



MINUTES
22 SEPTEMBER 2021
HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – Via Zoom due to Covid-19

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from David Bennett, Angela Penrose, Gail Mallard, Councillor Chris Penberthy, Martin Worrall and Joan Jackson.

Unfortunately guest speaker PCSO Tracy Cunningham was unable to join the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as a fair and accurate report by Dave Ward and seconded by Jackie Clift.

PT commented that there was no further news around the traffic noise monitoring issue.

Feedback on the organisation of the Plymouth ½ Marathon was that it seemed to go smoothly, and was barely noticeable to residents. No leaflets were received in the locality by members present.

3. Councillors Report (CP)

Apologies were received from CP.

CP had said that he wasn't aware of illicit acquisition of resident parking permits, unless applicants are less than truthful about their residential address, but he will enquire.

Action: CP

As a result of Pierson House development, there has been some re-tarmac and the yellow lines have now been replaced in this area.

PT remarked that the pedestrian crossing on Notte St near The Walrus is hazardous, as the traffic lights have no 'green man' lights. Therefore pedestrians have to judge by the traffic movement whether to cross. CP will enquire about this.

Action: CP

PT commented that there is ongoing activity at Plymouth House in Lockyer St, and rumours of development are in circulation. No planning applications have as yet been made public.

PT has asked CP to enquire as to what is planned.

Action: CP

4. Planning Report (MW)

The planning report was sent out prior to the meeting, to allow members to consider it before the meeting.

No comments have been received.

5. Public access to the Waterfront

JC investigated the rights of access along the waterfront area, as there is concern over the granting of a 99 year lease which includes a public route down to the waterfront. There is meant to be free open access to the waterfront.

JC researched how to establish rights of way. To register a right of way, there must be a minimum of 7 people who are able to assert that it has been used, uninterrupted, by them for 20 years. JC enquired about this issue and was informed by Robin Pearce of PCC that it is currently listed as a City Green Space, which he suggested was a significant level of protection. Robin said that it would not be possible to gain right of way to that location as it's already labelled as Open Access. He evidenced a recent court case.

Robin suggested that a means of moving this forward would be to continue with Open Access. There is currently a Natural England project to create a national coastal path. The project is well established and has been achieved in many places, but the entry in the relevant documentation notes that Plymouth waterfront is as yet 'undecided'.

JC said that she felt somewhat reassured by this, but having walked around Pier 1, she noted that they had already begun using the space in question and it has been given the appearance of being a private space.

JC suggested that HNF seek an assurance from PCC that new leases are not being routinely allowed to acquire the rights to public space.

Discussion followed, and it was suggested that CP and the PWP should be asked to raise this with PCC.

PT thanked JC and it was agreed that useful information has been acquired. It was surprising that during discussion around the Neighbourhood Plan that PCC had not mentioned the Natural England project.

Concerns were raised about similar instances of public space being commandeered, for example The Piermasters House decking area on what was wharfage.

DW suggested that it would be appropriate to make a point of walking and using the spaces in question.

PT suggested that JC may be able to ask Robin Pearce why there was indecision over the Plymouth waterfront, and if there is a blockage to this. PT said that the Blue and Green sub group will look into the issue.

Action: Blue and Green and JC

HK advised that the HNF have evidence to designate it as a Local Green Space, and may in fact aim for Strategic Green Space designation. Both are higher levels of protection than its current status.

HK said that it would be good to understand how PCC negotiate leases, and how that can work with our Neighbourhood Plan. This to be an item for cross-group consideration.

Action: All sub groups

Action: PT to talk to PWP

Action: JC to talk to Patrick Knight (PCC Officer on the National Marine Park project)

6. Neighbourhood Plan (HK)

Meetings are being co-ordinated with the sub groups. A few actions have been agreed with Culture, Economy and Tourism group, and the Blue and Green group are waiting for answers to questions on the foreshore and Hoe Park. Progress is being made on updating policy and liaising with PCC departments as necessary. It may take a few months for a final draft to be completed as some answers are awaited from PCC .

PT said that there was a new person in the PCC Natural Infrastructure team, who may be willing to share information on the Treescape.

7. Register Office – PT

PT advised that a meeting has taken place between Aecom, PCC and our architects, and threads are coming together. HNF hope to continue feasibility work and on viability of the site. HNF are likely to put in a grant application bid to fund further research for development. This work is of probable mutual benefit to PCC and to HNF. The report on viability will be available in the next few months.

PT thanked JC for her help with the grant bid.

8. Any Other Business

BS updated the meeting on the Hoe Gardening Group which has been meeting at 10:30 on Tuesday mornings at the Depot, on the Hoe. PCC has provided some tools, gloves and HV jackets to volunteers. Volunteers work with a PCC gardener on the gardens in the Hoe area, including the Anchor garden, Peace garden, the Belvedere and the Clock garden and at Zion St. Any help is most welcome. It is hoped that bulbs will be planted for the spring, with funding offered by CP.

- At a recent meeting with PCC employees Caroline Fiske (Liaison Officer) and Liz Cole, they suggested that they would like to thank the Gardening Group for their help by providing coffee and cake on a day to be agreed in November.

They also said that they had funding to provide 3 picnic benches at West Hoe garden, which will be at various locations in the garden. The Clock Garden hedge by Valenti's is under review and will either be replaced or refurbished.

PT suggested a Wassailing event in the new orchard in Hoe Gardens in January. An information sign will be installed around the same time.

Action: KS et al.

KS suggested creating some form of display at the Anchor Garden to commemorate 40 years since the Falklands war, 1982-2022. CP advised to check with the Federation of Ex Service people, and the Veterans Community. Pauline Murphy is president of ??

Action: KS

- Cook-Out at West Hoe Park
PT said that Elizabeth a local resident would like to demonstrate and encourage people to try Eritrean food. Funding has been granted for a cook-out in West Hoe Park. It is envisaged as a family event with a picnic, on a Sunday, to help to bring the community together. A date and venue to be found.
- Trees on Wasteland
PW commented that she had suggested an area of wasteland in Eliot St for tree planting, and also suitable for building. Paul Barnard had asked for suggestions from HNF among others.

Action:

HK to send the email address of the Conservation Officer in PCC

- Lockyer St Charging Points

Sue Dunn reminded the meeting that CP was going to enquire about the charging points in Lockyer St. SD noted that the parking situation appears to be getting worse.

Action: CP

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 October at 19:00 – via Zoom.