**Committee Meeting**

**7.30pm, Tuesday 24 May 2016, Children’s Centre**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Brian Willman

David Williams

Chris Ruse

Stan Shaw

Justine Glynn

Andree Frieze

Helen McNally

Lisa Fairmaner

Geoff Bond

**In attendance**

Andy Rogers

Siriol Davies

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Penny Frost, Danielle Coleman, Brian Waters and Petra Braun.

2. **The minutes of the Committee meeting of 19 April 2016** were approved.

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

The area character studies completed for the Character and Heritage workshop have not yet been uploaded to the website. CR/GB to action.

A base station for a mobile phone mast has been proposed on Ashburnham Road, by Vodafone.

Re. the topic of Retail and Commerce, Petra Braun, Brian Waters and Stan Shaw will be meeting shortly to discuss.

4. **Updated policies for character and heritage** following the consultation meeting had been circulated. CR also presented a ‘Word Cloud’ which showed the words most frequently used to describe Ham by attendees at the workshop. It was noted that character and heritage is an element in every policy. Comments:

Re. point 4, mention of ‘quality, contemporary design’, the policy should emphasise that new architecture should exemplify the best design (as several post-war developments in the area did).

Re. point 5, gated developments should be discouraged.

Re. point 6, the community needs to actively fund-raise to maintain open spaces perhaps via a larger-scale version of the Friends’ Groups which currently exist for e.g. Ham Pond. GB mentioned that the HPA might be able to sponsor a group with a specific purpose. Perhaps the Forum could continue its work in the future via such groups?

Re. point 7, ‘the neighbourhood’s mixed and varied social composition’ -such a mix is part of the character and therefore new development needs to include affordable social housing.

The committee thanked CR for his good work on this policy.

5. **Updated policies for Opportunities for Change**

Single surfaces - removing kerbs in certain areas, so that all road users have the same surface, can slow traffic and improve access for buggies, wheelchairs etc. This concept needs illustration. (Justine Langford may have already used photos in transport policy).

Re. 1.1 Ham Parade, policy 3, mix of shops - it is possible to request that shops cannot be changed to non-shops e.g. estate agents by an Article 4 direction, which can remove permitted development rights in a specified area; we could support this, to try and ensure a balance in the area as a whole.

Re. 1.3 Proposed work at the Arched Lodge, Petersham - should the Council pay for such projects? As their budgets are reduced the only way to fund such projects is by applying for CIL money.

Re. 2.1 Ham Close and the statement that the NP ‘supports the general objectives of the promoters’ - it was agreed to delete this as objectives may change.

Re. 2.4 Previously developed land, policy 1, the term ‘areas of existing development’ was queried. While it was preferred not to use the term ‘brownfield’, this needed to be clarified so that it didn’t include green space.

The committee thanked AR for his work on this policy.

6. **Open space and community facilities workshop held on 12 May**

SD reported briefly on this workshop. 31 people attended. There were four main questions for attendees: What is your favourite open space in H&P? What gaps in or pressure on community facilities concern you? What improvements would you like for our open spaces? What are your views on the new Sainsbury’s on Ham Parade? Concerns/ideas included provision for surgeries, youth activities, pubs and cafes and meeting venues. The policy needs to be consistent with other policies.

BWn mentioned Siobhan Oktay, community links officer of LBRuT, who had attended the workshop, as a useful contact.

7. **Meeting with the developers of St Michael’s Convent**

GB, BWn, AR and Charles Doe had met with Polly Damen from the architects, PRP and Caroline Wilberforce and Matt Mainwaring from Indigo Planning. Our policy was to refurbish the old main building and replace existing 1950s additions. However, the current proposal exceeds that by proposing 22 housing units in the gardens. It has been designated as OOLTI (?). There are also concerns re. vehicular access and parking. Work could begin in early 2017, however, there has been no formal planning application yet. There will be another public meeting. It is important that the NP dictates the parameters, rather than the developers.

**8. To agree a reply to the Cassel Hospital developers**

Nathaniel Lichfield and partners, the developers, had written to the Chair on 18th April, giving feedback on the draft Opportunity Area and Housing policies and suggesting amendments. This letter was viewed as an attempt to restrain the Forum. LF’s draft reply (already circulated with the letter) was approved.

9. **To finalise arrangements for Ham Fayre - 11 June**

JG is co-ordinating and proposed that speech bubbles should be added to the original policy boards to show ‘What you’ve told us’, with 3-5 points listed for each topic. These should be given to JG to laminate.

Volunteers are needed to man the stalls on the day. Rota to be circulated to all committee and drafting team.

Display board - BWn can supply.

Timeline - CR can supply.

CIL projects - a priority list is being developed (from previous consultations and updated policies) but will not be ready for the Fair. There are questions about how to cost projects. A consultation exercise on this could provide useful feedback. To be looked at in the autumn.

Photos need to be taken at the fair for publicity.

10. **To note that the May edition of Ham and Petersham Community Magazine** has been distributed - this includes the Character and Heritage policy and a report on the Travel and Streets workshop.

**11. To approve a response to the government’s A road traffic consultation**

AR had proposed a response to this complex document, with particular reference to better management of roadworks at Petersham. His draft reply was approved to be sent on behalf of the Forum.

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

A funding application to Locality for the sum of £9k had been successful.

Contact will be made with Jon Freer to meet about CIL and further funding for the forum. Councillor Fleming will assist.

**13. Any other business:**

It was noted that the weight of the Plan increases as it emerges.

LF gave an update on the new Housing and Planning Act, which became law on 12th May. This includes a section on Neighbourhood Planning. There is a duty to promote the supply of starter homes. The Queen’s speech included a reference to the new Neighbourhood and Infrastructure Bill, which is intended to speed up the planning process and will make it harder for Councils to stop development.

JG gave apologies in advance for the next meeting.

**14. Date, time and place of next meeting** – 7.30pm, Tuesday 21 June 2016,

Children’s Centre