

Inaugural meeting of Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

held in the Large Hall Woodford Community Centre
at 7:30 pm on Monday 10th June 2013

Present :

Mr Robin Berriman, Mr Stephen Taylor, Mr Terry Barnes, Dr David Buszard, Mrs Helen Buszard, Mr Colin Griffin, Mrs Maxine Wood, Ms Dorothy Chesterman, Ms Jane Sandover, Mr Alan Bramwell, Mr Robin Brammar, Mr Ron Beatham

Apologies were received from :

Mr Roger Burton, Ms Evelyn Frearson, Mrs Morag White, Cllr Bryan Leck, Mr Paul Rodman, Mr Ken Coxe (and later from Ms J Craig)

Dr David Buszard initially took the chair and summarised the benefits of evolving the role in which Woodford United has been so effective into that of a Neighbourhood Forum which as a recognised and statutory body would be better able to influence future proposals affecting the community and indeed potentially develop policy in the form of an Area Plan which, following a local referendum and adoption, SMBC would have to take into consideration within their own planning policies. The applications already submitted for both the Forum and Neighbourhood Area are now publicised for consultation until 5pm on Thursday 18th July 2013. Although acceptance of these applications cannot not be ratified by a full Stockport Council meeting until mid September, and therefore the Forum is limited in activities until then, much can be done in preparation, consultation, public awareness, and grant funding applications. For these and other reasons the Forum "structure", Management Committee, Officers and various roles needed to be established.

1) Election of Management Committee.

By default, the supporters of the applications comprise the initial membership of the proposed Forum. It had been recognised that not all members would be able to attend this meeting, however the opportunity had been given for them to submit their names for election onto the Management Committee beforehand. Consideration of circumstances and other commitments dictated that not all supporters, be they an individual or representing local businesses, wished to put their names forward, but their role has been appreciated and they should be thanked for helping us to progress. All who wished their names to be put forward and named below were elected by those present onto the Management Committee until a Forum AGM.

Mr Robin Berriman, Mr Stephen Taylor, Mr Terry Barnes, Dr David Buszard, Mrs Helen Buszard, Mr Colin Griffin, Mrs Maxine Wood, Ms Dorothy Chesterman, Ms Jane Sandover, Mr Alan Bramwell, Mr Robin Brammar, Mr Roger Burton, Ms Evelyn Frearson, Cllr Bryan Leck, Mr Paul Rodman

The representatives from WWMCC and WCC will be subsequently nominated by their own independent organisations.

Unfortunately Mr K. Coxe was unable to attend at the last moment and it was agreed that if he wished he would be considered for membership of the Management Committee at a future meeting.

2) Election of Officers

The newly formed Management Committee elected Mr S. Taylor (proposed by Mrs H. Buszard, seconded by Mr R Berriman) to the position of Chairman. (all in favour)

Mr R Berriman (proposed by Mr S. Taylor, seconded by Dr D Buszard) was elected to the role of Treasurer. (all in favour)

There are currently no nominees for the role of Secretary and this post remains temporarily unfilled.

These positions together with the representatives of WWMCC and WCC comprise the Executive Committee charged with day to day running of the Forum.

Mr S Taylor then took the Chair

3) Mr John Knight and Mr Paul Goodman were co-opted onto the Management Committee. It is recognised that should Chargeable Professional Services be involved which may constitute a conflict of interest, then both the Committee and individuals would be free to review the position without prejudice.

4) It was agreed to open a bank account in the name of The Woodford Neighbourhood Forum.

5) It was agreed to investigate and apply for grant funding.

6) Discussion took place regarding the best way to proceed with an Area Plan. This need not be restricted to our own Neighbourhood Area. There exists the opportunity of a cross boundary Combined Plan Area including parts or all of both Poynton and Adlington who are equally considering the most effective approach. We already have representation on a joint working party committee with them. It is essential that we co-operate, work and co-ordinate with the neighbouring Parishes in Cheshire East. It was considered that in view of the various stages and statuses which we were all at that we may best proceed by initially associating our Area Plan to our Neighbourhood Area, but offer co-opted places to representatives from these authorities onto the Management Committee on a quid pro quo basis when each of them have their own structures in place. This would allow us to proceed at a commensurate pace whilst being able to jigsaw our plans together. Should the progress of the individual plans converge then we would be better placed to review our position. The purpose of this co-operation is that we understand the problems and implications of actions or determinations upon each other and are better placed to mitigate or benefit from them. Ultimately any Area Plan is consulted upon and put to a referendum where a majority vote by the residents within that Area determines acceptance or otherwise.

7) A number of subgroups were suggested. Each would be small but have a lead member. Public statements would have to be cleared by the Executive but they would have a greater element of autonomy and effectively take ownership of individual projects. Not all need to be established at present although understandably the communications team is one of the first priorities and it was agreed that a leaflet drop be made to publicise the consultation period and role of a Forum. WCC would also be circulating information via their e-news letter. The finance team would also be preparing a grant application. The team members or individual preferences are yet to be determined, but to give some idea and at least a starter for some projects there is an appendix at the end of the minutes.

8) The Forum has an email address woodfordnf@gmail.com . Whilst this is now registered, it is currently reserved for communications such as the grant applications who require this facility. Consideration is going to be given to the most efficient way of reporting and communicating with each other now that our committee structure is established.

9) A number of the committee had attended a SEMMMs presentation during the afternoon. Much of what was shown had already been available at previous exhibitions although responses to the consultation were now consolidated. We were advised that it was to be a design and build project. The time scale given was for a planning application to be submitted in September 2013, ground breaking to commence late 2014, and completion to be 2017. All residents had been sent further documentation relating to the second SEMMMs consultation period and it was hoped that they would send in positive responses and support for the project. The committee agreed that it would endeavour to promote responses, but recognised areas of concern such as operating procedure, working times, cleanliness and access which do not as yet appear to have been adequately addressed, and it is recommended that we monitor the situation.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm

Appendix showing suggested groups and objectives

Group		Brief Overview	Of Activities		Lead Member
Communications Team	Media, PR, Arrange Contacts	Surveys	Newsletters and Leaflets	Internet	
Finance Team	Grants	Sponsorship	Business Relationships		Treasurer
Community Relations Team	Local Organisations	Clubs	Scouts and Schools		
Transport Team	SEMMMS	Poynton Bypass	Public Transport	Local links to Rail and shops etc	
Facilities Management Team	Medical	Schooling	Recreational	Environmental issues	
Compliance Team	SPD Monitoring	Operational procedure monitoring	Planning Applications		
Steering Group	Developer Relations	Site Owners	Legal Issues	Monitoring Activities of Sub Groups	Chair
	Authority Relations	SMBC	Cheshire East	Local Neighbouring Parishes and Committees	
Area Plan Team	Create Team Including Co-opted Experts and Exec	Compilation of findings from Sub Groups.	Definition of Objectives and Check for Compliance with Legislation	Public Exhibition and Submission to SMBC	Chair
	Day to Day Operation	Each Group to Define required "jobs". Steering Group may also Direct some of the Objectives	Each Group to be responsible for activities Reporting at Committee Meetings	Steering Group Check on Public Statements and Activities	
	A member of the Steering group should attend Sub Group Meetings but not necessarily be Lead Member	Steering Group Rep to Liaise with other Exec Members			