**Committee**

**Tuesday 29th January 2019, Ham Library**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

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| --- | --- |
| Justine Glynn (Chair) | David Lamb |
| John Goddard | Geoff Bond |
| Stan Shaw | Chris Ruse |
| Justine Langford | Brian Waters |

**In attendance**

Ollie Betts (local resident)

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Brian Willman, Penny Frost, Andree Frieze, Jean Loveland, and Siriol Davies.

2. **The minutes of the previous meeting** of 20th November 2018 were approved.

3. **Matters arising** not covered on the agenda – Finance (Item 9).

4. **Re-designation of the Forum:**

There was discussion around reviewing the (draft) constitution, including changing the quorum for committee meetings to 50% rather than 12 members, committee membership and whether the Forum boundary should be amended to exclude the Star & Garter. On balance it was considered advisable not to alter the Forum boundary in order to avoid potential complications with the Neighbourhood Plan and the re-designation, although perhaps the S&G should be included in the H&P magazine distribution.

It was agreed that SD be asked to process the re-designation forms and members should notify her of any suggestions for amending the constitution for discussion at the next committee meeting. All committee members should be asked to confirm their agreement to continuing and submit their declaration of interests.

5. **Beechcroft Challenge to Local Plan Designations**

GB explained that Beechcroft had successfully challenged in the High Court the protective designations for part of their St Michaels Convent site because of an oversight by the Local Plan inspector. As a result Richmond Council are currently consulting on this modification to their Local Plan. It was agreed that this was a significant issue which could undermine the integrity of the Neighbourood Plan and that the Forum should make representations. DL to draft representations for consideration with CR and BWa, then circulating to committee for agreement before submission to the Council by 1 March.

6. **Future of the Forum:**

Further to the notes of the brainstorming session on 9 January, GB strongly advised that the Forum need to be ‘black and white’ about when we will get involved in commenting on planning applications in order to avoid being lobbied by the vested interests of those directly affected. Various suggested wordings were offered which could be combined as follows: ‘the Forum’s interest should be limited to selectively submitting representations on major development proposals and planning applications that have significant implications for the Plan, particularly the opportunity areas, as it stands or in the light of the need for future review’.

7. **Chairmanship of Forum:**

With none present willing to become chair, feelers should be put out as to possible candidates and advice sought from David Williams. JGn said she was happy to chair the meetings, which may not be needed every month, but not to take on full responsibilities of the chair. It was suggested that these responsibilities could be shared by committee members, but that really the Forum needed the drive and leadership of a proper chair, as BWm had demonstrated over the past few years.

**8. Liveable Neighbourhood**

JL reported that the consultant’s study has been issued and agreed to liaise with the Council as to posting it on their website with a link from the Forum’s website. The Council have put in a £5m bid to TfL on the back of the study with the outcome expected at the end of February. There is particular interest shown in flood-free routes from Kingston to Richmond as flooding is likely to become an increasing issue.

The consultants are willing to give a talk on their study, perhaps best in late March/April after TfL’s announcement. JL added that there is some money left in the budget that could pay for hiring a venue.

**9. AoB/Finance**

JGd reported that the Forum had £3,400 in its account, and that we need at least £2,000 pa to scrape by. BWm had agreed to approach various bodies re funding and JGd said he would remind him. Feelers should be put out to the Council, perhaps initially to Robert Wellburn who should be able to advise re three key questions on Community Infrastructure Levy:-

1. Is the Forum getting the CIL it is entitled to? (If we now get 25% of H&P CIL money, does that bar H&P sharing any CIL proceeds from the rest of the borough?)
2. Who decides how H&P’s CIL money is spent, ie what the Forum’s role?
3. Can H&P’s CIL money be used for Forum running expenses?

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 26th February at 7.30pm at Ham Library – if required.