

Minutes of Meeting Held at Arden Academy on 09.03.2016

Present: Ian Fisher (IF, Acting Chair), Karen Allen, Tony Aykroyd, Chris Baker, David Brown, John Cooper, David Eastwood, Geoffrey Evans, Judith Evans, Amy Fallis, David Green, Roger Halford, Lis Hedley, John Huke, Bryan Hunt, Louisa Jakeman, Graham Jones, Ian Kay, Bill Lally, Steve Lyle, William Majary, Millie Majary, Roger Marshall, Michael Martin, Tony McLelland, Cllr Ken Meeson, Jean Moon, Tony Moon, Cllr Jeff Potts, Alistair Ramsey, Jill Ramsey, Ian Tait, David Talbot, Lynda Talbot, Roger Thorpe, Andy Todd, Martin Trentham, Graham Vanhouse, Phil Vine, David Wallis, Jim Zorro

Apologies: Jane Aykroyd, Martin Murphy, Gill Griggs, David Fraley
Apologies received from a number of members, including Cllrs Holl-Allen and Rebeiro

1. Agenda Item 1 - Chair's Update

Jane Aykroyd sends her apologies due to family commitments (the first meeting she has missed). IF, as Acting Chair, provided the update below.

Youth Forum: Our headline tonight is sharing outcomes from our Young People's visioning session back at the start of February. We welcome Amy Fallis, who presented to the Steering Committee last week to great acclaim. The young people of KDBH really have given us something to live up to, as we, in turn, now start the conversation about what we hope, want and need for the future of our Area. This feedback is very timely, as our next Open Community Event after Easter is all about creating a vision for our Area through to 2033 - more of which later.

Residents' Survey: We have made excellent progress in our search for a survey supplier. We count ourselves fortunate in having found a not-for-profit provider who will work 'at cost', using shared resources from Stratford Council. This is a great result, which our team leading the survey work should be justly proud of. It comes on the back of in-depth market research undertaken during January to identify two 'best fit' potential providers. We received two excellent responses and thank both suppliers for their high level of interest. In the end, our choice of supplier essentially came down to cost. We learned a lot in the process, which we are now putting to good use as we start survey design - more of which in Item 3.

Grant Application: With survey costs now known, we have been able to finalise, and are progressing, our grant application for Apr - Sept 2016. The major cost items are the survey, and two Open Community Events. Distribution of leaflets to every household would be an additional cost and, at over £1,100, the biggest single item of expenditure. Before committing to this, therefore, we want to explore the possibility of this activity being carried out by a team of volunteers drawn from the wider membership – particularly as a number of members have already offered to help distribute information. Could we please ask you to add your name to the list available tonight if you are willing to hand-deliver a batch of leaflets in May 2016. Thank you.

(Could anyone not at the meeting but wanting to offer their time please contact us by e-mail at membership@kdbh-np.org)

Call for Sites: We will have an update on the 'Call for Sites' in Item 5. Some information is already starting to come into the public domain and generating debate. However, we should avoid getting overly distracted at this early stage. SMBC do not expect to be in a position to identify specific sites for possible further consideration (following their more detailed evaluation of growth options) until late summer or autumn. Spending too much time now discussing sites that may never be taken forward would be counter productive - remembering that the vast majority of sites considered for the 2012 Local Plan were not taken up.

In due course, we are planning to hold a community 'Developer Day', when anyone offering land for development will be invited to talk through their proposal.

So in summary, we must stay focused on our current priorities, which are: 1) Create a 'vision' for the future of our Area; and 2) Get the residents' survey underway.

In response to questions from Forum members, IF:

- confirmed that the merits or otherwise of the Arden Triangle, or any other, proposal have not been discussed by the Forum Steering Committee - although we are aware generally of a number of proposals (see item 5 below)
- outlined the programme for the forthcoming Community Open days on 20th and 24th April (see Item 3 below)
- agreed that some aspects of the website need updating, and that this will be addressed (prioritising the huge workload since January has been extremely challenging).

2. **Agenda Item 2: Taking Inspiration from our Young People – Outcomes of Visioning Event**

Amy Fallis gave a presentation summarising what happened at, and outcomes from, the event held in the Solihull Council Chamber on 1st February. Over eighty school children from the KDBH Area, aged between seven and seventeen, attended. The event was designed to capture our Young People's vision for the Area, giving them the opportunity to identify what they felt to be key areas for improvement and development, and to write their own vision statements. Themes identified were affordable housing, more facilities for young people and greater safety and security in relation to open spaces and transport.

Given the high level of enthusiasm and on-going interest generated, we need to actively plan to build upon this excellent start and continue to involve our young people going forward.

Amy's final report and presentation will be added to the KDBH website.

(This has now been done as a new 'Youth Forum' page under the 'Focus Groups' menu option.)

3. **Agenda Item 3: Next Community Open Event 20th and 24th April 2016**

IF outlined the purpose and format of these events (details still being finalised). The interactive sessions start the process of building a vision for the future of our Area through to 2033 (ie. similar to the Youth Event just discussed). The vision will then provide a 'frame of reference' against which we, as a community, can start thinking about the key objectives, priorities, and policies for our Neighbourhood Plan.

We are gearing up another major publicity campaign to generate maximum coverage of, and interest in, these events. We will again be using many different avenues locally to publicise both the visioning sessions and the survey - as we did previously for our Launch in November 2015.

The Focus Groups are preparing material on a number of key themes emerging from research and community feedback to date. We will make this material available to members in advance of the Open Event, and also use it to create posters for display stands. The timing of the event allows us to refine our survey, if appropriate, before launch – ie. making sure we get the most out of the survey.

4. **Agenda Item 4: Update on Residents' Survey**

The two companies selected from our market research were MEL and Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC). Following in-depth interviews, both were considered very able to do the job. Both use the Mercator 'Snap Professional' software for on-line survey creation and analysis. In summary:

- David Chong Ping, MEL: Keen to support due to local connections and willing to give some 'personal time'. A private sector organisation with a proven track record in the type of survey we require. Very professional quotation. An organisation possibly more geared to larger (more costly) projects due to day rate costs – for which reason perhaps a little 'over qualified' for our needs. Basic survey price = £3025, Infographic Report = £530, extra meetings = £50/hr + £10 travelling cost
- Simon Purfield, Stratford-on-Avon District Council: 25 years' experience in market research, the past 14 being with Stratford D.C. Local experience through surveys for Chadwick End and Hockley Heath. Provided many other examples of directly relevant material. Responded well to specific queries raised in our briefing paper. Given the Local Council link / background, probably more suited to our particular needs in this case. Basic survey price = £1150, Detailed Report = £660

Having reviewed both proposals, the Steering Committee unanimously agreed to instruct Simon Purfield of Stratford DC.

Our goal is to submit a first draft of questions to Simon by the end of March, with a view to the survey being launched in mid May. Our major publicity campaign in April and May will cover both the Community Open (Visioning) Events and the Residents' Survey.

We will distribute a leaflet confirming when the survey will be launched, and how to complete it, to all 7,700 households in our Area. Both MEL and SDC emphasised that, given the large size of our Area (19,000+ people), an on-line survey is the only viable way to manage within sensible costs. We will, however, ensure that paper copies are available at various sites around the Area for those without access to a computer, ensuring that no-one is excluded. Content of paper surveys will be independently entered online by the team at Stratford Council.

(An added advantage of an on-line survey is that it makes analysis much easier and quicker. We therefore hope to hold another Open Event to provide feedback on the findings either just prior to, or soon after, the summer holidays.)

All of which means that, by the time SMBC come back to us following their further deliberations on growth options, we should have both an overall 'vision' and the more detailed survey findings in place.

5. **Agenda Item 5: New Housing Development**

The submission deadline for SMBC's 'Call for Sites' was 22nd January. However, our understanding is that offers of land are still being received, and that this is likely to continue. We anticipate receiving more information on this in 3-4 weeks' time.

Until SMBC have reviewed what has come forward through the Call for Sites with independent consultants, there is little point in us investigating further (noting that, at the last housing review for the 2012 Local Plan, the majority of submissions did not meet SMBC's criteria for future development.)

In the meantime, we have responded to developers' requests for meetings and received outline information on some potential sites directly from landowners / developers. Sites include: 4 in Knowle, 2 in Dorridge and 1 in Bentley Heath - in total involving around 2,000 new homes.

6. **Agenda Item 6: London Midland (Rail) Franchise Consultation**

This franchise is up for renewal in October 2017. An on-line consultation is available, for completion by individuals or groups by 22nd March 2016.

7. **Agenda Item 7: Focus Group Highlights.**

a) Housing:-

We were pleased to have a local estate agent as guest speaker at the last Housing Group meeting, who provided useful insights on housing needs in the Area for both home ownership and renting.

The team's focus is now on creating survey questions.

b) Learning and Community Facilities:-

Again, the current emphasis is on creating survey questions.

c) Transport and Infrastructure:-

Solihull MBC is currently reviewing Rights of Way. An on-line survey is available on the SMBC website for anyone wishing to express their views.

8. Agenda Item 8: Membership Update

12 new members have joined the Forum. Using our newly-developed mapping skills, we have mapped the location of members by postcode across the Area and produced a picture of this. We are pleased to see that this now shows we have a good spread of members across the three villages. We will include the map on our website.

(This has now been done and can be found as 'Membership Map' under the 'Forum' menu tab.)

A suggestion from members attending was that we could include a link to the web Membership page in a future e-mail to members. This would then make it easy for members to forward details on to friends and family, should they choose - a good way of increasing awareness and growing membership.

ACTION: IF to incorporate a membership web page link in the next e-mail to members.

9. Agenda Item 9: Treasurer's Update – Grant Application

We estimate that planned activities from Apr – Sep 2016 will incur costs of c. £5-6k (depending on whether we need to include distribution costs). This covers expenditure on the two Open Events and the survey, together with printing, publicity, insurance etc.

That's a big chunk from what we expect to be a total grant funding available (through to finalisation of the Plan and referendum) of £14K. However, we do expect this stage to be the most intensive, due in particular to the cost of publicity to maximise awareness and involvement from the outset, and the need to contact every household / individual in the Area.

10. Agenda Item 10: Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting

There were no comments on the notes from the last meeting. Update on actions arising:

- Lis Hedley confirmed the change of Directors has been registered at Companies House.
- Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a new members session in advance of this meeting. We will, however, look to hold one in advance of the next Forum meeting

11. Agenda Item 11: AOB

None.

12. Agenda Item 12: Confirm Date and Focus of Next Meeting

The next Open Forum meeting will be on **Wednesday 13th April**, 7-9.30pm, at Arden School.

We aim for this to be both interesting and fun, as a preview and preparatory session for the Community Open (Visioning) Events on 20 and 24 April. A date for your diaries!