

## **Minutes of TBRA Working Group Meeting on Saturday, 21st November 2015**

Attending: Nicky Johnson (in the Chair), Rosemary Englander (minutes), John Orr, Ron Ellis, Cliff Green, Dave Boatwright, Dave Lee, and (for part of the meeting) Henry Britton and George Flanagan

Apologies were received from Kathy Higgins (Co-Chairperson), Lesley Berry (Co-Chairperson), and Sheila Taylor.

### **1.Minutes of the last meeting on 7th November 2015.**

1.1 Minutes were distributed, read and approved as an accurate record of the meeting of 7th November.

### **2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

2.1 There were several issues in the minutes that related directly to the main business of the meeting, i.e. approval of the draft Community Plan, and it was agreed that these would be taken up at the appropriate moment.

### **3. Any Other Business to be taken at the end of the meeting**

3.1 Approval and completion of the Newsletter

3.2 Decisions regarding Christmas activities

3.3 Order for T-Shirts

3.4 Woughton Community Council: short report from Cliff Green.

3.5 The question of creating a website as a means of organising our meetings, managing and monitoring the implementation of the plan and all the data we are collecting.

### **Next Steps for the First Steps Plan**

4.1 The Chair addressed the main business of the meeting, which was to add some material to the draft community plan, which had been circulated previously, and to approve the amended plan for submission on Monday 23rd November to First Steps.

4.2. There was a wide-ranging discussion about the section covering our Priorities.

4.2.1 We decided that these should also include:

Adult learning opportunities

Improvements to the council houses are a high priority. This was thought to be a proper focus for RegenerationMK if it wanted to put money into our community.

**Action: John Orr** will cost improvements such as making the houses water tight, providing new roofs, and appropriate cladding of the exterior walls. **John Orr** will also investigate by January what is happening to the rents obtained for these dwellings.

Alleyways. We will pursue the option of placing steel gates with bolts at the end of the alleyways, of clearing the alleyways, and of levelling the alleys and giving them a gravel surface. **Action: Dave Lee.**

Parking - the present situation is both a fire hazard (as access to the roads is hampered by careless parking) and leads to damage of pavements and gardens.

The option of laying woven green spaces for parking was favoured. **Action: Dave Boatwright** will take the lead on this issue and investigate costs and procedures.

4.3 There was also a discussion surrounding the activities that should be mentioned in the draft plan.

4.3.1 These would include:

1. Forming a pressure group to persuade Milton Keynes Council to act to improve its council housing and to make this a condition placed on its commercial partner, Mears. **Action: All**

2. Obtaining shared office space in the Meeting Place. **Action: John Orr** to investigate in December and push for this.

3. Dealing with the problems caused by the trees. These involved damage done to houses, drives, pavements and roads, and the danger to life and limb. The leaves also cause a hazard. **Action: Nicky Johnson** to ask residents to report any accidents on the estate caused by the trees and/or leaves to her, using Facebook messages.

4. Individuals also to be encouraged to report accidents and/or dangerous conditions directly to the council. **Action: All**

5. The Council has surveyed the trees. **Action: John Orr** to make a freedom of information request to see the survey a.s.a.p.

Currently a volunteer team, led by Ron Ellis, works with Serco to keep the estate as decent as possible. The team move approximately 72 bags of leaves each autumn.

**Action: Lesley Berry and Kathy Higgins** to contact Anthonia Lifu a.s.a.p. for advice about suing the council if its responsibilities in this regard continue to be neglected.

6. To pursue environmental initiatives in the short and long term. While it may not be possible, for example, to bid for a Pocket Park on 10th December, we will prepare the ground now for future bids by contacting Shared Assets, and the Parks Trust etc. **Action: Ron Ellis** to lead in this area of advanced planning for future initiatives.

7. To explore the feasibility of a Fix-it workshop. The idea would be to provide somewhere - a purpose built shed was suggested- where people could come along and be guided on how to repair items. The TBRA already has a tool bank. **Action: Dave Lee as soon as possible.**

**4.4 The Draft Plan was approved for submission. Nicky Johnson will enter changes on Sunday afternoon. Rosemary Englander will send her any minor typographical errors before then and will also provide Nicky with the draft minutes.**

**5.0 The need to arrange consultation and planning events prior to drawing up the final plan.**

**5.1 The timeline.** Yvonne Field has informed us that the Draft Plan will be viewed by the government department and that we will receive comments during December. The final plan has to be submitted in February/March. The newsletter informing residents of any events will be issued in early December and in the third week of January.

5.2 After some discussion, it was agreed that:

5.2.1 There would be a **Christmas social** of the TBRA on 17th December from 7-30 until 10 p.m. at which copies of the draft plan would be available for consultation. The main aim is to encourage people to come together and also to increase membership, especially among younger people. Henry Britton will provide live music. **Donations of light refreshments, soft drinks and cutlery etc appreciated by 5th December wg meeting. Action: All**

5.2.2 There would be another event in **January** specifically designed to consult residents.

5.2.3 A small number of questions would be asked of residents **on the back page of the January Newsletter**. Residents will be asked to bring their replies to the above meeting if possible.

## **6.0 Amendments to the draft and Schedule for the creation of the Final Plan.**

6.1 **Action: Kathy Higgins and Lesley Berry as co-chairs** to create a timeline for creation of the final plan within this general time frame of January and February.

6.2 **Action: Working Group to manage and monitor closely the implementation of those parts of the draft plan discussed at this meeting.** Named people will lead the various initiatives as in minute 4. above.

## **7. Any Other business**

### **7.1 The Newsletter.**

7.1.1 The draft December Newsletter was circulated in advance and was also provided in draft for the meeting. Various details and dates were inserted regarding events and activities.

7.1.2 There is real need for a deputy editor, who can shadow Rosemary Englander until the end of April, when Rosemary will stand down. **Action: John Orr.**

7.1.3 The Newsletter was approved for handover to the designer.

7.1.4 Rosemary will hand over the newsletter to **John Orr for printing and distribution.**

7.1.5 There will be a print run of 400-500 colour copies for this first issue. We will ask the Tesco Manager if he will have a small supply for customers who show interest. **Action: John Orr**

### **7.2 T-Shirts**

7.2.1 An order for 50 T-Shirts was approved. The order will consist of 5 small, 10 medium, 20 large, 10 XL, and 5 XXL unisex T-shirts of high quality. These will bear the TB Logo (on the back) and the slogan 'I Love Tinkers Bridge' on the front. The colour will be Cadbury Purple with the writing in a contrasting colour.

7.2.2 The T Shirts will be paid for by the TBRA. Residents who want them will be asked to give what they can afford, and a donation of between £5 and £10 will be suggested. This information will be in the December Newsletter.

7.2.3 **John Orr should be invoiced** for the order if possible. **NB. Payment has to be prompt and received BEFORE the order can be fulfilled. Time is of the Essence. The order has to be fulfilled by 30th November at the very latest.**

7.2.4 T-Shirts should be available at the working group meeting on 5th December so come prepared.

### **7.3 WCC Report**

7.3.1 Cliff Green asked for someone to join him at the next WCC neighbourhood plan meeting, to act as an observer

7.3.2 He is unhappy about procedures

### **7.4 Website**

7.4.1 There are problems caused by a) no secretary or repository for documents such as notices of meetings and events, plans, questionnaires and data b) discussion by email is getting out hand

7.4.2 It was agreed that either a website of our own or a section on the Parish Website (preferred option) was highly desirable. Dave Lee suggested a shared space on google drive. **Action: John Orr and Dave Lee.**

7.4.3 The fact that several key members of the group have no or little internet access should, however, be borne in mind.

7.4.4 The Newsletter should be used to remind people of the dates of meetings etc.

## **8. The Dates of the next meetings for your diaries.**

TBRA meeting on **Thursday 26th November, 7-30**

Working Group Meetings at noon on **Saturday 5th December and Saturday 19th December**

TBRA Christmas Social on Thursday 17th December (7-30-10 p.m.) prefaced by a short business meeting from 7-30 to 8 p.m. **Action: Donations of food, soft drink etc and help from all wg members by 5th December please.** Copies of the Community Action Plan to be provided for inspection only. **Action: Kathy Higgins and Lesley Berry in consultation with John Orr.**

Note: The meeting room is to be booked for Saturday 19th December. This meeting may be cancelled nearer the time if necessary but it could be useful for finalising Christmas Day preparations. **Action: John Orr and Ron Ellis.**