Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Minutes of the Steering group meeting

Monday 20th June 2016

Present : J. Andrews, J. Blake, C. Coyle, L. Crosland, J. Lawn, S. McQuire, D. Pitchfork, M. Tonks, R. Utley ( chair ), S. Williams

1. Apologies : R. Best, C. Exley, J. Harrison, N. Mason, P. Roberts
2. Declaration of interest : None
3. Minutes of last meeting : accepted with correction Garforth clinic closure petition should state that the petition would be available in local shops for residents to sign.
4. Matters arising ( items not on agenda) : none
5. Treasurer’s update : The treasurer met with the LCC housing panel re a possible award. There remain 4 other possible sources of financial help. Local cllr S. McKenna had promised some MICE money. The drop in realised £30 in donations. The Gala may also raise further donations through items to sell.
6. Membership update : The Membership secretary reported that a further 3 new members from the Drop in. membership stands at 490, where approx.. ages known 15 are under 35 and 230 over 36. “4 do not access email.
7. Ex. Group report :Publicity material had been costed for future events Reports from all groups ( see individual reports below ). Barwick and Scholes had sent their plan as part of their public consultation and our main concern was the unallocated land south of the motorway. Unable to book the Welfare Hall in September for the AGM we need to find a suitable venue late September.
8. Writing group report: The Writing group lead reported that further support was needed from D. Gluck clarify the plan structure. Group are working on producing a list of the evidence needed to support the policy objectives.
9. Working group report: process for responding to planning applications almost complete and will be put on website. The only site meeting greenspace criteria was from Townend along the Wakefield Rd. 40 hectares are needed to make up the present shortfall for existing population. Population stats. need to be confirmed. Character assessments are required for Garforth which has been divided into 7 areas. Volunteers required to undertake the surveys following a specific checklist. D. Pitchfork volunteered to ask for possible help from the Garforth Academy schools.

Additional Ecology work taking place, however need help with fauna. To contact West Yorks Wildlife Ass. to see if any members live in Garforth. Garforth Historical Society had produced a short history of Garforth ( to be put on website ). Further information being sort from their archives. Housing needs survey has been produced but will be piloted amongst members first.. A list of all the Facilities in Garforth has been produced. A retail survey has been produced and volunteers will commence 27/6/16. Health report ( see below ). All previous sub groups information now on website.

1. Flood group: The Flood Group representative had produced an excellent report to go on website. A new planning permission to erect a new sport building on the Barleyhill park will include a further flood mitigation scheme to remedy problems experienced in West Garforth.
2. Health update: The health lead reported on the earlier meeting when the MP A. Shelbrooke organised a petition which was presented to Parliament on ? ( televised ). Cllr M. Dobson organised a public protest outside Leeds Community Health headquarters. Whilst this did not produce any changes there has been another meeting organised on 16th July. A list of vacant premises in Garforth has been sent to the relevant people to encourage them to look for immediate accommodation for all the services transferred to Kippax.
3. Parish council report: An approved petition produced, 72 signatures collected at the Drop in. All neighbourhood Parish Cllrs have been contacted including S. McKenna who is very supportive. Petition to be available online and publicized. Letters of support received from S. McKenna and A. Shelbrooke. LCC stated in the Scrutiny report for May 13 that parish councils should be supported. Further signature collection at the Gala and a specific house to house on Cedar Ridge.
4. Communications and consultations: Drop in successful, Gala 26th June when we shall be explaining and seeking views on the ‘Vision’ and signatures for the parish council petition.Collect signatures on Main St and Tesco. An AGM to be arranged in late September. The Vision to be available online and publicity to this effect to be included in Streetlife and Facebook. The household survey will be taken to every household in Garforth.
5. AOB
6. The education lead explained the school admissions code, the additional primary school places needed for September and a potential ’bulge’ forecast for secondary school places.
7. The treasurer thanked all who helped at the Drop in. Setting up for the Gala at 8am. We have 2 plots. Items for fund raising would be appreciated.
8. LCC Revised site allocations: The secretary attended meeting on 14th June when the revised plans for some of the HMCAs were revealed. The Rothwell Neighbourhood Planning Forum were concerned that the Development Plan Panel members had not received the complete responses from the public consultation and were not in a position to make an informed judgement when accepting the Revised Site Allocation proposal. The Outer South West will be discussed on 28th June. Detailed information has just been released. Stocks site has been included capacity 240, the boundary for 1232b has been extended to include all of the land on the Garforth Cliff including the water tower, the ’Park home’ estate and the garden centre currently being rebuilt . These sites had been put forward for housing but have not been allocated. The sites 3110 and 1244 ( to the west of this site )which had been included in the ‘issues and options’ consultation in 2013 are still included despite a statement stating that the landowners did not wish to sell. It was also specified that 3 houses could be demolished on Severn Drive to allow access to these sites. Most of the concerns we raised in our response had not been addressed. It was decided that we contact our Cllrs with our concerns and request that they ask someone to raise these issues at the meeting on 28th June, We will also copy in all the members of the Development Plan Panel and the MP. We will also share our concerns with other neighbouring groups Dates of next meetings 19th September, 21st November and 16th January.