

West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum Committee meeting minutes

Location: Zoom teleconference
Date: 9 June 2021
Time: 7.00pm
Attendees: Wade Pollard (Chair), Nigel Badham, Sally Cantello, Mike Corbett, Keith Creswell, Emma Davis, Stewart Dick, Penny Hoskyn, Ian McAtamney, Roland Nevett, Bob Tilley
Apologies: Dharma Sivarajasingham, Richard Thomas, Chris Dougherty
Josh Brown, Amanda Boote, Mary Bridgman, Steve Dorsett, Gary Elson (Councillors)

Agenda items

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Village Centre development Liaison Group - update from 7 June meeting
4. Community Centre - update
5. Community Energy - update
6. Recreation Ground - report on meeting on 1 June
7. NCIL - reply from WBC
8. AOB

ITEM NO:

1. Apologies were received as above.
2. The Minutes of the 12 May 2021 meeting were approved subject to minor amendments.

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

3. Village Centre development Liaison Group - update from 7 June meeting

SD reported a number of points from the meeting:

- The Sheer House complex car park will close on 31 August. As yet there is no confirmation that the station car park will be available at the same rates to the public as WBC is still in discussion with South Western Railway.
- SCC is seeking accommodation for the library and may be taking a unit on Rosemount Avenue. It is understood that this will include car parking.
- Keeble Brown and RVG shared a timeline of events for demolition and construction. The asbestos will be fully removed by 18 June. The tower will start to go by 21 June, demolition

should be completed by October and the contractor to start work Nov/Dec 21. Up to 90% of the waste material will be recycled. An article about this will shortly appear in 'The Resident'. Keeble Brown will publicise the timeline to all residents.

- There will be community art on the hoardings round the site, produced by students from Woking College. This will involve cordoning off part of the car park for the artists to work in safely.
- RVG have applied for permission to have the message "Goodbye Sheer House, Hello West Byfleet" on the Monoflex plastic protective sheeting on the scaffolding.
- The three large concrete planters are to be saved and moved by RVG to positions on the station forecourt and one in the station. The local WB gardening group will tend these.

PH asked for the subject of the community noticeboards to be brought up at the next liaison meeting as these are currently inaccessible.

Action: WP to bring up in the July meeting.

KC stated that the Byfleet Heritage Society have asked for photos of the demolition for the historic record. SD said that Keeble Brown have photographs that will be made available.

4. Community Centre - update

WP reported that he had received a reply from Julie Fisher's office saying that she had noted the points in the letter and will pass it on to the relevant officials.

Action: WP to ask Councillors to pursue this on our behalf.

5. Community Energy - update

SC reported on the local Community Energy group that is investigating the possibility of a solar farm on the site of the disused Camphill Road tip, joint owned by WBC and Byfleet United Charity (BUC). She noted that the Energy Cooperative Energy4All were potentially interested and discussions are ongoing with them and BUC.

RN noted that BUC are planning a 28 bed complex in Camphill Road which could be a potential single customer for the electricity (making the scheme more commercially viable than multiple customers), as could be the proposed Community Centre.

6. Recreation Ground - report on meeting on 1 June

PH reported on a meeting to address the Antisocial behaviour (ASB) on the Rec, particularly in summer 2020. Attendees included the Head of local Police, council officials responsible for public spaces, WBC Youth Support Officer, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, local Councillors and an official from the Lawn Tennis Association.

Discussion was about what improvements could be made to the Rec to keep young people from getting involved in ASB. Suggestions, based on interviews with 30 local young people, included benches, places to meet, a circular path, toilets, pop-up café, the reinstatement of the tennis courts.

These suggestions will be investigated by WBC.

The committee agreed that the repairs to the Pavilion are a priority and we need an update on these. It was understood that Aaron Henderson is getting quotes for repairs to the cladding.

Action: SD to check with GE who we need to press on this.

It was reported that WBC intend to renovate the tennis courts to a high standard with floodlights etc and make WB second only to Woking for tennis, with funding from the LTA for two of the proposed four courts. The committee questioned whether this is the right approach to prevent ASB, preferring a less expensive low-tech option of basic courts with permanent nets and no lighting, that people can access easily, not through a booking system. It was noted that the basketball court is well used.

IM requested that we push for outdoor exercise equipment, as per the 123 list already prepared by the Forum and shared with WBC.

Action: WP to draft a list of the committee's proposals to send to the group and check this with the committee before sending.

7. NCIL - reply from WBC

SD has prepared on a note on this with the conclusion that no CIL will be taken away from the Forum.

WBC was not clear whether the developer of Marshall's parade in Pyrford has paid his CIL but it is understood that the legal obligation to pay it will pass on to the new owners once sold, thereby impacting on the price of each unit, and the legal obligation to collect it is with WBC, not the Neighbourhood Forum.

It was noted that planning permission was granted to the flats next to Costa in WB before the Neighbourhood Forum came into existence, so there will be no NCIL from their developer.

8. AOB

The planning application for Phoenix House was discussed. MC stated that the application meets all planning requirements so there is no reason for the council to refuse it. Although it does not meet the Neighbourhood Plan's requirements for parking it meets those of WBC (19 proposed vs 13 required by WBC). It was stated that the owner may be using the application to establish the principle for converting to residential use. The committee agreed it would prefer a new building than converting the existing office space into flats and would prefer it not to be for elderly accommodation as there will be 200 age-constrained units in Sheer House development and 76 in Broadoaks Park.

Action: WP to have a conversation with the site's owner who lives locally to ask about his intentions for the site and state the Forum's preferences for its development.

Changes to Planning law: it was understood that the 'Homes for the Future' Bill is unlikely to be in Parliament in the autumn as opposition to this is building within the government's base. MC stated that planners generally believe the major moves will be watered down. It was agreed to keep an eye on the process and consider the local implications of any further development in the proposed legislation.

Date of next meeting:

Note: In 2021 meetings will be on the second Wednesday of each month.

Next meeting Wednesday 14 July @6pm - this to be a social event with partners invited. **WP to send invitations.**