**HAM AND PETERSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**EGM**

**Tuesday 15th October 2019, St Richard’s Church, Ham**

**Present**

**Committee Members**

Simon Coupland

Brian Willman

Justine Langford

Jean Loveland

David Williams

Brian Waters

David Lamb

Geoff Bond

Siriol Davies, Co-ordinator

20 Members

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome** The meeting was opened by Brian Willman, outgoing Chair. He noted the importance of the meeting, given the need to agree on whether to apply to the Council to re-designate the Forum for another 5-year term. With this in mind, a number of people who were unable to attend had submitted proxy votes (32) in favour of all three motions, to ensure the required quorum of 30.

2. **Apologies** were accepted from Gareth Richards, Penny Frost, Justine Glynn, John Goddard and Andree Frieze.

3. **Election of new chair**

After four years as Forum Chair, Brian Willman was standing down. The Rev. Simon Coupland, vicar of St Richard’s, had agreed to stand. He was proposed by David Williams and seconded by Jean Loveland. All voted in favour. Rev. Coupland took the Chair.

4. **The minutes of the AGM of 11 October 2018;**

**The minutes of the AGM (inquorate) of 4th June 2019**

The minutes of the above meetings had been made available and could also be sent by email if required. The meeting agreed that they were a true and accurate record.

5. **Matters arising not covered by the meeting** - None.

6. **Outgoing Chair’s Annual Report**

The Forum had two original goals:

1. To write a Neighbourhood Plan - this was completed and approved at a Referendum on 18th October 2018. There was a 20% turnout and 84.6% of those voting approved the Plan. Thanks were due to those who voted. The Plan is now a statutory instrument and forms part of the framework which includes the Local Plan and the London Plan.
2. To raise funding for local projects in line with the policies of the Plan. A successful bid had been made for a cycling feasibility study; members of the Forum committee have contributed to a current Liveable Neighbourhood bid, presented at the meeting on 4th June. Another bid for a feasibility study for improving St Richard’s Square had not been successful.

The outgoing Chair thanked the Forum committee and Drafting Team for their hard work and, in particular, Chris Ruse, Chair of the Drafting Team and Siriol Davies, Forum co-ordinator.

The work of the Forum will continue to be publicized in the Ham and Petersham Magazine.

BWn wished SC good luck in his new role and SC thanked him for all his efforts.

7. **Amendments to the constitution**

Minorupdates had been made to reflect the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan has come into existence. In addition, it was proposed to redraft two items as below:

**Future role of the Forum**

The future role was proposed as:

*To monitor developments management policy and its application in the area and to service the Neighbourhood Plan.*

Questions:

How proactive and tenacious would the Forum be in monitoring local developments? How does it relate to the Local Plan? Does the Neighbourhood Plan have any real weight? Is it enforceable at any level?

Response:

The NP conforms to the Local Plan. The Forum would not replicate the work of the HPA in monitoring planning applications, but would consider those judged to have significant impact. The Forum is a statutory consultee and can make objections. However, ultimately the planning officers have the final say and may take another view; there is no appeal against their decision. The only option might be a judicial review, but this is expensive and requires a very strong case. While there is no guarantee, therefore, that the policies of the NP will prevail, there is still a desire and a duty to make the voice of the Forum heard. The committee is happy to discuss in future the extent to which they have the capacity to attend planning meetings.

The meeting agreed the following revised statement of purpose:

*Item 1.4 To monitor development management policy and its application in the area and to seek to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is given due weight.*

**Committee membership**

The meeting agreed the following:

*Item 3.3*

*Committee now has a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 20 members.*

*Quorum for committee meetings will be half the membership of the committee*

**Motion: The membership votes to approve the amendments to the constitution.** Proposed by BWs and seconded by BWn. Agreed.

8. **Future role of the Forum**

Following on from the discussion above, this was presented as:

a. To monitor major development proposals and planning applications.

b. Monitoring LPA decisions on planning applications

c. Monitoring the local and national planning policy context and strategy

d. Input into the allocation of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)

**Questions:**

Can the Forum make proposals for change? Can it be more ambitious in terms of promoting community values such as reducing hate crime?

**Response:**

Yes, its remit is to be proactive and challenging; it has supported several project bids (see 6. above) in line with NP policies on, for example, sustainable transport. It should be actively lobbying planning officers regarding interpretation of the Plan policies. However, while local values form the framework within which the Plan sits, it is mainly concerned with major structural changes to the environment. Other organisations in Ham and Petersham do a range of work which contributes to improving the local area.

The NP is unique in LBRuT. At future meetings the committee will discuss the issue of engaging with the Council to ensure sufficient weight is given to the Plan.

9. **Redesignation of the Forum**

The original Forum was valid for a 5-year term (2014-19) and therefore there is a need for re-designation for another similar term.

The application to LBRuT needs to (and does) state that:

a. The purpose is to further the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Ham and Petersham Area

b. The membership is open to people residing or working in the area and elected borough councillors for the area

c. The application is supported by at least 21 named people who meet the above criteria (this has already been achieved).

The submission includes:

a. Application statement

b. Forum constitution

c. Map of boundary - this is unchanged since 2014.

d. List of supporters - attendees were invited to add their names.

Once the papers have been submitted there will be a 6-week public consultation organised by LBRuT.

Q. What is the funding situation of the Forum?

A. We have funds of £2979.00 remaining (at 31st August) from Richmond Council grants and the government funded Locality.  The Forum will apply to local charities for future funding.

**Motion: The membership resolves to apply to LBRuT to be recognised as the Neighbourhood Forum for Ham and Petersham.** Proposed by DW, seconded by DL. Agreed.

10. **Election of committee**

The current committee was re-elected. In addition, Lisa Fairmaner, John Hatto and Tina Haas stood for election.

**Motion: The membership votes to approve the election of the committee** Proposed by Danielle Coleman, seconded by Siriol Davies. Agreed.

11. **Finance**

A financial report was available for inspection. The main expenditure for the last year was administration of the Forum; other expenses included publicity for the Neighbourhood Plan and referendum and premises hire. Unspent funds at 31st August 2019 were £2,979. £30,600 was received and spent on the Cycle Feasibility Study.

12. **Any other business**

HPA invited residents to participate in bulb-planting on 19th and 20th October in St Richard’s Square.

13. **Date, time and place of next meeting:**

Tuesday 19th November, Ham Library Community Space

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.