Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on 26th January 2022

Present : C. Coyle, C. Exley, P. Exley, B. Flynn, J. Lawn, Lomas, S. Lomas M. Norman, S. McQuire, W. Treloar, R. Utley, S. Williams .

Due to technical difficulties the chair was unable to participate and M. Norman took the chair. The chair’s report will follow. Liz, please could you send me your report

After welcoming everyone to the AGM the following updates on the work of the Forum were given.

**The Writing Group** report given by B. Flynn

Since the previous AGM the Writing Group has been working on issues connected with the Regulation 14 consultation.

The format of the consultation was worked out by The Writing Group and agreed with the Steering Group.The consultation took place over an 8 week period during Jan – Mar 2021.

A group met weekly during this period to consider, and respond usually for the purposes of clarification, to some of the comments made.

Following this, and with considerable support from Abbie Miladinovic at LCC, the Writing Group began the lengthy process of collating and considering a response to each of the hundreds of comments made. Given that there were some 150 pages of comments to read, this process took almost 8 months. During this period we met regularly ourselves and had a number of meetings with Abbie (and occasionally Ian Mackay).

However, by December 2021 the Group had considered, and responded on paper to, each comment. Our response to a significant number of comments will trigger alterations to the existing Draft Plan.

We met Ian Mackay earlier this week and he is keen to work with us to aim to complete the remaining tasks so we can go to Referendum, if at all possible, by the end of this calendar year.

I’d like to express my thanks to the other members of the Writing Group who have worked tirelessly throughout this year. I’d also like to have minuted my appreciation of the work Abbie did; she left LCC at Christmas but has made a huge contribution to the work on our Plan.

**The Working Group** report was given by C. Coyle

Chris, please could you add your report here

**The Secretary’s** report was given by S. McQuire

We are now in the 7th year and as explained in the Writing Group report hopefully will take the plan to referendum by the end of this year.

Due to the pandemic we were unable to hold many events within Garforth as the Garforth Gala was cancelled and meeting rooms were not available.

We were able to participate at the event held outside at St Benedict’s church which focussed on the community groups and their role in highlighting and giving advice on climate change issues. Despite the heavy rain GNPF held a stall with maps illustrating how some of the plan policies would help to mitigate/ limit the effects of development.

We have responded to the LCC consultation on the content of their Local Plan Update which is focussing on Climate Change in particular Carbon reduction, Flood risk, Green infrastructure, Placemaking and sustainable infrastructure.

WE have responded to the LCC consultation on the remittal of the Green Belt sites. Whilst these sites in Garforth were removed from the Site Allocation Plan by the Inspector at the SAP hearings in 2018/19, many were retained elsewhere in the city. The Aireborough Neighbourhood Planning Forum took this issue to the High Court and their submission was upheld. LCC has held a further consultation and removed all the green belt sites allocated for housing with the exception of a site in Barrowby Lane Colton which is to be removed from the Green Balt for an employment site.

Planning applications relating to Garforth have included the following:

* Change of offices to apartments at Beconsfield Court which was granted
* The proposed mobile phone mast outside the station refused on the ground of proximity to housing
* The removal of hedges at the Academy. GNPF objected to this application on the grounds that the hedges had been a feature of Lidgett Lane for at least a centuary and probably longer and the consequent loss of wildlife habitats and increased surface water flooding. Fortunately this application was withdrawn and a smaller fence has been installed inside the hedge.
* To develop an existing LCC designated green space next to East Garforth school on the Aberford Road for housing. This was refused on the grounds that it was an LCC designated green space.
* However the application to develop the cricket field which is also an LCC designated green space remains undecided
* Construction work is ongoing on the old Stocks site on Ninelands Lane for 257 houses
* Construction work has started to access the PAS site on the Selby Road for 290 houses
* Construction work has started on access to the industrial site on the Aberford road near junction 47.

The AGM business meeting:

Present : C. Coyle, C. Exley, P. Exley, B. Flynn, J. Lawn, Lomas, S. Lomas M. Norman, S. McQuire, W. Treloar, R. Utley, S. Williams .

Apologies : J. Andrews, R. Clarkson, L. Crosland, P. Roberts, M. Tonks

Declaration of Interest : no new

Minutes of the last AGM: Accepted proposed by B. Flynn and seconded by C. Coyle

Matters arising from the last AGM : None

Treasurer’s report: Attached Balance stands at £207.40. proposed for acceptance by S. McQuire and seconded by C. Coyle Sam is there anything else you would like minuting here

Membership report : C. Coyle reported Chris , please could you add in the membership figures

Election of officers: In the absence of further nominations it was proposed by the chair and accepted by attendees that the following members who were willing to continue , be elected en bloc.

Chair: L. Crosland, Vice Chair R. Clarkson, Secretary S. McQuire, Treasurer S. Williams, Assistant Treasurer R. Utley, Working Group lead C. Coyle, Writing Group lead B. Flynn and the following as ordinary members: J. Andrews, C. Exley, M. Norman, W. Treloar.

AOB : none

The meeting closed at 8pm