



Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of the 2nd Annual General Meeting

Held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015 8pm
Small Hall Woodford Community Centre

Attendance

WNF management committee members: Mr Terry Barnes, Ms Evelyn Frearson, Mrs Judith Craig, Mr Paul Rodman, Mr Bryan Leck, Mr Paul Goodman, Mr John Knight, Mrs Dorothy Chesterman, Mr Ron Beatham, Mr Alan Bramwell, Mrs Maxine Wood, Mr Nigel Hancock, Mr Roger Burton

Current WNF members: Brenda Mercer, Kris Hayward, Ann Hancock, Jane Shadbolt, Colin Shadbolt, Andrew Freeth, Len Evans, Mary Law, Geoff Law, Neville Deauville, John A Cooke, Stephen Mole

New members joining at this meeting: Dave Kettlewell, Louise Shaw, Morag White, Barbara Hill, James Wilson,

Other Woodford residents and residents of neighbouring communities. June Kirwin, Derek Morton, Keith Stott, Pat Storer, Ken Coxey, M Kingsley

Guests: None

Total number attending: 36

1. Chairman's Welcome

Terry Barnes (TB) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum (WNF).

2. Apologies for Absence

WNF committee members: Mr Robin Berriman, Ms Jane Sandover, Mrs Helen Buszard, Mr David Buszard

3. Chairman's Report

Terry Barnes welcomed everybody to the 2nd AGM. Terry explained that the meeting will explain the Forum's activities over the past year. TB called upon John Knight (JK) to present the introduction.

JK explained that he is a non-resident of Woodford and lives in Macclesfield. He is a chartered town planner and worked as a Planning Officer for Macclesfield Borough Council and then Cheshire East Council. He retired in 2010 and then was asked to advise on the closure of the BAe. Through that he came into contact with various borough and local councils, including WCC.

In 2010, the Conservative/Lib Dem government produced the coalition agreement which embodies the first ideas around localism, giving locals more power in local planning. From there the Localism Act was produced. Don Foster MP and Andrew Stunnel, MP for Macclesfield, were very keen on local planning and wanted to see whether redevelopment of the aerodrome would be an opportunity for localism. This resulted in Stephen Taylor embarking on the project to establish a Neighbourhood Forum in Woodford.

Stephen Taylor was a borough councillor in SMBC and sat in planning committees and as result was familiar with planning at a local level Stephen Taylor, Robin Berriman and John Knight worked together on the application for a Forum which was established in 2013. It was a disappointment that the Aerodrome was excluded. JK showed the map of Woodford Parish outlining the Neighbourhood Area and the excluded Aerodrome site. He explained that there is a hole in the area covered by neighbourhood plans because Poynton, Adlington and Woodford are all preparing neighbourhood plans which cover the whole of this area apart from the Aerodrome site.

JK pointed out that the Forum has certain rights under the Localism Act and details can be found on the internet.

TB thanked JK and went on to explain that membership of the Forum now stands at 72. A major current task is the construction of the Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, members of the Forum participate in regular liaison meetings with Redrow. There is concern about potential development at Handforth and the Forum is represented at the Examination of the Cheshire East Council local plan, which will be starting again in October. TB explained that we also liaise with Poynton and Adlington councils regarding matters of mutual concern, such as A6MARR and roadworks in the general area. A combined voice is much stronger than just Woodford's alone.

TB noted that work at the East gate of the Aerodrome site on the new roundabout will commence soon. WNF is liaising with Redrow and SMBC about this.

TB explained that the WNF Plan group is led by Roger Burton and the team has been working very hard and indeed continues to do so.

TB gave special thanks to our professional advisors Paul Goodman and John Knight, and to Evelyn Frearson, the Forum's Hon Sec, for the enormous amount of work she puts into the running of the Forum.

4. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes had been circulated around Forum members by email prior to the meeting. Approval was proposed by Brenda Mercer and Seconded by Kris Hayward and accepted unanimously by the attendees.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report had been circulated around Forum members by email prior to the meeting. TB reported that Robin Berriman, the Treasurer, was unable to attend but Forum members needed to approve his report which was available in the room and read out by the chairman. A typographical error was pointed out by a member of the audience. The Chairman agreed that this would be corrected and explained that only Forum members could vote. Approval with the amendment was proposed by Paul Rodman and seconded by Kris Hayward, a show of hands indicated approval and there were no objections.

6. Election of Committee Members

TB called upon Evelyn Frearson to explain the election of committee members.

EF pointed out on the slide the names of the committee members who had served during the last year and the nominations for committee membership this year as follows:

Nominations for 2015

Terry Barnes
Evelyn Frearson
Robin Berriman
Alan Bramwell
Roger Burton
Helen Buszard
Dorothy Chesterman
Bryan Leck
Paul Rodman
Jane Sandover
Maxine Wood
Nigel Hancock
Janet De Vecchis
Doreen Roberts
Morag White
Ron Beatham
David Buszard WCC Rep
Jude Craig WWMCC Rep
Paul Goodman Co-opted Expert
John Knight Co-opted Expert

EF explained that there are two representatives from WCC and WWMCC, respectively, who are nominated by their respective organisations. There are also two co-opted experts. The rest of the nominees are elected at this AGM. Kris Hayward proposed and Brenda Mercer seconded the election of the nominees presented and there were no objections from the floor.

7. Update on Woodford Aerodrome Development

TB called upon Paul Rodman (PR), Chair of WCC, to present an update on the Redrow development.

PR explained that Harrow Estates own the entire sites except for phase 1 which will be 145 houses. They are well on with demolition works and the Northern side of the site is nearly clear. They aim to be clear of the site by late Spring next year. An underground culvert will be opened up and an ecology area is to be formed. Harrow are also purchasing the Bodycote Factory and completion is expected within the next few weeks. The existing Bodycote buildings are to be demolished. No planning application has been put in to SMBC by Harrow yet but it is expected that it won't be too long before an application is submitted.

PR went on to explain that Redrow are building the houses. They are getting on well with the infrastructure and all services are very nearly in. The roundabout is the next job, which will cause traffic disruption. Some night work is planned in order to expedite matters. Five show houses and a village green will be completed by March 2016. The first occupancy is expected by July 2016. The mix of houses has changed. There will be larger houses in the first phase and smaller houses will be built in later phases.

PR noted that the Vulcan final flyover is expected to take place on 10th or 11th October. 400 plus (possibly 1000) car parking spaces will be made available around the perimeter of the site.

TB explained that he is a trustee of the Heritage Museum and added a little more information. The VIP opening will be held on 8th Oct 2015 and the public opening will be held on 23rd Oct 2015. TB noted that Harrow are 8 weeks behind schedule because of the discovery of extra asbestos, bats and nesting seagulls. CAE, the flight simulator company, will be staying for the next 5 years at least. The Golf Club has a 23 year lease and the Museum has a 15 year lease with a further 15 year option.

8. Update on Cheshire East Council's Local Plan Examination

TB called upon Paul Goodman (PG) to present the update on the Cheshire East local Plan.

PG explained that the Cheshire East Council (CEC) plan for the Handforth East “new village” was originally submitted in March 2014 and was for 1800 – 2000 houses. The public Examination commenced one year ago and the sessions looked at strategic policy. The inspector suspended the Examination because the work CEC had done was inadequate. The inspector gave CEC three options: 1) withdraw the plan; 2) carry on although the plan was not sound; 3) Six months given to do new work. Six months became seven months and more work has been done. The initial tranche of changes has been submitted. The plan for Handforth is still at 2000 houses plus more economic / industrial land. New parts of plan suggest considerably more houses in Wilmslow, Knutsford and Poynton. A procedural meeting will be held on 6th October and possible new Examination hearings to be restarted 21st Oct. The inspector will then pronounce whether he considers the proposed plan is sound or not. If the Examination continues, this will lead to public consultation in the New Year. It is likely to be early 2017 before there is any more certainty about the matter.

9. Update on A6 MARR and Poynton Bypass

TB called upon PG to provide an update on A6MARR and the Poynton Bypass.

PG reported that all planning phases for A6MARR are now over and construction has started. Work is underway on the Poynton side. Newts in this area have held up works. Works at the Oil terminal are starting now. Completion is estimated for Sept 2017. Some complicated engineering to do on underpasses and bridges. The Woodford Road new roundabout is starting now.

PG reported that for the Poynton Bypass the preferred route is green route. There will be a public consultation event at the WWMCC on 22nd and 23rd October 2015. A planning application will be required and will probably be submitted in early Spring 2016.

10. Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan

TB called on Roger Burton (RB), WNF Plan leader, to present the update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

RB presented slides with the following information:

Origins of the plan

- The Localism Act 2011 envisages that communities will have greater say about their neighbourhood
- The Constitution of the Forum, approved in September 2014, sets out its purpose and principles:

- ‘The basic purpose of the Forum is to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area’
- A series of principles inform the steps we take towards achieving our purpose

Our constitution

The Constitution envisages that we will ‘protect, preserve and enhance:

- The architectural heritage and physical and environmental character of the area
- Green spaces and the natural environment
- Local businesses serving the area
- Use of land for public purposes

Whilst acknowledging that some change for social, economic and environmental reasons can be desirable

Principles of the plan

Other principles include:

- Taking account of climate change
- Maintaining diversity
- Encouraging the development of a close and integrated community
- Recognising the importance of good service provision for all
- Supporting efforts to reduce crime
- Acting on the basis of equality
- The Forum should also seek to establish a mechanism for joint planning with neighbouring Forums

Gathering evidence

Key to developing the Plan is:

- Feedback from the community gained from questionnaires, workshops, exhibitions
- Input from specialist advisers on particular topics
- Contact with other parties, the local authority and other interest groups including adjoining Forums
- Regular Forum meetings, discussion and debate

This provides the crucial evidence base on which our proposals for the Plan are based and from which our policies will be derived

Next steps

The Forum is well on its way in the process of gathering information to support the Plan.

The next steps are in the formulation of policies. They must also meet a series of 'basic conditions':

- have regard to national policy, particularly that expressed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Development Plan for the local area
- be compatible with EU obligations

Sustainability

Sustainability, the NPPF's 'golden thread', has three dimensions – economic, environmental and social.

The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' sets out five 'guiding principles':

- living within the planet's environmental limits;
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- achieving a sustainable economy;
- promoting good governance;
- and using sound science responsibly.

www.planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/policy/achieving-sustainable-development/

Our Vision and Objectives

Following the collection of the Community's views, gathered through the questionnaire, a Forum Workshop established a Vision and a series of Objectives for the Plan. These were communicated through the Exhibition in June and appear on our web site – www.woodfordneighbourhoodforum.co.uk

The further evidence gathered has now fed into our objectives and gives us a clearer view of the policies which will be derived in each of those areas..

Our Vision

"The Vision for the Woodford Neighbourhood Plan is to manage and support beneficial change whilst retaining and enhancing the village's rural identity, character, quality of life and sense of community."

This Vision is supported by a series of Objectives:

Environment, Community, Development, Movement, Employment, Integration

Environment

“Protect the area’s Green Belt and preserve the open and rural character. Protect the landscape and important views”

- Our earlier Questionnaire revealed that over 60 per cent of respondents cited the rural environment as a reason for choosing Woodford as a place to live
- and an overwhelming majority of respondents, 83 per cent, wanted enhanced protection of the landscape, 70 per cent to protect historic features

Environment – action

- We are commissioning a Wildlife Study and hope to set up a volunteer team to undertake a habitat survey which will support the study
- We are considering the appointment of a specialist to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment (subject to funding)
- We are mapping all our historic buildings
- Can you help us?

Environment – your help is needed

- We need to map the rich habitats around the village – trees, hedgerows, verges, ponds and ditches
- Can you help by joining a working group to assist with this this?
- Please contact us at woodfordneighbourhood@gmail.com
- What is your favourite place or important view?
- What makes Woodford special for you?
- Email us a photo and tell us why it is important to you and these will be posted on our web site

Community

“Preserve and enhance recreational assets and open space to promote a healthy community”

- Woodford is blessed with a wide range of facilities – the Community Centre, playing fields, clubs and their facilities, cricket grounds, open landscape, footpaths and bridleways
- The Community Centre also rated highly when asked what the plan should encourage and important when asked how the enlarged village should be integrated
- Our green spaces are also of value and can be designated - for this we need your help

Community – Local Green Space designation

What is your favourite green space? - We need to identify spaces which are special to the community and holds particular local significance.

Let us have a photo and tell us why the space is special.

Development

“Provide variety and mix that meets local needs and manage limited infilling including residential, employment and community uses”

- Woodford is a small settlement which is washed over by the Green Belt. This to a large extent determines the nature of any development
- When asked if the Plan should identify land to meet local need over half agreed, 57%, but there was a clear preference, over two thirds, for total development of less than 50 homes
- Further questions sought to determine who might want to move in Woodford, or wanting their own home and what the nature of that might be.
- 42 respondents wished to move to meet longer term needs, the majority requiring smaller homes. 18 wanted a new home, the majority two bedroom owner occupied but currently not available
- There was a similar response when asked who might need a home in the next five years, with 28 respondents positive (of total 276)
- Business and community needs are yet to be identified

Development – action

- Our Plan needs to be related to national and local housing policy
- We commissioned technical support to provide advice on demographic, economic, market and social data at local level
- This will help the Forum to understand type and quantity of housing needed to inform policy

Development – advice

“Based on the data presented in the report on the quantity of dwellings required and the market affecting those quantities, AECOM recommend that housing need for Woodford in the period 2011 – 2026 is in the range of 20 to 25 additional dwellings.”

Development – next steps

“Provide variety and mix that meets local needs and manage limited infilling including residential, employment and community uses”

- The housing need expressed in the study and that found in our questionnaire suggest what might be an appropriate level of provision for Woodford
- We now need to understand where and how we might meet these needs
- The Forum envisage exploring this in further consultation with the community

Movement

“Create safer roads, streets and lanes and increase public access to countryside by foot, cycle and bridleway. Encourage sustainable transport”

- The provision of footpaths and cycle paths, road safety and public transport all feature highly when residents were asked what the Plan should encourage
- Traffic through Woodford is likely to change as roadworks are completed and this may be expected to make movement through the village safer

Your views

When asked what the Neighbourhood Forum should aim to encourage, the top five choices were: footpaths, road safety, public transport, the community centre and cycle paths.

Movement – action

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.”

[NPPF]

- We have commissioned a study to examine these issues and recommend options for improvements to encourage safer and sustainable movement
- A group has been set up to walk the whole footpath network, and consider their condition, accessibility and connectivity

Employment

- Responses to our questionnaire suggested that no more land should be allocated for employment while existing sites should be protected from change of use.
- Our Objective, which emerged from the workshop and further Forum discussions, expresses the desire to maintain employment in the village
- The Questionnaire response suggests any new space should be in existing buildings or on brownfield sites

Employment – actions

- Woodford is the home to over a hundred businesses, large and small.
- We are currently undertaking a survey which will help to identify how the Neighbourhood Plan could support them.

- This will also help us to understand the nature of local business and any demand for space, if at all.
- We will be alert to any changes which could result in the loss of any existing employment space

Integration

“Ensure integration and linkage between the existing village and the aerodrome development to achieve an enhanced, enlarged community”

- While the new aerodrome development lies outside the Neighbourhood Area it will, nevertheless, have an impact on the existing village
- Feedback from the Workshop and Exhibition confirm that the integration of the new and existing parts of the village should be encouraged

Integration – action

- The Forum have been meeting the developers, Redrow, on a regular basis and it is mutually agreed that integration will be facilitated where opportunities arise
- This, for instance, includes the reconnection of historic footpath routes across the airfield ensuring permeability through to the countryside
- New facilities, such as useable open space, play areas and a new school will benefit us all and encourage this joint objective
- Ultimately we hope to extend the Neighbourhood Area to embrace the new development

Next stages 1

- Work is ongoing by theme to support emerging policy development work. This includes a gap analysis between NPPF, SMBC Development Plan policies, Woodford SPD and emerging community aspirations
- The Plan will be based on a series of specific policies for Woodford relating to our Objectives
- A pre-submission consultation on the draft Plan will be undertaken later this year
- The draft Plan will be revised following consultation and submitted to SMBC early in 2016. From this stage, the NP process is a joint one but led by SMBC

Next stages 2

- SMBC publicises the Plan (minimum 6 weeks) and then agrees to progress the Woodford Neighbourhood Plan to approval

- SMBC agrees and appoints an independent Inspector in consultation with WNF
- The Plan is examined and the Inspector's report issued
- SMBC publicise the Plan and hold a referendum for Woodford residents
- With a majority vote, 50 percent plus, SMBC 'make' the Plan and it is brought into effect – we expect this to be in late Spring 2016

RB stated that the presentation will be posted on the WNF website.

www.woodfordneighbourhoodforum.co.uk

RB noted that the committee is looking for volunteers to help with a habitat survey.

11. Questions and Discussion

Andrew Freeth asked whether WNF should now merge with WCC.

TB invited Paul Rodman, as chair of WCC to respond.

PR stated that the answer was no because the two bodies deal with completely separate issues.

Geoff Law asked if the additional 25 house requirement identified by AECOM could be sited on the airfield site.

Roger Burton answered, stating that much more consultation on this very question was needed. There is a need for smaller homes, but Redrow are building larger homes in Phase 1. WNF are pushing Redrow for smaller houses.

EF explained that she should have pointed out that there are 23 places on the committee, 19 have been taken so there are 4 vacant places if anyone else wishes to join.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Jude Craig 24/09/2015

Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

c/o Woodford Community Centre, Chester Road, Woodford, Stockport, Cheshire, SK7 1PS

Email: woodfordneighbourhood@gmail.com

Web: www.woodfordneighbourhoodforum.co.uk

Appendix

WOODFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2015

	2015		2014 (note1)	
	£	£	£	£
Bank				
Balance 1 July 2014		0		0
Received from Woodford Community Council	2000		0	
Flowers for Stephen Taylor	31		0	
		<u>1969</u>		<u>0</u>
Balance 30 June 2015				
Grant 1 (note 2)				
Balance 1 July 2014	5285		0	
Grant received	<u>666</u>		<u>6219</u>	
		5951		6219
Payments				
Printing and distribution of questionnaires	367		934	
Forum meetings, updates for residents	1284		0	
Website set-up and maintenance	475		0	
Workshop and subsequent report	2185		0	
Exhibitions	<u>1640</u>		<u>0</u>	
		<u>5951</u>		<u>934</u>
Balance 30 June 2015		<u>0</u>		<u>5285</u>
Grant 2 (note 3)				
Balance 1 July 2014		0		0
Grant received		<u>5550</u>		<u>0</u>
Balance 30 June 2015		<u>5550</u>		<u>0</u>

Notes

1 The Forum was designated by Stockport MBC on 17 October 2013, so the 2014 accounts cover the period to 30 June 2014.

2 Grant 1. The Forum received a grant of £6885 (£6219 of which was received in February 2014) from the Community Development Foundation. This covered development and analysis of a questionnaire, meetings and an exhibition. The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) kindly administered the grant on the Forum's behalf.

3 Grant 2. The Forum has received a further grant, of £5550, in June 2015. This is for a study of traffic and movement, meetings, printing costs and a further exhibition. This work is scheduled for completion before the end of 2015. RIBA has again kindly agreed to administer the grant on the Forum's behalf.

R B Berriman FCA
31st July 2015