



MINUTES
24 FEBRUARY 2021
HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – Via Zoom due to Covid-19

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Joan Jackson, Peter Sachs and Rachel Tyler.

Penny Tarrant (PT) welcomed members (including 3 new members) to this meeting of HNF (via Zoom), including Ward Councillor Chris Penberthy (CP) and guest speaker Mark Hodgson, MD of Co Cars.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

Matters arising.

PT advised that sufficient votes had been cast in order for the HNF to endorse Devon Climate Emergency Plan.

Councillor Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for the Environment, has accepted an invitation to speak, and will be the guest speaker on Climate Emergency at the next meeting on 24 March.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct by proposer Dave Ward (DW) and seconded by James Kay.

3. Sustainable Transport

Before Mark Hodgson joined the meeting to speak, Hilary Kolinsky (HK) briefed new members on the HNF Neighbourhood Plan and the task of the Transport Group. HK said that part of the task was to plan for sustainable transport for the next 10-15 years, due to the pressures of climate change and issues of space for vehicles within the neighbourhood and beyond. As part of this, the Transport Group would like to ascertain members' level of interest in a car share scheme, and in lessening the numbers of cars parked on the street by the use of non-PCC private parking spaces. The Hoe area is

an area of high density street parking of both residents and visitors, and is also close to the City Centre.

Sustainable transport is a particularly appropriate concern in new developments of housing and in local developments including the Register Office and the old Quality Hotel site.

Discussion followed around the use of under-utilised hotel/guest house parking spaces, private parking spaces and garages. There are a number of on-line companies that can facilitate this type of use.

Members expressed interest and agreed that these opportunities should be encouraged.

Action: HK/PT to provide relevant information via HNF website and FB and to liaise further with Co Cars .

Kim Stevenson asked CP whether there were any plans to change the parking costs. CP advised that changes to parking costs were a very controversial issue, and that the frequency of elections meant that it was viewed as a vote-loser which was difficult to overcome.

CP advised that there is a need to support people using alternative power, such as electric bikes, cars, car sharing, bike sharing and other forms of green transport.

A planning consultation on Transport and transport needs, launches tomorrow, 25 February. Proposals include 30 Journey Hubs around the city, which will provide charging points for electric cars and bikes, and electric car/bike hire in the drive to reduce traditional car use. There will be a video on the PCC website envisaging these proposals. The public have until 24 March to respond to the planning consultation, and CP strongly encouraged HNF to respond as a group and as individuals.

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom/pressreleases/newplansunveiledmaketravellingaroundplymouthcleanerandgreener>

PT welcomed Mark Hodgson (MH) to the meeting.

Co Cars is an Exeter based company with 15yrs experience in sustainable transport, including hybrid/electric car sharing and e-bike sharing. This is a member of Co-operatives UK, Plymouth Enterprise and others.

Mark provided a short video explaining the purpose, function and ethos of the company. Cars/bikes can be hired when needed for however long needed, by the hour or day. CoCars is the largest car club in the UK and can also provide Co Delivery cargo bikes and Co Charger for shared e-car chargers.

MH answered questions. He said that Co Cars can provide vans and SUV vehicles. He said that he is working with developing business across Plymouth, and can provide community surveys to ascertain interest and needs. He advised that he is working with new developments to provide sustainable transport opportunities and integrated packages for customers. Electric scooters were discussed and generally agreed to be dangerous and not as practical as electric bikes.

CP commented that the upcoming Transport consultation would incorporate car/bike clubs and charging points, and encouraged members to engage with

the PCC launch and website and provide a strong response. CP stated that there is significant funding secured for the project.

PT thanked MH for his talk and the information.

Action: MH/PT MH to provide video/link to information on Co Cars for members

4. Councillor's Report (CP)

CP briefed the meeting on work progressing in the Hoe area. He said that the toilets below The Terrace were to be renovated with single cubicle use, and there would now be shower cubicles added. This work will begin soon. This was welcomed by the group. The Promenade toilets had proved problematical as the building was not as substantial as initially thought. This had resulted in delay, and other works have been brought forward instead, such as setting up volunteer groups to assist with maintenance of Hoe Park.

The Clock Tower garden plans have been put forward, and CP suggested that there may be some uncertainty on whether the process of public engagement was completed. CP is enquiring. PT commented that Caroline Fiske (PCC) had been in close communication with HNF about the Clock Tower Garden and the Peace Garden, although a direct consultation was not initiated earlier in the year.

PT encouraged members to pass on their comments to her about the Clock Garden plans.

The lighting on The Promenade had been reported as out, but this has now been remedied by N Power, whose responsibility it turned out to be.

The monuments on The Promenade are to be lit. PCC is awaiting particular pieces of equipment to complete this.

PT commented that bat friendly lighting had been recommended and noted that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission did not last year have a bio-diversity plan in place.

CP briefed that annual events were reliant on whatever Covid-19 rules are in place. He said that SailGP, the new international yacht race, would be coming to Plymouth in the summer. The race involves 8 nations, and stages including Sydney and the Bahamas, and Plymouth. This is a huge opportunity, and the organisers are in talks about repeating the race in 2022. PT said that Victoria Allen, PCC Events Manager, would be speaking at the meeting in March on SailGP and other upcoming events.

CP told the meeting that the small triangle of space with 3 trees at the top of Zion St belonged to PCC. CP expressed his support for HNF improving and maintaining the space, as it was at present a nuisance with brambles and ivy.

Action: PT to liaise with PCC staff to kick start this activity.

CP said that the storm damage to the steps at Tinside has been noted, and the steps will be replaced and enhanced, to facilitate swimmers getting in and out of the sea.

CP spoke about engaging Plymouth Artists Together to provide artwork in areas that are popular for graffiti and tagging, to enhance the appearance and community interest. PAT is also working with BT and N Power re their various street furniture.

PT enquired whether there had been any progress with the questions around S106 contributions at Peirson House. CP said that 2 disabled spaces had been provided but that these had been sold by the developers to the first customers at £10K each. MW thanked PCC and the Police for dealing with parking issues by issuing parking tickets in a thorough manner, which has reduced the problem. However, there are no yellow lines in the lane next to the Labour Party office and this has become more problematic – 4-5 cars park in that space regularly, which blocks access. Discussion ensued.

Action: CP to request some funding from Living Streets scheme, to paint yellow lines in adjacent access lane and to follow up on S106 question.

5. Planning Report (MW)

Please find the report attached.

MW commented that at 3 Elliot Terrace an application has gone forward for installing an air pump and secondary glazing. This may be useful as a reference for later private developments.

Flat 1 29 Grand Parade has applied for permission to re-install appropriate internal historic details. Recommendation is for HNF to support this.

6. Neighbourhood Plan (HK)

HK gave a brief update. The Housing group are working on a policy draft, the other groups have now finished policy drafts, which is a considerable milestone.

Ongoing support from Aecom to review the evidence in those policies, with additional support from Jess Vaughan (PCC Planning Officer).

The Plan will go to initial consultation in the early summer.

7. Register Office (PT)

A brief update was provided by PT. A meeting was held today with Graham Lobb concerning the feasibility study. A topographical study has been completed. The last elements of the work are being completed, and the report from Graham and his colleagues is expected in March.

Any Other Business

Kim Stevenson reminded the meeting that the walking trail app of 100yrs of Plymouth Powerful Women will launch on International Women's Day on 8 March. The website is being populated with detail, funded by National Lottery

Heritage fund and is linked with Plymouth University and Plymouth Women in Business activities. Further details to follow.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 24 March at 19:00 – via Zoom.