

Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum Steering Group Meeting

Thursday 10th April 2014, Miners' Welfare Hall

Minutes

1.Present: Alan Tynan, David Pitchfork, Jacquie & Paul Ainsley-Stringer, Robin Best, John Blake, Tom Ridley (LCC, Chair), Councillor Dobson, Jane Anne Parsons, Bernard & Jacky Simpson.

2.Apologies: Liz Crossland, Sue McQuire, Harry Thompson

3.Minutes of Previous Meeting: These were passed as accurate.

At this point Councillor Dobson mentioned the meeting with Aberford Parish Councillors. Having approached the Chief Planning Officer, Phil Crabtree, about the possibly unique matter of the overlapping land, he had been assured that all we had to do was prove that we had cooperated with the PC in question.

MD reiterated that he was adamant that he would not support Garforth/Swillington taking the whole housing allocation for South East Leeds. He indicated that he was constantly receiving interest and advertising from developers but that he told them that their attention was premature as we weren't yet in a position to deal with them. He had pointed out the 65/35% brown field/green field Council policy and added that it could be in the region of two years before GNPF was in a position to deal with these matters. MD particularly mentioned Pegasus, their proposed development and agreement with Green Lane Academy which had recently surfaced but which, we were assured by DP, was 'old news' and 'kite flying'. DP tabled a letter from School Partnership Trust Academies (SPTA) to emphasise his point. **(See end of minutes).**

There was further discussion at this point but AT pointed out that such discussion was inappropriate for this Steering Group, which had very defined tasks, not including future development discussion at this stage, and that we were departing from the agenda.

4. Matters arising not on the agenda: JS wished to confirm with members their availability for the Drop-in session. These were confirmed as, AT 12-2, SMCQ 10-2*, DP 10-2*, JAP 1-2, BS&JS 10-2*, TR 10-2*

Drop-In Session: AT tabled a draft version of the publicity poster for this event. This incorporated, on the back, a lengthy and in depth explanation for the need for a Planning Forum prepared by SMCQ. It was felt, by the group, that while such an explanation was extremely useful, the poster was not the best place for it and, instead, a series of searching questions, jointly submitted by SMCQ and AT would generate greater interest, also leaving room for a bigger map of the area. It was decided that SMCQ's explanation would be better featured at the drop-in session in a larger and more demonstrative format.

The data capture forms for the spread sheet were tabled and DP offered to input these at the session. It was agreed that a restricted version of these, perhaps bearing just a name and a contact detail, be offered so that people could put down their views and that these could be useful at a later date.

A visual for the banners proposed as part of the publicity campaign was tabled and accepted with minimal editing and several display locations were discussed e.g., the Welfare Hall and any railings close to traffic lights where traffic comes to a halt (Selby Road & Wakefield Road).

5. Boundary Meeting with Aberford PC Report: This had been a very useful meeting and the minutes were tabled** and welcomed. Future meetings are planned.

6. Constitution: A draft copy of the proposed constitution was tabled. This had been put together by DP adapting 3/4 constitutions already adopted by other local planning groups as a template. DP asked the Group to look at this and get back to him with any additional suggestions as soon as possible.

TR explained the legal need for a constitution. BS asked if we were legally able to adopt one since we were not a constituted body? DP pointed out that there was a clause in the draft copy allowing the designated body to make agreed changes at AGMs.

TR commented that Groups that had offered membership to under 18s had encountered problems which, given our late entry into the system, we might wish to avoid.

JA-S asked about Public Liability and Insurance and was assured that we would be advised about that when appropriate.

7.AOB: JS asked the meeting's opinion on correspondence received from our MP, Alec Shelbrooke, respecting inclusion on the data spread sheet, a document which is purely for the purpose of proving for designation that we have attempted to contact, include and inform residents and business people across the age range from the whole of Garforth. The meeting was unanimous in that, as Mr Shelbrooke had neither a residential nor business postcode in Garforth, he was ineligible, as indeed were two of our three Councillors. The third, Councillor Dobson, was eligible as he has a property in Garforth. This ineligibility for inclusion on the data spread sheet did not preclude any of the three from being kept informed, in their capacity of representing the residents and businesses of Garforth, and attending meetings or indeed putting themselves up for election to the designated body should they so wish.

JS announced that Steve Fodden had e-mailed in to say that he no longer wished to be part of the Steering Group.***

JS asked if it would be possible to have a map of Garforth showing all the postcodes in order to inform the Group as to the spread of contact/response. TR responded that the Council would produce a map with the contacted postcodes 'dotted' across the Town. It was commented that we had to adopt a certain amount of caution given that LS25 covered a far wider area than just Garforth.

8.Date, Time & Venue of Next Meeting: 24th April, 2014, 7pm at the Miners' Welfare Hall

The Agenda for the next meeting was agreed and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Extra to the above: * These people will probably need to attend earlier 9am? To help set up the Hall.

** These minutes can be accessed on the website.

*** Mr Fodden did offer the benefit of his advice, should it be needed in the future, in the area of his expertise, the railway system.

↓ Copy of letter alluded to at the end of para2 under item 3 above.



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21st June 2013

Dear Jeremy

Your Garforth Development Proposals

Further to our recent discussions, I am pleased to confirm that School Partnership Trust Academies would be happy to work with the developer of the site proposed within the above development. This joint working would be to deliver the primary, secondary and post 16 educational needs of the new residents, in line with the current national agenda.

As you are aware, School Partnership Trust Academies is an educational charity who currently sponsors thirty four academies across the north of England, three of which are in Garforth. All of the academies in Garforth, as well as the other local schools, are working at maximum capacity, with little opportunity to expand and therefore your proposals to redevelop Green Lane Primary Academy within this development, and increase the capacity to 630 pupils, we feel would help alleviate some of this pressure.

Taking into account the current ratios with regards to new housing developments, your current plans of around 1500 houses, adjacent to the current Green Lane Primary Academy site, would create the need for approximately 400 further pupil/ student places in the town, and without building a further primary education facility, the expansion of Green Lane Primary Academy we feel is a viable option.

Should you require any further confirmation from School Partnership Trust Academies, with regards to our willingness to deliver the educational needs of the new residents of Garforth, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Pitchfork', is written over a horizontal line.

David Pitchfork
Finance Manager