The **minutes of the committee meeting of 19 July 2016** were approved, with a note to distinguish between J Glynn and J Goddard.

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

Re. item 6, DW felt it was unwise to discuss the future of the Forum post-referendum at this point in case it caused confusion about our role. The Forum should technically re-constitute every 5 years i.e. in 2018 (date tbc).

4. **Update on the appointment of a consultant and design student**

Emails from LF and Justine Langford outlining the commission and process had been circulated.

LF explained that the editor will record her changes for dialogue with the drafting team; later iterations are possible. LF will meet with the editor on 9th September for a tour of the local area. DW can arrange access to the Cassel Hospital grounds.

JG offered to print a hard copy of the plan for the editor.

5. **Response to the Richmond Local Plan**

CR presented a draft which was a team effort by the drafters. It was important to respond to be involved in the planning process. Overall the Local plan was in line with Forum thinking and the authors have tried to be positive.

p. 1, Section 4.2 & LP 2 re. density – areas are no longer zoned for density; more attention is paid to fitting in with the local character. The boundaries of the area under consideration are key. Ham and Richmond are recognized as low density areas.

p.2 Green Infrastructure – the first sentence needed rewording.

5.3.2 The statement that ‘the policy should not …discourage densification in areas of low density’ was queried. After some discussion it was decided to delete this sentence in case it gave too much encouragement to increase density.

LP14 After some discussion about the benefits or restrictions of OOLTI designations, it was decided to leave this sentence unchanged in recognition of the fact that social housing is needed. However, care must be taken to cross-reference with other policies.

LP15 ‘Resourcing BAP could be a policy commitment.’ *Could* to change to *should.*

p.3 Town Centres section – numbering of sections is incorrect.

p.5, LP39. CR will rethink this paragraph to reflect that we welcome backland development but would restrict development in back gardens. Side gardens are not usually an issue, but development in back gardens needs to be in character.

p.7, SA15. A cycle path link between Duke’s Avenue and Ham Common had not been mentioned in the NP travel policy. This should be left as a footpath link only.

p.7, SA14. Ham Close. There was a discussion around the sentence ‘We also note that the primary reason for including the site is the condition of the existing flats rather than potential for additional housing through redevelopment.’ Another section of the Local plan says that Ham Close is a ‘development opportunity.’ It is not consistent throughout. AF is questioning the lack of funding for refurbishment. Updating alone has not been considered. If Ham Village Green is left out of the development area, the density of the remaining section will increase.

The committee thanked the drafting team for their very prompt and good work on this. CR to send revised version to BWn to meet the council deadline of 19th August. GB to add it to website to demonstrate the active work of the Forum.

6. The committee considered a copy of the **letter drafted by Brian Waters and sent to the developers of St Michael’s Convent**. Comments sent in by Penny Frost (in her absence) re. the objections to the northern section of the proposed build and the allocation of private gardens were noted. However, the Forum approach had been agreed at the last meeting and the committee were happy with the letter as drafted. No reply has yet been received.

7. The committee considered the **reply to Cassel site developers drafted by Andy Rogers** with assistance from Annemarie Lewis and approved the draft.

8. **Update on development with Ham Close**

JG had considered making an FOI request re viability; the committee suggested she go ahead with this.

David Lamb had raised concerns about density and whether the developers were following the guidance in the London Plan. It seems this is often not followed. The editor will resolve issues in this area.

Although LBRuT/RHP have said the numbers of 400-500 new units are not open for negotiation, it is clear that the local community strongly opposes this size of development which would be out of character. The committee agreed that the NP needs to take a strong line to draw clear parameters to protect and enhance the area and give the wider context.

JG and CR to look at the Opportunities policy with this is mind.

9. **Financial situation.** In the absence of John Goddard (treasurer), BWn confirmed that that the financial position was healthy.

10. The committee agreed the proposed dates for **2017 meetings** (see below).

11. The committee noted that the latest edition of the **Ham and Petersham Magazine** has been distributed.

12. **Any other business**:

**Brian Willman** notified the committee that he will be having a kidney transplant on 19th October and therefore will not be chairing the meeting on the 18th.

**AGM** – the purpose of the 2016 meeting was debated:it needs to be clear that this is not another consultation exercise, but an opportunity to present the NP to the community before the referendum takes place, to promote ‘buy-in’. Therefore a brisk presentation of the key messages (with perhaps break-out groups for different policies) is the best approach. It is also an opportunity to explain the procedure and time-line of getting the Plan approved and legally validated.

It is important that this meeting (which may happen shortly after the new proposals for Ham Close are received) is not identified as a meeting to respond to the developers. We need to make clear that we are looking at a wider area which includes three main potential development sites i.e. Ham Close, the Cassel and the Convent.

The first redraft by the technical editor of the plan should be done by the end of September; the consultant will report to the committee and drafting team at a joint October meeting to be held in Ham House. The final approved text should therefore be ready for public presentation in November. Final design will be completed later.

SD to contact Ham House re. a meeting on Tuesday 18th October and Grey Court to check availability for Tuesday 15th November, 7.30-9pm. (These meetings would replace the committee meetings due on those days.)

**Sending draft policies to LBRuT**. The committee confirmed that SD should send the version of the plan sent to the consultant to Andrea Kitzberger, with a note on the timing as agreed with the editor.

**Consultation statement** – SD has been collating data in dropbox, filed by event. While a lot of data has been collected over the years including comments, presentation material, photos of meetings, maps, posters, minutes of meetings, press cuttings etc, a narrative of the public engagement (why, how and when it was done) is required. Therefore she asked for help both with writing text and contributing material that committee members may have from past events. Articles which the Forum has published in the H&P magazine are a useful source for tracing the history of the Forum’s activities. Justine Langford has offered to speak to the editor re.getting copies. Other offers of help were as follows:

BWn will write an introduction

JG will provide a brief history.

CR will co-ordinate the editing of the consultation statement.

The introduction will note the role of Andrew Beedham, to whom the Plan is dedicated, in setting up the Forum.

13. **Date, time and place of next meeting** – 7.30pm, Tuesday 20 September 2016,

Children’s Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

***Agreed 2017 Committee dates:***

*January 24*

*February 21*

*March 21*

*April 25*

*May 23*

*June 20*

*July 18*

*August 15*

*September 19*

*October 17*

*November 21*

*December 12*

1. LF absented herself for discussions re. Ham Close and responses to the Local Plan and developers, for reasons of conflict of interest related to her new role in planning in Kingston. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)