

THORPE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

2ND AGM OF THORPE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2018 5.30PM – RUTHWYKE ROOM, THORPE

List of apologies and Forum members attending attached and also Minutes from previous AGM agreed at this point

1. Welcome

Linda Gillham, Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all present and said her report gave a timeline reporting on the progress so far with special regard to the year 2018. The Open Event was held in March over two days and was well attended with good quality evidence received on our provisional policies for Neighbourhood Plan. Today at a separate meeting, The Forum discussed with appointed Planning Consultant ONeill Homer the requirements for formulation of the policies.

2. Constitution

It was agreed that the Constitution is still fit for purpose, but may be subject to a review next year.

3. Election of Officers

Linda Gillham, current Chair, Elaine Gill, Secretary and Ian Patenall, Treasurer were all voted on bloc with Margaret Harnden nominating and Mary Abrahams seconding the nominations.

4. Reports from Officers

Linda, Chair of TNF had read her report in the welcome. Elaine Gill, Secretary read her Report. It was confirmed that nine meetings had taken place between December 2017 and October 2018 and also a second Drip in Open Event on 9th & 10th March.

There has been various meetings with RBC Officers, SCC Highways and potential developers for sites within designated area and three reports have been issued by AeCom – Character and Heritage, Housing Advice and Design Codes and finally Housing Needs Assessment.

Working group meetings have also taken place and I was involved with the Environment policy which includes traffic, parking etc.

Ian Patenall, Treasurer distributed his financial report. As reported last year two grants had been applied for which left £6764.82 of the initial £9000 available. A third grant of £1965 was allocated and so far only £299.62 has been spent. The remainder must be used by 31st March or returned to Locality.

There has been some discussion about running another grant to be concurrent with the 3rd one mentioned and this would pay towards Consultancy fees.

There is also a further grant of £8000 that can be applied for if we intend to allocate sites for houses within the designated area. Grant funding is very complex and the finances are controlled by RBC who then draw down the grant monies to reimburse TNF for expenses. We are not incorporated.

There is some concern that we will not have sufficient funds to pay for all the time allocated by the Planning Consultant, especially with the VAT element which at the moment cannot be reclaimed.

4. Feedback from Planning Consultants

Meeting with Neil Homer today was very productive and from the debate between Forum members, he felt quite positive about moving forward to referendum and adoption of the Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan.

He advised that he has set up over 100 Neighbourhood Plans so has wealth of experience. He said it is very positive that the TNF agree mostly with all the content of the Runnymede Local Plan 2015 – 2030.

He reinforce the point that Neighbourhood Plans must not be Councillor driven but lead by the community as a whole with enhancement from the Local Councillors.

A further meeting is to be arranged between TNF, RBC and ONeill Homer

5. Feedback from RBC Local Plan Inquiry

The Examination in Public commenced on Tuesday 26th November with three days initially planned to discuss the strategy and technical soundness of the Local Plan.

Mary Travers, the Planning Inspector made it quite clear that she did not want site specific information at these hearings. That would come in February 2019.

RBC were represented by Ian Maguire, Georgina Pacey and a range of other Planning Officers together with their Barrister, Tim Leader. There were also five other Barristers present, representing various Developments, Residents Associations. Etc. Adam Murray of Coda Planning attended in conjunction with the Coltscroft site.

Emma Jones, one consultant appointed by RBC confirmed that in twenty years of carrying Sustainability Appraisals, Runnymede was the most constrained Borough she had worked on, due to various matters, including Green Belt and flooding constraints.

Much of the debate was focussed on the A320 and the mitigation for this road with the amount of potential dwellings being proposed within the Chertsey and Ottershaw area.

6. Views/Comments from Forum members and attendees

Forum members and those attending felt that communication should always be open between the Forum itself and the community and that different forms of social media need to be utilised. The Thorpe Neighbourhood Plan needs to embrace Facebook, but perhaps not Twitter. Also the website and constant updates is considered vital.

Also a request that meetings for TNF take place later in the evening to allow those who wish to attend but have work commitments and this was taken on board.

Also a vote of thanks was given to Ian Patenall, Treasurer for his dedication as the form filling required for the locality grants is very convoluting and can try one's patience!

A vote of thanks was also given to Andrew Cordery from JBSki who has assisted with the research for a Planning Consultant and has

also researched other Neighbourhood Plans for guidance on policy making.

Residents asked about the site of Coltscroft and when application is expected in light of the exhibition that Coda Planning arranged. It was felt that despite the land not proposed to come out of Green Belt until the Local Plan is adopted in 2019, it may well come forward earlier so asked residents to be vigilant.