

West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum Committee meeting minutes

Location: Zoom teleconference
Date: 10 March 2021
Time: 7.00pm
Attendees: Wade Pollard (Chair), Nigel Badham (new member), Sally Cantello, Keith Creswell, Stewart Dick, Penny Hoskyn, Ian McAtamney, Roland Nevett, Dharma Sivarajasingham, Bob Tilley
Gary Elson (Councillor)
Apologies:
Emma Davis, Richard Thomas
Amanda Boote, Mary Bridgman (Councillors)

Agenda items

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. WB Village Centre Redevelopment Liaison Group - update prior to 6 April planning meeting
4. Redesignation of the Forum
5. Woking Infrastructure Study - Discussion
6. NCIL - spending update
7. Planning applications.
8. Rec Ground Concept Plan (Community Centre) - Discussion

ITEM NO:

1. Apologies were received as above.
2. The Minutes of the 10 February 2021 meeting were approved.

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

3. WB Village Centre Redevelopment Liaison Group - update prior to 6 April planning meeting

SD and WP reported on the meeting of this group on 8 March. NB reminded the Committee that the redevelopment of the Sheer House Complex offers an opportunity for WBC to respond to the climate emergency and do something up front to tackle climate change. That opportunity should be seized at planning stage i.e. now.

IM stated that RVG have altered the plans, with the proposed building line on Station Approach retreating 45cm so as not to encroach on the highway. SC noted that Keeble Brown promised they are preparing a document about the balconies for public distribution.

The next meeting of the liaison group is 25 March. It was discussed whether the Forum should write a letter to the WBC Planning Committee supporting the RVG scheme but as a consensus could not be reached on this, it was agreed that the committee should consider the Reserved Matters application to see if it complies with the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and bring any considerations or concerns up at the 25 March meeting of the Liaison group.

Action: WP to let Keeble Brown know we wish to do this.

4. Redesignation of the Forum

PH reported that the redesignation proposal was discussed at a Full Committee meeting of WBC on 11 February 2021 and has been approved with the result that the Forum is redesignated from that date. PH mentioned that an article appeared in the local paper to this effect. The Committee thanked PH for her work in pursuing the redesignation.

5. Woking Infrastructure Study - Discussion

It was noted that the WBC team under Ernest Amoko is doing the research for this study now and engaging with communities about their infrastructure requirements. They are basing this on the 2018 infrastructure delivery plan but RN reminded the committee that this work itself is based on the core policy of 2012 which gets its data from even earlier. GE reminded us that there has been no census to base research on since 2011 and hence population data is out of date.

SD said that SCC have done outstanding work on education needs and health and suggested that WBC should use it as a blueprint. GE confirmed that the focus of the study is on the East of the Borough.

WP stated that there are currently 2 HIF bids (Housing Infrastructure Funds) in the area that could impact on local infrastructure needs, which involve the building of the following numbers of homes: Woking 4000; Ottershaw/Chertsey 3000 (Runnymede); Guildford 2500 (Wisley airfield). It was suggested that WBC will also need to assess the infrastructure needs of these developments. GE suggested that the Forum should ask questions early in this work about the possible effects of new developments, including the HIF bids.

Action: GE to keep the committee updated on the IDP prior to its formal consultation.

WP noted that the Forum and the Residents Association chairs (WP and SD) are currently working on the health and education aspects of the study. Andy Grimshaw of Pyrford NF is working on transport/roads and Fiona Syrett of Byfleet NF on water/flooding.

GE mentioned that an idea for updating the Sports Pavilion on the Rec has been proposed to the Surrey Community Fund but no-one appears to be taking it forward at present. He suggested that the Forum could push for something to be done to the building as it must be hazardous in its current state but that no funding appears to be currently allocated to such a project.

SC asked that, if WBC does go ahead with refurbishing the building, the results of the work carried out by Forum members on recreation ground users' needs be taken into account.

6. NCIL - spending update

It was noted that current levels of Receipts of NCIL monies total £617,740.02. Agreed spending accounts for £10,347.36 of this (of which c£1600 is already expensed) and £1,594.68 has been spent so far on benches and picnic tables for the Rec, close to the play area, and on village signs. The football wall has been demolished and the area around it will be returfed.

The remaining Balance is £605,797.97

7. Planning applications

RN updated the committee on the status of the planning application for a development on the corner of Woodlands Avenue. WBC has recommended approval of the application even though nothing material appears to have changed. A decision will be made on 16 March. Local residents against the scheme have asked the Forum and RA to support their objection; SD will check the inspector's report before agreeing to do this as no-one else has objected to the latest proposal. It was noted that the Forum's previous objection to the application (based on its possible effect on the adjacent space designated as Local Green Space by the Neighbourhood Plan) no longer applied as the proposed building had been moved further away from the boundary.

8. Rec Ground Concept Plan (Community Centre) - discussion

SC reported that she is discussing the idea of a RIBA design competition for the building with Liz Leese.

KC stressed again that the proposal needs the backing of WBC as the Forum does not have the resources to take such a project forward on its own. It is also important to know how the NCIL process will impact on this. It was suggested that the Committee needs to speak to local councillors about this to get their backing but will need to wait until after local elections to take this forward.

Date of next meeting:

Note: In 2021 meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month. Next meeting Wednesday 14 April @7pm - full WBNF meeting via Zoom. **DS to send invitations.**