



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

Before the meeting began, PT expressed everyone's sadness and shock at the murder of a young woman, Bobbi-Anne McLeod this week in Plymouth. A vigil will take place at Smeaton's Tower on Friday 26th November at 18:00

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Pam and Dave Ward, Angela Penrose, Gail Mallard, Ana, Barry Huxtable, Hugh Janes, Erica Tiller and Kim Stevenson. PT welcomed Councillor Chris Penberthy (CP) to the meeting

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 Carole Worrall and seconded by David Bennett.

Items carried over from the last meeting:

- Pedestrian lights at the crossing by the Walrus.
CP said that he had not had a response from PCC on this, but he is chasing it.
- Current status of the sale of Plymouth House
CP advised that no approach had been made to the Planning Team, and it is likely that the owners are endeavouring to make the property easier to market by ongoing activities e.g. removal of asbestos.
- Lockyer St charging points
CP said that he had not received an answer to this question, but a meeting is expected in the first quarter of 2022.

- Weed control around paved areas
CP commented that although streets need to be kept clean and tidy, the use of pesticides was not a positive move in light of Climate Emergency. Councillor Dann had voiced her concerns with this and it had been noted.

PT thanked CP for his work in getting double yellow parking lines reinstated behind Plymouth House, and for pursuing answers to HNF questions.

3. Councillors Report (CP)

CP said that there were no new major announcements. Complaints had been received about the trade waste bins being moved from the end of South Side St to the corner of Hoe Approach. This is a difficult issue, as the bins were unsightly in their earlier place at the entrance to the Barbican, and they are required by the businesses nearby. It is considered that the new area is less intrusive as the bins are partly hidden by a new infrastructure mast and related boxes. Bin sheds had been suggested by members, but these are not suitable due to earlier issues with dumping, rough sleeping and general misuse. PCC are working to reach an agreement with the trade waste companies on improvements.

The installation of the new 5G mast raised some concerns, but for Plymouth to maintain its internet capacity etc, new infrastructure is needed, in some instances.

PT asked about the HNF asking SW Water to improve its volume and frequency of discharge of sewage into the Sound.

CP advised that a motion was proposed by Sue Dann and Tudor Evans, and passed at Council. The Ocean Recovery motion also passed. These now have to be acted upon.

CP suggested that HNF could submit a letter, but should include the watercourses as well as the Sound, i.e. the Tamar, Lynher and Plym rivers. It was noted that the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership intend to apply for Blue Flag Status.

CP advised that the Labour Group met with the Plymouth Borough Police Commander concerning nuisance vehicle noise in the area. The Commander did not accept that it was a police matter, but rather one of anti-social behaviour which requires a multi-agency approach and is not a priority at the moment for the police.

CP does not agree with this response.

CP said that there are still substantial issues with drug/robbery crime in the Stonehouse area, and there are concerns around women's safety. There is a lack of buses and taxis in the area, and a number of street lights are broken. These need to be sorted out.

4. Planning Report (MW)

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

The planning application for changes to Pier 1 has been withdrawn, due to concerns raised by HNF, Heritage and PCC.

BT is interested in replacing some of the existing Street Hub kiosks to include 75 inch TV advertising units, at various sites in the Plymouth city centre area including two within the HNF area.

HNF objected to the kiosk on Citadel Road, near The Crowne Plaza, due to: advertising being incompatible with a Conservation and Parkland setting, the physical size of the board, and potentially for setting a precedence for other businesses.

PCC have asked BT to review the siting of some of the kiosks which are in contravention of pavement access and sited too close to road kerbs.

The Police have advised that the kiosks, to reduce crime potential, would need to be in well-lit areas, not located near ATM machines and be in areas covered by monitored CCTV.

5. Public access to the Waterfront

JC recapped on the research and current situation.

JC talked to David Stuart from Historic England and learned that there is protection of Open Access spaces under law.

HNF can add specificity to the Neighbourhood Plan, as a Community Action, and can walk the area, consult with the public, and photograph and document the access areas. Themes that arise locally can be a Community Policy in the Plan, possibly encouraging PCC to consider Public Access when leasing properties.

JC also said that any new developments must encourage access and virtual access, e.g. by 'glimpses' and views.

JC is hoping to talk to the Conservation Officer at PCC.

There was discussion around the new canopy installed by Pier 1, which obscures some of the view of the Sound.

PT suggested asking whether Patrick Knight, Marine Park Officer, might speak at a meeting.

Action: JC to chase

6. Neighbourhood Plan (HK)

HK updated the meeting. The Plan is progressing with collating and discussion of the feedback received from Jess at PCC. Feedback is awaited from Natural Infrastructure and the Heritage Officer.

Housing feedback has been received and will be discussed tomorrow.

More progress is anticipated by the end of December, when we will be closer to another draft. This will be followed by formal consultation and inspection by PCC. It is hoped that a formal consultation will be possible in early 2022.

7. Register Office – PT

PT advised that progress is being made. The feasibility study has been completed and has been supported by Locality. Further help from Aecom has been applied for. The next step is to work with Aecom and take this forward. Graham Lobb and Graham Devine are working closely with Planning Officers. At the next meeting in January 22 it is hoped that there will be a timetable and that the viability study will be completed. JC commented that the viability study considers all aspects of the possible development.

8. Any Other Business

- Woodland Trust
BS told the meeting that the Woodland Trust is currently inviting applications for packs of trees for communities and schools. On behalf of the HNF it is hoped to apply for an Urban Pack. Authorisation is needed from the landowner, and an approach has been made to Plymouth Marine Laboratories to enquire whether their perimeter verges inside their fence could be used.

PT said that it is hoped that a Wassail on the Hoe at the new mini orchard, would take place, possibly at short notice, in the New Year.

- Keyham Memorial
A member had suggested having a memorial in some form in the Peace Garden, for the victims of the Keyham shooting. CP advised that the residents and other groups in Keyham were currently working on this, and would want to have a memorial in their area. There are various green spaces where this would be appropriate.

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 19:00 – via Zoom.