

Garforth Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 19th March 2015

Present; Josie Andrews, Liz Crosland, Cath Exley, Jessica Fergusen ,Emma Grunwell, David LeRoy (chair), Sue Lomas, Sue McQuire (secretary), Jane-Anne Parsons, Paul Roberts, Jacky Simpson, Alan Tynan(Acting Treasurer), Rob Utley

Apologies; Robin Best, John Blake, Chris Coyle, David Pitchfork, Mike Tonks

Minutes of last meeting; Accepted with additional statement that” applying to change boundary with Aberford Parish Council cannot formally commence until September as it involves a parliamentary process”.

Matters arising items not on agenda:

1. Boundary change update: The chair reported that Ian MacKay had not received any response from LCC.
2. Grant application: Alan reported that the process of applying for grants for the next stage was complicated with 12 pages to complete. AT to ask advice from Mike Dando (planning aid England)
3. Rob Utley reported that he had bank application forms with him and required two signatures : Action Ongoing,
4. Student; Sec, L Crosland and J-A Parsons met with student, given her a tour of Garforth and explained the issues that the GNPF were addressing. Sec attended a second meeting with the students’ mentor and planning department are pleased with support we have given the student.
5. Meeting with MP: The chair, sec, A Tynan, S Lomas and L Crosland met with Alec Shelbrooke. The MP is in favour of the proposed development in Garforth as a large site would help to ensure that the necessary infrastructure would be developed. The MP’s remit does not cover LCC planning issues but he has had involvement with Network Rail and the Highways Agency and proposed some possible solutions to the transport issues arising from the proposed new development. The chair has spoken to Ian MacKay who said that at an appropriate time we can suggest dual carriage systems and rail connections.

Sub group reports

Education: In D Pitchfork’s absence the sec read out a report on work to date by group which has met once. Main concern identified the need for Garforth children to attend Garforth schools. The number of ‘commuter’ children who are dropped off at school by parents is being collated.

Parish council: In C Coyle’s absence the sec. read out a report on the work to date, information on the powers of a Parish Council and the advantages compared with a neighbourhood forum have been sourced from the Yorkshire Councils Association. These will be circulated.

Site Allocation; Whilst many of the originally proposed sites have been removed from the revised site allocations plan in Garforth the group are trialling a land audit in order to give an informed response should an application be made to develop any of this land. Recent applications involve a change of use to the Miami site and to a café requesting extended opening hours. A discussion took place of types of housing required for the new development, the LCC Core Strategy states the percentages of housing types for each 'housing' area. Although the Core Strategy has been adopted the chair said the M Dobson has said that the Core Strategy is not 'set in stone' and that we could propose our own percentages of housing types.

Retail and Commerce

J-A Parson is working with the student to identify all businesses in Garforth, locations and premises occupied and unoccupied. Formal communications would be helped by headed notepaper, postal and e mail address ,the chair said we could use the hall for a postal address and the secretary has set up a GNPF e mail address. Action S McQuire.

Leisure and greenspace

The group have produced their 'vision' of facilities which could be accessed by both the new development and existing Garforth . C. Coyle had looked at the figures used to calculate the amount of green space and thought there was under provision for the population of Garforth.

Transport and Traffic sub group

The group have produced their 'vision' for the new settlement, restricting access via the Ridge Road. All facilities should be available by walking or public transport. Surveys were being conducted on accidents black spots, cycle routes and public transport. There is a proposal to electrify the railway lines but timescales are unclear.

Flood sub group

The group have produced their 'vision' for the new settlement which must have a self contained sewage system. There has been a multi agency meeting including Yorkshire Water, environment agency, Yorkshire Wildlife and have concluded that existing Garforth needs a completely new drainage system. Previous plans drawn up were only implemented for Rothwell and shelved for Garforth.

J. Simpson also reported that a litter pick was organised for Sunday 22nd March. Dog fouling continues to be a problem and people are being asked to report incidents.

Healthcare

Have completed an audit of current healthcare provision and facilities. They have arranged a meeting early in May with all three GP practices in Garforth to discuss both current and future provision on health and social care. There are links to both leisure facilities and transport(walkways). Both J Simpson and C. Exley had attended a city wide meeting looking at people who are socially isolated. The NET team are doing an amazing job and have won a national award for their contribution. It was suggested that we ask NET for their vision for Garforth.

Drop in event: After much discussion the following was agreed:

Purpose: to

- inform public on revised site allocations plans: Housing, retail, green space, employment maps Action S McQuire
- Talk to public about work of each sub group. Each sub group to have a table and one representative, A.Tynan to bring sub group name notices
- Collect demographic information on attendees Action D . LeRoy
- Enlist more help for specific posts on steering group Notice S McQuire
- Obtain feedback

Publicity:

- Alan to arrange banners x 6, flyers to Main Street shops, library , churches.
- Noticed to be put on notice boards in Main Street Action D . LeRoy
- Notices to be sent to Streetlife Action S McQuire e mails to forum members
Action S McQuire

AOB Discussion on progress of group, agenda items at next meeting to be time limited to allow for a more in depth discussion of work of sub groups who would give feedback on work to date and planned actions. We would then discuss next actions.

Date of next meeting : Thursday 16th April