



## Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

### **Draft Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting**

Held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 8pm

Small Hall Woodford Community Centre

#### **Attendance**

Terry Barnes, Evelyn Frearson, Judith Craig, Jane Sandover, Kris Hayward, Paul Goodman, Mary Law, Geoff Law, Dorothy Chesterman, Bryan Leck, Roger Burton, David Buszard, Doreen Neil, Ken Coxey, Eve Coxey, Ron Beatham, Heather Braddock, Helen Buszard, Paul Rodman, Paula Mott, David Mott, Janet DeVecheis, John Knight, Maxine Wood, Colin Griffin, Prof D McLeod, Phil Housley, Deborah Housley, June Greatorex, Mary Robinson MP, Steve Robinson, Kate Wardle – Davies, Vivien Downie, Caroline Cork, Neil Cork, S Howarth, H Bibby, Chris Lennie, John Delaney, M Travis, J Shaw, Zoe Jones, Paul & David (Surname illegible).

**Total number attending:** 44

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome**

Terry Barnes (TB) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the WNF 3rd Annual General Meeting. Mary Robinson MP and David Johnson (SMBC Liaison Officer for Neighbourhood Plan development) were especially welcomed and thanked for their attendance. TB explained that local councillors Brain Bagnall, John McGahan and Mike Hurleston had sent their apologies because they would have liked to have attended but were unable to do so due to a council meeting.

#### **2. Chairman's Report**

TB presented the Chairman's report.

TB noted that the Forum is now in its 3rd year. The committee is made up entirely of volunteers. A tremendous amount of work has been done, particularly this year. Draft policies have been prepared based on residents' views and will be presented to the residents. Funding has been obtained from the Government for independent reports on transport, environment etc. The Neighbourhood Plan Area does not include the former airfield. Woodford may be unique in this respect, being a village with a large new housing development adjacent to it. TB expressed special thanks to Evelyn Frearson (Forum Secretary), Roger Burton (leader of the Plan sub-group), and planning advisors John Knight and Paul Goodman for their huge input, hard work and expert advice. TB reported that work is well on the way but there is still much to do but, the management committee understands that work on the Woodford Neighbourhood Plan is more advanced than in any other group preparing a Neighbourhood Plan in Stockport. TB explained that a presentation on progress would follow after the AGM business.

#### **3. Approval of previous minutes**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been circulated to Forum members prior to the meeting. TB called for acceptance of the minutes, which was proposed by Kris Hayward, seconded by Paul Rodman and approved by Forum members by show of hands.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

TB reported that the Treasurer was unable to attend but had provided a set of accounts (see Appendix) which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and were shown on screen. Questions were invited but there were none.

TB called for acceptance of the accounts, which was proposed by Jane Sandover, seconded by Maxine Wood and approved by Forum members.

#### **5. Election of Committee Members**

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

EF reported that the Forum now has 80 members. There are 23 places on the Management Committee. During the last year there had been 20 members and their names were presented on screen. For this coming year there were 18 nominees whose names were presented on screen and are shown below.

##### **Nominations for 2016/17**

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

WCC Rep to be elected by WCC management committee

WWMCC Rep to be elected by WWMCC management committee

Officer positions to be elected by the WNF management committee

There being fewer nominees than places they were duly elected unopposed. EF requested that, if there were any members who did not receive updates either via email or as hard copy, then they should make themselves known to Jude Craig or herself. (See Appendix 2 for contact details)

#### **6. Close of AGM**

There being no other business, TB closed the formal part of the meeting at 8.10pm.

## 7. Progress on Woodford Neighbourhood Plan

TB called on Roger Burton (RB) as plan sub-group leader to present the progress report, which was supported by Power Point slide presentation.

RB reported that a huge amount of work has gone into identifying where we needed external support and the gathering of information and evidence in the form of consultation. The residents' survey had been analysed by Kirkwells Ltd. A public exhibition was held during 2015. A Housing Needs Assessment was conducted by AECOM, a Movement study by Peter Brett Associates, a Landscape and Environment assessment is ongoing, and a Heritage and Character study has been provided by AECOM. Preliminary consultation on policies is in progress. RB noted that details of all the studies and reports can be found on the Forum website.

RB reported on the vision for Woodford, the objectives identified to meet the vision and the preliminary draft policies which have been developed by the management committee with the aim of meeting these objectives, as follows:

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"*

The following objectives were identified at the outset of process: Environment, Community, Integration, Development, and Employment, with Sustainability added more recently

Policies have been developed under these 7 subject headings, as follows:

**Employment** policies concern new businesses in the area and any loss of employment

**Housing and Development** policies include the variety of dwellings, green belt policy, infill, extensions and replacement to and of existing dwellings, redevelopment of farm buildings, backland and tandem development, affordable housing, height of walls around properties, and extension of residential curtilage into the countryside,

**Movement** policies aim to make Woodford a better and safer place in which to move about. All the local footpaths have been inspected, quiet lane status is being considered for Church Lane and Blossoms Lane, cycling provision, traffic calming. Use of public transport is also being considered.

**Community** policies recognise the value of our open spaces, the listed buildings, and provision of community facilities and includes financial contributions as a result of redevelopment.

**Integration** policies aim to avoid "Them and Us". The management committee is concerned with how we achieve integration with the new development. We would like to include the aerodrome site within the Neighbourhood Area at some time in the future. The ex-Bodycote area is within our Neighbourhood Plan area however.

**Sustainability** policies aim to reduce the need for commuting and introduce standards for new build or works to existing buildings.

**Environment** policies have involved a great deal of work aimed at understanding the "nature of the village" Hedgerows have been studied categorised to indicate use for wildlife by their bio-

diversity, open spaces have been identified and ponds have been inspected. There are also policies concerned with reducing light pollution and protection of views and vistas.

**Next steps.** RB explained that the management committee will continue to liaise with SMBC, consult residents on draft policies, revise policies as required, and prepare a draft plan for presentation to SMBC. SMBC then takes control of the process to guide the plan through to an independent review by an inspector, publication and ultimately a referendum of Woodford residents in order to validate the Plan.

RB pointed out that all the supporting information and reports are to be found on the Neighbourhood Forum's website: <http://woodfordnf.co.uk/>

## **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 reported that he had been attending the CEC Local Plan Examination.

The original plan, which included nearly 2000 new houses at Handforth East on a site which stretches to Woodford boundary, was submitted over 2 years ago. The proximity of the site brings major implications to Woodford. The Public Examination began in autumn 2014. The Inspector called a halt to the process early on in the proceedings, requesting that CEC conducted further work and included increased numbers of houses. This was subject to a public consultation. There was huge reaction to this, with over forty thousand responses from the public. CEC made only a few changes and the examination started again on Tuesday 13 Sep. Individual proposed sites will now be debated: Handforth on Oct 6th, and Poynton 11th and 12th Oct. These will be public meetings, which anyone can attend but only those who have been given an opportunity to speak can do so. PG will be speaking on behalf of Handforth. EF will be speaking on behalf of the Forum at the Handforth and Poynton sessions. After this all the information will be pulled together and then the Inspector will write a report. SMBC and CEC have issues between them about traffic and transport issues relating to the Handforth East development. PG noted that it is almost inconceivable that there will be no legal challenges to the adopted plan and the conclusion to all this is unlikely to happen until late 2017 at the earliest.

## **9. Questions and discussion**

There were no questions from the floor.

Mary Robinson MP thanked the Neighbourhood Forum for its hard work on the Plan and for representations to the CEC Local Plan Examination on behalf of Woodford residents.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Jude Craig and Evelyn Frearson 11 October 2016

**APPENDIX****1. Accounts****WOODFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM  
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Bank</b>				
Balance 1 July 2015		1969		0
Received from Woodford Community Council	0			2000
Flowers and sympathy cards	30		31	
Postage	25		0	
		<u>55</u>		<u>31</u>
Balance 30 June 2016		<u>1914</u>		<u>1969</u>
<b>Grant 1 (note 1)</b>				
Balance 1 July 2014			5285	
Grant received			<u>666</u>	
				5951
Payments				
Printing and distribution of questionnaires			367	
Forum meetings, updates for residents			1284	
Website set-up and maintenance			475	
Workshop and subsequent report			2185	
Exhibitions			<u>1640</u>	
				<u>5951</u>
Balance 30 June 2015				<u>0</u>
<b>Grant 2 (note 2)</b>				
Balance 1 July 2015		5550		0
Grant received		0		5550
Payments				
Consultants - study of traffic and movement	4260			
Room hire	539			
Printing and postage	526			
Unused grant repaid	<u>225</u>			
		<u>5550</u>		<u>0</u>
Balance 30 June 2016		<u>0</u>		<u>5550</u>
<b>Grant 3 (note 3)</b>				
Balance 1 July 2015		0		0
Grant received		1320		0
Payments				
Cheshire Wildlife Trust survey	690			
Room hire	240			
Printing	<u>390</u>			
		<u>1320</u>		<u>0</u>
Balance 30 June 2016		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>

## Notes

1 Grant 1. The Forum received a grant of £6885 (£6219 of which was received in February 2014, and £934 was spent before 30 June 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.

2 Grant 2. The Forum also received a grant, of £5550, in June 2015. This was for a study of traffic and movement, meetings, printing costs and a further exhibition. This work was completed by the end of 2015, and £225 of unused grant was repaid. RIBA kindly agreed to administer the grant on the Forum's behalf again.

3 Grant 3. The Forum received a further grant, of £1320, in February 2016. This was for a wildlife study by Cheshire Wildlife Trust, meetings and printing costs. AVRO Heritage Museum kindly agreed to administer the grant on the Forum's behalf.

R B Berriman FCA  
5th August 2016

## **2. Woodford Neighbourhood Forum contact details**

Post: Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

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

Email: [woodfordneighbourhood@gmail.com](mailto:woodfordneighbourhood@gmail.com)

Web: <http://woodfordnf.co.uk>