

MINUTES
HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Attendees Mary Brinsley
Audrey Clarke
Chris Clarke
Sarah Gibson
Hugh Janes
Debbie Jones
Hilary Kolinsky
Pete Mehigan
Kevin O'Sullivan
Teresa O'Sullivan
Chris Penberthy - Vice Chair
Penny Tarrant - Chair
Karen Thurston
Erica Tiller
Pam Ward

Apologies Barrie Arch
Sue Dunn
Barry Huxley
Joan Jackson
Peter Jackson
Frank Kelly
Sally Pope
Keith Tarrant
Judy Tottey
Lily Urbanska
Dave Ward

22 Meeting Chair

Due to Penny Tarrant needing to be elsewhere at 7.00 pm, Chris Penberthy chaired the meeting.

23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Corrections

The previous meetings minutes should be renumbered to show that:

- 18 Air Quality should be Minute 20 and
- 19 Committee Roles and Sub-Groups should be Minute 21.

- 21 Sally Pope has expressed an interest in the Events and Community Engagement Committee; Mary Brinsley and her non-existent granddaughter Ellie have not.

The minutes were agreed.

24 Matters Arising

None, other than as agenda items.

25 Hoe Neighbourhood Forum Funding

2017/13 [Locality](#)

The maximum grant available is £9,000. HNF has submitted an application and had received a grant of £5,500 which has to be spent by 31.3.18, for consultancy in the first instance; information on this would be available in two weeks. A further application can be made in the next financial year. The committee thanked Hannah, Chris, Penny and Joan for their work on the application. HK will attend the Locality AGM in November.

CP told the meeting that Councillor grants must be spent within three months, and can only be awarded once a year. Cllrs Penberthy, Tuffin and MacDonald had between them donated £1000 to HNF which would be used towards a website and to pay bills

26 Next Steps

It is intended that a consultant will be in attendance at the next meeting.

27 Joint Local Plan

Anyone who had submitted a request to attend the Examination Process for the JLP should by now have received an invitation. Until the JLP is agreed, the current planning framework is still in force.

28 Current Planning Matters

CP reminded the meeting that the Council's planning cycle is three weeks, and this sometimes meant that information had to be circulated between meetings in order to comply with deadlines, and draft responses will therefore sometimes need to be submitted.

2017/8 Register Office

An alternative Site Planning Statement is currently being fleshed out by members of the forum together with the PWP and the Plymouth Hospitality Association. This has the blessing of Paul Barnard of PCC Planning Dept. The disposal of the site has been agreed by PCC but no alternative site found for the wedding services although the Council House had been suggested. Councillors had objected to this.

Action

PT

Concerns were raised that the site would still be a building site during the Mayflower 400 celebrations, encouraging vandalism and anti-social behaviour. No bookings are being taken for 2018, but this decision may be subject to review.

In the meantime if it were closed, a suggestion was made that it could become an information centre and coffee shop until the site is redeveloped.

28.1 Peirson House

A Minor Variation Condition has been submitted which includes alterations to every single drawing, the footprint, the elevations, and includes parking provision being cut to 33 spaces, together with alterations to the nature and mix of accommodation. The width remains the same, but there would be a reduction in the depth. Concern was expressed that the existing application for a commercial development might be amended to the provision of student accommodation. As a Variation no new drawings needed to be submitted, and the paperwork required is less than for a new application. PT has requested a meeting with the Planning Officer.

CP said that with a site this controversial it should be treated as a new application, but it was unclear whether it would be treated as such when it goes to the Planning Committee. The meeting was reminded both Historic England and the HNF were both statutory consultees for new planning applications, and this could be another fight. CP offered to email Committee members with an update on the approach taken.

Action

CP

An email would be circulated regarding Peirson House.

Action Meet with Planning officer

PT

It was possible it might also still be a building site in 2020, and that Colin Campbell Court, Martin Street and Bath Street will all be under development.

The Design Code in the HNF area was discussed with reference to movement sensors on listed buildings during nearby construction work, and the possibility of the provision of facades on scaffolding for 2020.

2017/12.1 Cook's House, 3 Athenaeum Street

The HMO application has been withdrawn following HNF's objection regarding the housing mix and parking. It was suggested a blue plaque to mark her residence and work would be appropriate.

Action

SG

Most of the bed and breakfasts on the Hoe are currently for sale, with the average length of ownership now only five years. There is a need for more tourism beds, but ideally this would be boutique hotels rather than Travelodge-style hotels. Conversions of current HMOs and the ex-Café Rouge site to service apartments were coming online through Air BnB, which will be more expensive accommodation.

CP is having discussions with Anthony Payne and David Drathen with a view to inviting them to future HNF meetings regarding tourism and events.

Action CP2017/12.2 Terrace Extension

HNF has sent a letter of support for the Terrace Extension.

2017/12.3 Ocean Grill

It is still unclear what the development will entail, and the green roof may now be in doubt.

2017/9 1620 Public Realm Improvement Application

The proposed steps cut right through the wildflower garden at the eastern end of the Hoe, and do not provide disabled access, so would not be an improvement at a cost in excess of £200,000. A consultative meeting had been agreed with the Planning Department with Plymouth Disability Action Network, and in the meantime the application had been withdrawn. Support for either a funicular or elevator instead was expressed although funding would then be an issue.

Action

CP, JJ and PT

29 Waterfront Partnership

Sarah Gibson told the meeting that a [12 Point Project Business Plan](#) is available on the [Plymouth Waterfront Partnership](#) website. Sarah is looking for a partnership with HNF, and Penny Tarrant had joined the Board. The Masterplan for the Waterfront was part of Plymouth City Council's Joint Local Plan and is a five year plan. The aim was to work together to make improvements, alongside HNF's 15 year plan.

30 HNF Logo

HNF does not want Smeaton's Tower itself as the logo. Graham Nesbit is working up draft design ideas possibly based on Smeaton's interlocking stones design for the lighthouse and would be invited to attend the next meeting to present visuals. With

the help of the Councillor's grant, the final design will then become part of the website

31 Membership and Data

Invitations had been extended to people to join, and it therefore necessary to register under the Data Protection Act. Access to the Electoral Register would be required for the vote on the Neighbourhood Plan, and the Rates Register to talk to businesses. Anyone who lives, owns property, or works on the Hoe is entitled to join. If information about gender and minorities is collected it must be anonymised and stored separately from the main body of data. In the meantime, email addresses were being sought to make communication straightforward. Please forward ideas, suggestions, ideas and additional names to Debbie Jones.

There is a possibility that the Bowling Club might be available for future meetings.

32 Parks for People Application

Pam Ward has volunteered to co-ordinate between HNF and Parks for People.

Suggestions for the planting on the Hoe to reflect and link its history with the city were suggested and PW will be looking into what plants would be suitable.

The current management plan is three months old and states that the Plymouth Thistle and Plymouth Campion are to be saved on the foreshore, while the ivy, nettles and brambles are to be cut back. SG urged that some of the research for this had already been done by the Waterfront Partnership and was available for use. The area around the TA sports pitch, including Millbay Park also needed to be considered. Funding is available, up to several million, which would make a funicular feasible, if PCC, the Bid and HNF formed a partnership.

Action PW and SG

SG said that the Coastal Planting Scheme is included in the current Bid run by the Natural Infrastructure Team. There is still money from the 1620 development to plant in West Hoe and the children's play park and Heritage Trails.

The South West Coastal Path, the Waterfront Walkway and the Mayflower Trail across the Hoe signage are currently being developed and will be unveiled between October and January.

33 Christmas Event

It was agreed to hold an event and suggestions are invited from members.

33 Any Other Business

SG said that the foreshore area between the Waterfront Restaurant and the Lion's Den are currently being scoped, with a view to repair, repaint, and re-sign. Anthony Payne, Paul Barnard and David Drathen will look at proposals for walkways, stairways and steps when an Engineer's Condition Survey has been completed. This is a focus area for the Bid.

Lighting for Smeaton's Tower, the War Memorial, the Belvedere and the south wall of the Citadel were also being considered.

The paving between the Mayflower Steps and the Dome has already been refurbished and money was being sought to make the whole area more user friendly. The pink slabs used are not Plymouth granite because the requirement to do so is not in the Plymouth Plan; if HNF put this in the Neighbourhood Plan, it would then become policy. Work was being undertaken with a view to creating a masterplan to provide a link between the Hoe Park, the promenade and the foreshore.

PCC is keen that repairs and refurbishment are prioritized over lighting, signage, viewing scopes and swimming rafts in the Cove and the diving boards will not be replaced. The aim would be to open buildings up to be used by business or the community, such as the provision of kayaks and more beach huts. If HNF and the Waterfront Partnership were to combine resources it would be possible to apply for funding from PCC, Mayflower funding and also possibly use Crowdfunder.

It was noted that HNF's statutory role is planning, and the consultation will state that. It was agreed that the two organisations would be collaborative in their approach.

34 Date of Next Meeting

DJ to advise.