

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 10/03/2016

Present: Lesley Berry (Chair), Dave Lee, Cliff Green, Ron Ellis, John Orr, Nicky Johnson, Rosemary Englander, Dave Boatwright, Vincent Pretorius and Sheila Taylor (notes).

Apologies: Kathy Higgins, Terry Weller and Derek Weller

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2016

These were approved as a correct record, except that John and Dave B were recorded as having been present and also as having sent their apologies. Neither was in attendance.

Matters arising

All covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2) Community Plan Update

The final draft was submitted on 28th February. Final feedback is expected during March, with the finished version completed by 31st March. Thanks were expressed to Nicky for all the work she did to achieve this and to Kathy for her work on this and earlier drafts.

There was a discussion about how to launch the Plan, including presenting it to the relevant authorities. It was agreed that it is crucial that the Tinkers Bridge Plan influences the wider Woughton Neighbourhood Plan and Milton Keynes-wide initiatives such as Plan MK. This was always the intention. After discussion, it was agreed that John will approach Woughton Community Council (WCC) to get dates for a formal presentation to them of the plan by a delegation from Tinkers Bridge.

Action: John

There will also be a launch event, with the opportunity to gather more volunteers to help with the Action Plan. This will be used as a forum where representatives of WCC and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) can make presentations about how they will help us achieve the wishes of local residents, as described in the Plan. A possible date for this is the TBRA meeting on 28th April. John will also talk to WCC and MKC about this. **Action: John**

3) Next steps for the Action Plan

It was agreed to start the discussion with the medium-term activities, as the short term ones are mainly in hand or dealt with elsewhere on the agenda. John is working on the appointment of street reps. **Action: John**

Training

- IT – Dave L reported that he is having difficulty getting a response from the MKC IT training team. He will ask Anne Bircham to help. **Action: Dave L**

- First aid – ST Johns Ambulance will provide a 3-hour first aid course at £30 a head. John suggested applying for grant funding for this. **Action: John**
- John recommended the MKC day course for chairing meetings.
- Lesley and Nicky will be attending a tenants' conference in Kenilworth.

Availability of the Meeting Place

John explained the history. The Meeting Place is one of the community assets that MKC is seeking to transfer to other bodies. TBRA looked into doing this but was not ready to take on the responsibility at that time. WCC has therefore done so. The Chief Executive of WCC has been charged with using assets such as the Meeting Places to raise income. Rosemary pointed out that the Woughton Gazette advertises it as the "Tinkers Bridge Centre".

The action plan calls for a lobby group to liaise with WCC and funders on costs, improved access and refurbishment. After discussion, it was agreed to write a formal letter to WCC. Rosemary agreed to draft the letter. Points to make about our requirements include:

- easy access to the booking calendar for the whole year
- guaranteed hours and significantly reduced costs for charitable organisations and projects of TBRA; waiving of deposit for TBRA approved groups
- the use of and access to the offices at all times; a key.

The lobby group will be formed after a response is received to this letter. **Action: Rosemary**

Improving DIY facilities

Both the activities in this heading are unchanged since the plan was drafted.

The estate environment

Ron reported that progress is being made on all activities. Litter pickers have been appointed for all but one street.

Long-term activities

Work is currently going on in the car park at the side of Tesco and it is hoped this is the beginning of work on the main car park.

4) The remit of the working group

It was agreed that the remit of the group is to monitor the implementation of the action plan. Kathy has suggested that terms of reference are needed. It was agreed to ask her if she would be willing to draft these on her return which is expected to be in mid-April.

5) Any other business

a) Newsletter As already reported to the TBRA meeting, Rosemary has found a deputy editor, Lisa-Marie Amadi. She has young children so may not be able to come to evening meetings but she is keen to do the job and has a number of good ideas. Katherine Clarke has agreed to act as design consultant.

There was a discussion about funding for future printing. John will follow up grant suggestions. The following printers will be approached for costings:

- Woburn Sands co-operative – Rosemary
- MKC print room – Sheila
- OU – Nicky
- Tesco media centre – Dave L

Quotations will be obtained for each of the following options:

1. 500 x 2 double-sided pages in colour
2. 500 x 2 double-sided pages in black and white
3. 400 x 2 double-sided pages in colour
4. 400 x 2 double-sided pages in black and white

Action: as above

b) Website Agreed to go ahead with the proposals in Dave L's recent e-mail
Action Dave L

c) Soup MK This is a fundraising initiative recently promoted by Anne Bircham of the MKC Regeneration Team. There will be further discussion about whether we would like to take part in this. There was a discussion about fundraising generally. John is intending to find out the source of a large grant received by Netherfield RA last year. **Action: John**

c) SPOC (specific point of contact) Lesley has agreed to take on this role, which links the estate to the Regeneration Team.

d) Woughton Neighbourhood Plan consultation

Cliff shared details of the Futures document which is the next stage of this consultation. Lengthy reports have been prepared by the consultants working for WCC. Cliff will circulate the documents. The deadline for comments is 5th April.

e) Cabinet meeting on Monday 14th March

Dave L intends to attend this meeting, where the main agenda items are on homelessness and the allocation of Council houses. He invited others to join him.

f) Plan MK consultation

Cliff has already attended one meeting as part of this consultation and is willing to offer lifts to another, in Wolverton on 16th March.

The Meeting finished at 9pm

Date of Next Working Group meeting Thursday 14th April 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Next TBRA meetings 31st March and 28th April, both at 7.30 pm.