**PUBLIC MEETING**

**GREY COURT SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2018**

**MINUTES**

1. **Welcome by Maggie Bailey, Head Teacher of Grey Court School**

Ms Bailey welcomed everyone to the school. She noted the OFSTED verdict of ‘Outstanding’ in January this year and emphasised her willingness to have good relationships with the local community and encouraged people to communicate any concerns.

1. **How we have reached this point, Brian Willman, Forum Chair**

The Chair summarized the history and function of the Forum, emphasizing the voluntary nature of the committee and the public consultation undertaken. The Plan has now been approved by the local Council and an independent inspector.

The vision is:

‘To bring our community together to have a strong say in deciding the future shape of our area. The plan will preserve and enhance its semi-rural character and history.’

1. **Benefits of the Plan**

Chris Ruse, Chair of the plan-drafting team, explained the advantages of adopting the Plan, ie. That it must be taken into account when Richmond Council makes planning application decisions and the increase in available funding for community projects from 15% to 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The main aims of the Plan, as put forward by the community, are to enhance the heritage of the area including the green spaces, maintain a mixed community, foster successful shopping areas, encourage good design in future developments and promote a healthy environment through encouraging walking and cycling.

1. **Q & A**

**What is the involvement of the Forum in Ham Close?**

The Ham Close development is not within the direct influence of the Forum. The Forum has played a full part in the consultations and is invited to the Ham Close Stakeholder Meetings. The Forum has supported residents who wish to improve their living conditions, while expressing concern about design issues such as the character of the area, the height of buildings, density of housing and importance of adequate infrastructure. The plannning application appears to have been delayed. It seems likely that there will be a further public consultation in the spring and another application will be submitted in the summer. The proposed increase in housing is from 192 to 450 units.

**How will the Forum function after the adoption of the Plan?**

The Forum will then have rights as a statutory consultee and will monitor planning applications, and submit observations to the planning department. The exact system is to be decided, but there will probably be a sub-committee to consider applications and any major issues would be brought before the whole committee. The role of the Forum is not to decide on applications, but to comment. However, there is no desire to duplicate the work of other local organisations such as the Ham and Petersham Association.

**Re. The convent site and access to Martingales Close, the final draft of the Plan did not accurately represent the Examiner’s Comments?**

Some compromise was required in order to ensure that the Plan would pass the examination. No change is possible now, but at least the Plan registers that access is an issue.

**How does the Plan support local business?**

The Forum made an (unsuccessful) bid to renovate St Richard’s Square. This has now been incorporated into LBRuT’s Liveable Neighbourhood Bid which should help all the local shopping centres. Ham and Petersham are good places to live and work and the Forum wishes to encourage infrastructure improvements to support home working.

**Is there any news on the Ham Hydro proposal?**

This is outside the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan.

1. **The Referendum 18th October**

Sir David Williams, committee member, explained the significance of the Referendum in legitimizing the Plan. The referendum proceeds in the same way as a local election. A majority vote is required.

**AGM**

**THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2018, GREY COURT SCHOOL**

**Present**

Brian Willman (Chair)

Geoff Bond

Jean Loveland

Chris Ruse

David Williams

Stan Shaw

Penny Frost

Justine Langford

Gareth Richards

**MINUTES**

1. Apologies  were received from David Lamb, Andree Frieze, John Goddard, Brian Waters and Justine Glynn.
2. The minutes of the EGM of 28 February 2017 were approved.
3. Matters arising not covered by the meeting - None.
4. Election of committee - all current members were re-elected. New members are welcome.
5. Any other business

A finance paper was available. Income was largely derived from the Department for Local Government and Communities together with some from the LBRuT. Any questions can be addressed to the treasurer, John Goddard.

1. Date, time and place of next meeting:

Tuesday 20th November 2018, Ham Library Community Space