



## Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

### Annual General Meeting

6<sup>th</sup>September 2023 8 pm

Small Hall Woodford Community Centre, Woodford, Stockport, SK7 1PS

## Minutes

The Power Point presentation used at the meeting can be found on this link: [Slides for WNF AGM 2023](#)

<b>AGM</b>	
<b>Attendees</b>	Terry Barnes (TB), Evelyn Frearson (EF), Kris Hayward (KH), Robin Berriman (RB), Judith Craig (JC), Paul Goodman (PG), Mike Minahan, John Schulz, Sarah Turner, Louise Shaw, John Knight, Chris Coppock, Jane Sandover
<b>Welcome</b>	Terry Barnes (TB) opened the meeting and thanked everybody for attending.
<b>Chairman's report</b>	Terry welcomed everybody to the meeting. In the Chairman's Report, he noted that this was the 10 <sup>th</sup> AGM. Over the last year, the main issues had remained the same, including responding to planning applications in the neighbourhood area and promoting implementation of the aspirations, such as walking, cycling and community integration.

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## Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

	<p>Since the last AGM we had been consulted on 39 applications, 12 less than the previous year. The Monitoring Report very adequately covered the extent of the work of the forum. It was an important document which assessed the effectiveness of the neighbourhood plan policies when used by Stockport Council in making decisions on planning issues. The report also considered progress in promoting aspirations. The report had been sent to council planning officers, our MP and circulated to members.</p> <p>We were keeping up to date with other plans in our vicinity, including Places for Everyone (previously the GMSF), issues with Cheshire East and the Stockport Local Plan.</p> <p>Wider afield, we were keeping a watchful eye on current and proposed changes to Government planning regulations upon which it is important that we comment.</p> <p>Once again our thanks to our secretary Evelyn, our co- opted planning specialists and team who do so much for the Forum.</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	Brain Bagnall, Cllr Dallas Jones, Cllr Ian Powney, Nigel Hancock, Jeremy Meal had explained that he was travelling so attendance would depend on timing.
<b>Approval of minutes of 2022 AGM</b>	Draft minutes had been circulated to forum members via email and posted on the website. The minutes were approved unanimously. Proposed by Kris Hayward and seconded by Jane Sandover
<b>Treasurer's report</b>	Draft accounts had been circulated to forum members via email, posted on the website and displayed on screen.

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### WOODFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 30 JUNE 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Bank</b>				
Balance 1 July 2022		691		896
Donation		<u>25</u>		
		716		
Website host renewal	86		18	
Website domain renewal (3 years)	-		25	
Leaving gifts for two committee members	-		34	
Meeting room hire	-		5	
Woodford showcase leaflets and posters	-		<u>123</u>	
		<u>86</u>		<u>205</u>
Balance 30 June 2023		<u>630</u>		<u>691</u>

R B Berriman FCA  
8 August 2023



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	<p>Robin Berriman (RB) reported that WNF had no sources of income. Balance stood at £630. Proposed by Chris Coppock and seconded John Knight</p>
<b>Election of members of Management Committee</b>	<p>The existing committee stood for re-election as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Terry Barnes Chair</li><li>2. Evelyn Frearson Hon Sec</li><li>3. Robin Berriman Treasurer</li><li>4. Jane Sandover</li><li>5. Jude Craig</li><li>6. Janet De Vecchis</li><li>7. Zoe Jones</li><li>8. Maxine Wood Co-opted former resident</li><li>9. John Knight Co-opted Expert</li><li>10. Paul Goodman Co-opted Expert</li></ol> <p>Paul Rodman Corresponding Chris Coppock Corresponding</p> <p>There were no nominations from floor for any new committee members. The committee was elected unopposed</p>
<b>Close of AGM</b>	<p>Meeting closed 8.11pm</p>



## Woodford Neighbourhood Forum

<b>Update meeting</b>	
<b>Monitoring report</b>	<p>Presentation by EF. <a href="#">See slides 10 to 27.</a></p> <p>EF explained that we are advised to do a monitoring report. We had presented four annual monitoring reports to date.</p> <p>The reports cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Implementation of WNP policies by Council</li><li>o Controversial planning applications</li><li>o Implementation of Aspirations</li><li>o Relevance of the Plan and the Aspirations</li><li>o Compliance with Stockport Local Plan and NPPF</li></ul> <p>We looked in detail the planning applications and follow the planning officer's reports and planning committee decisions.</p> <p>Infilling of gaps could cause problem and always needed looking at very carefully to see whether a proposal complied with our policy.</p> <p>We have a table for responses and all responses are on our website. (<a href="http://www.woodfodnf.co.uk">www.woodfodnf.co.uk</a>)</p> <p>We prepared details responses to six controversial applications, assessing against not just the WNP but the UDP (2011), SDP, Core Strategy (2011) and the NPPF (2021)</p>

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EF mentioned the community aspirations where WNF work with the WCC (Woodford Community Council).

John Shultz asked if we could have an extra column in monitoring table to contain some indication about whether WNFs comments / objections have been taken into account.

All six controversial PAs were discussed.

Appeals were discussed:

- Bridle Road infill appeal last year refused by SMBC, but permitted on appeal
- Infill opposite Church La Garage refused by SMBC and refused on appeal
- Infill on Moorend Farm refused by SMBC, but permitted on appeal
- 5G mast near Notcutts refused
- Further infill on Bridle Road refused by SMBC and refused on appeal. John Schulz made a point of thanking WNF for its very considered and strong report about the reasons for refusal.

It was noted that case history on infilling was growing.

Recent planning applications discussed included:

- 8 new dwellings at Blossoms Kennels – decision pending. WNF had objected strongly on the grounds that Blossoms Lane is a Quiet Lane and single track. 8 units will mean 16 cars making many trips , which would be too much.
- Request to SMBC for a screening opinion regarding a solar farm proposal near Old Hall

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	<p>Lane – decisions pending</p> <p>SMBC are going to change their system in order that the public will be able to see all objections and comments made against PAs</p> <p>On Community Aspirations, events had been held to encourage community integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Showcase event in 2022 at Community Centre.</li><li>○ Summer Fair 10<sup>th</sup> June 23 at Community Centre.</li><li>○ Winter Festival was planned for Dec 7<sup>th</sup> on Woodford Garden Village.</li></ul> <p>In conclusion, the committee feel that the Neighbourhood Plan is working to achieve the vision and objectives agreed with residents.</p>
<b>Fund raising</b>	<p>The committee noted that the WNF needs to raise funds. No further grants available and no funds from SMBC so it's down to Community fundraising.</p>
<b>Future tasks</b>	<p>The committee aimed to continue to review planning applications, keep an eye on changes in local and national polices. After 5 years (2024) the plan will need to be reviewed. Minor amendments will not require going through the examination stages again.</p>
<b>Other Neighbourhood Plans</b>	<p>EF reported on the status of the four neighbourhood plans in Stockport. See slide 27.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Woodford: plan adopted 2019</li><li>○ High Lane: plan adopted 2021</li><li>○ Marple: plan at examination stage</li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mellor, Marple Bridge, Mill Brow and Compstall: plan in progress</li> </ul>
<b>Stockport Local Plan</b>	<p>PG reported on the Stockport Local Plan. See slide 28.</p> <p>He noted that it was potentially hugely important. SMBC opted had out of Places for Everyone. The Government kept changing the formula for calculating housing need and as a consequence SMBC and many other councils had postponed work on their LPs. There is a danger of an out of date Local Plan is that applications could come in for building on GB although this has not happened to date. An LP can identify Brownfield land for development.</p>
<b>Handforth Garden Village</b>	<p>See Slide 29. There was no new progress to report. PG noted that highways remained a major issue especially the A34 and modifications to the Stanley Green roundabout would be needed.</p>
<b>Changes to Planning Regulations</b>	<p>See Slide 30. It was noted that there were no recent changes.</p>
<b>Poynton Relief Road</b>	<p>See slide 31. It was noted that this was no completed.</p>
<b>Woodford Garden Village</b>	<p>See slide 32. It was noted that the Aviator pub was open.</p> <p>Redrow Homes had invited applications for funds from their Woodford Community Fund and these had been awarded, amounting to £10K in total</p>
<b>PfE formerly GMSF</b>	<p>See slide 33. Places for Everyone was the new name for GMSF (Greater Manchester Spatial</p>

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	<p>Framework)</p> <p>Stockport withdrew in Dec 2020. The other nine councils had carried on and now cannot withdraw.</p> <p>Hearings lasted from Nov 2022 – July 2023. There had been lots of objection to the proposals to build on Peat Bogs. The Chat Moss allocation was taken out, but that was the only one. Affordable homes numbers has been watered down. Modifications would then go out to the nine Councils for approval and if approved they would go to public consultation. Public can only comment on the modifications not the Plan. Evelyn commented that at the SGMGB AGM was 4<sup>th</sup> Sept it was felt that labour councils would be whipped.</p> <p>At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour the GMCA's (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) barrister stated that GMCA would not support two thirds of the new Green Belt sites proposed to offset some of the Green Belt losses, due a legal technicality.</p>
<b>SGMGB</b>	<p>SGMGB representatives participated in all the hearing sessions for PfE. Their AGM was yesterday. (04/09/23) <a href="http://savegmgreenbelt.org.uk">http://savegmgreenbelt.org.uk</a></p>
<b>Discussion and questions</b>	<p>John Schulz thanked WNF for its hard work.</p>

Evelyn Frearson 17 January 2024, with grateful thanks to Jude Craig for notes taken during the meeting.