

West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum Committee meeting minutes

Location: Zoom teleconference
Date: 10 February 2021
Time: 7.00pm
Attendees: Wade Pollard (Chair), Sally Cantello, Keith Creswell, Emma Davis, Stewart Dick, Chris Dougherty, Penny Hoskyn, Ian McAtamney, Roland Nevett, Dharma Sivarajasingham, Bob Tilley, Richard Thomas
Apologies:
Gary Elson, Amanda Boote, Mary Bridgman (Councillors - all attending WBC meeting)
Observer: Nigel Badham

Agenda items

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Redesignation of the Forum
4. Woking Infrastructure Study - Discussion
5. Rec Ground Concept Plan (Community Hall) - update
6. WB Village Centre Redevelopment Liaison Group - update
7. Public space vision - Discussion
8. AOB - Planning applications

ITEM NO:

1. Apologies were received as above.
2. The Minutes of the 13 January 2021 meeting were approved.

Action: ED to upload in pdf format onto the website. SC and WP to sign printed copy.

3. Redesignation of the Forum

PH reported that the redesignation proposal will be discussed at a Full Committee meeting of WBC on 11 February 2021.

4. Woking Infrastructure Study - Discussion

It was noted that 2739 residents signed a petition requesting WBC to withdraw the SADPD and submit a new plan. This was discussed at a planning meeting on 3 December 2020 and rejected. However Councillors Barker and Assad moved an amendment that WBC should undertake an infrastructure study for the East Woking area to ensure that infrastructure requirements of any new development are met. SD reported this was subsequently approved at a WBC council meeting two weeks ago. The

study will be based on a 2018 study which itself was based on a 2016 study. The Committee was of the opinion that no new development should go ahead until this study has been completed. It was noted that the timetable for the study is demanding, with transport, education, flooding and health to be completed by end April 2021 and the remainder by August 2021. It was also noted that the current Director of Planning is retiring and a new one to be appointed on 12 April. Furthermore it was noted that the study is now to encompass the whole of the Borough, making the proposed timetable unlikely to be met.

It was noted that the three Forums of the area and the Residents Association will be consulted in the study which will give these bodies a chance to put forward local infrastructure needs, although this will be late in the consultation period.

Action: WP to ask Fiona Syrett (Byfleet NF) and Andy Grimshaw (Pyrford NF) how they intend to approach their contribution to this study.

RN suggested we approach WBC to see how they intend to use the study and how it is likely to influence development in the area.

Action: WP to ask GE to give the committee an idea of this.

5. Rec Ground Concept Plan (Community Hall) - update

SC and KC updated the committee on the status of plans for the Community Hall which had been further developed using information gathered by PH, WP and DS on community facilities in Pyrford, Horsell, Cobham and Chobham.

SC noted that a new village hall development in Yorkshire had been the subject of a RIBA architecture competition funded by the then Housing and Communities Agency, as reported by Liz Leese.

Actions: SC to contact Liz Leese for more information on architecture competitions and their potential relevance to this proposal. ED to do similar.

KC and IM agreed that more debate is needed on the possible location of a Community Hall as no site offers a perfect solution.

KC suggested the Committee ask GE to check that WBC is still in favour of such a development, given the changes happening at top level in the council, and also if it would be prepared to resource such a project as the Forum does not have the means to do so.

Action: WP to contact GE.

PH reminded members that if a site for a Community Centre could be agreed on soon the necessary car parking could be laid out straight away and used as a substitute for the spaces that will disappear while Sheer House is redeveloped.

6. WB Village Centre Redevelopment Liaison Group - update

It was reported that the Sheer House Complex Reserved Matters planning application will go before the WBC Planning Committee on 6 April. A firm date for the start of demolition has not yet been agreed, although late spring/early summer is likely. Demolition will take c 6 months and the build a further two years after that.

IM noted that there are still issues with the proposed balconies, both in terms of their appearance and their possible oversailing of public space on Lavender Park Road. IM noted that Historic England have expressed dissatisfaction with the plans. WP noted that there was little activity on the relevant Facebook pages about the proposals.

Actions: WP to add a post to the Forum Facebook page reminding residents of the cut-off date for comments on the application but that comments will still be received by WBC up until the planning meeting date.

IM to raise at the Liaison group whether some aspects of the planning application can be approved and some not - or is the decision 'all or nothing'. Also to raise an objection to the balconies, particularly those overlooking Byfleet Corner, and Historic England's issues.

NB noted that he would expect to see more concrete commitment to energy efficiency from the developer. He noted that planners should be pushing commitment to sustainable building at this stage of development when planning permission is being sought.

7. Public space vision - Discussion

Members gave their opinions on KC's working document on the Public Space Vision for West Byfleet. There was discussion about the various traffic calming/closure proposals put forward for the Camphill Road/Old Woking Road junction. It was agreed that SCC will be required to investigate such proposals if these were to go ahead.

WP thanked KC for his work on the vision.

8. AOB - Planning applications

It was agreed that RN and WP keep an eye on the application from Domus on Sheerwater Road for demolition and the development of flats and review the next stage in the application.

There was no news on the Woodlands application.

Date of next meeting:

Note: In 2021 meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month. Next meeting Wednesday 10 March @7pm - full WBNF meeting via Zoom. **DS to send invitations.**