

## **Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 13/09/2017**

**Present:** Kathy Higgins (Chair), John Orr, Ron Ellis, Lesley Berry, Terry Weller, Rosemary Englander, Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright and Sheila Taylor (Minutes).

**Apologies:** Dave Lee, Cliff Green and Derek Weller

### **1) Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

There was no meeting in August and the July minutes have not been circulated. Kathy confirmed that the Action items from that meeting have all either been dealt with or appear on this agenda.

### **2) Matters arising**

Lesley said that she is not able to circulate minutes on the internet and, while she is grateful for help from people who type them up and circulate them, this is not a very efficient process. Sheila offered to take minutes for the Working Group and Rosemary offered to do this when Sheila is unavailable. John suggested that, if Lesley could type up TBRA minutes and put them on a memory stick, someone else could arrange for them to be circulated. Lesley agreed to give this a try. John will get her a memory stick.

**Action Sheila, Rosemary, Lesley and John**

### **3) Financial Report**

Mavis circulated a spreadsheet showing the position as at 31.08.2017. The closing balance in the bank account is £4003.20 and petty cash stands at £100.24.

There was a discussion about the sum paid each year to the Local Giving charity website. John explained this charity gives grants to community groups.

Periodically it has “double your money” events where it will match fund any donations made to member organisations. John said that in previous years (but not 2016) we have always received more than we put into this charity. He will arrange for Sheila’s e-mail address to be added to the charity’s e-mail list.

**Action John**

### **4) Grants update**

Sheila raised the following points:

1. The feedback form for the grant for the Funday is now due. John answered some questions which will enable Sheila to send in this form. **Action Sheila**
2. The application for a grant for the coach for the pantomime trip has been submitted to Woughton Community Council (WCC).
3. An application will be made to Milton Keynes Council (MKC) for a grant of £400 for the Christmas party. The opening date for this application is 1<sup>st</sup> November. A provisional date for the party is 9<sup>th</sup> December. **Action Sheila (application) John (party)**

4. £1500 remains in the funds from Tesco. Bill, Ron, Terry and Derek are working on this.
5. The bid to the Community Foundation remains on hold until there is certainty about the future of the Bridge (see item 9 below)
6. A number of funding opportunities are available but we need to have clear ideas on what projects we need and who is going to lead them.

## **5) Woughton Neighbourhood Plan referendum**

The referendum is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> October. At the last TBRA meeting there was a presentation by Councillors Sue Smith and Pauline Prop of WCC. They will be delivering a summary of the plan and information about the referendum to every house but they are not allowed to promote a yes or no vote.

The TBRA meeting voted unanimously to support a yes vote. Any yes campaign must be registered with MKC and must not be funded from the budgets of bodies such as WCC or TBRA.

Kathy described some of the arguments for supporting the Plan which, although not perfect as it is a result of compromises that have to be made, is a way of preserving aspects of Tinkers Bridge which we all value. If the Plan is adopted, all future planning decisions will have to take it into account.

After discussion, it was agreed to have a leaflet and door knocking campaign to promote a yes vote. All present were willing to give £10 to a fund for this purpose.

John will find out how to register the campaign and how the funds for it should be accounted for. **Action John**

Kathy, Lesley and John will design the leaflet. **Action Kathy, Lesley and John**

We do not think we should deliver the leaflet too early, as people will forget. It

was agreed to have the campaign to promote a yes vote from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

October. More work can be done on this at the September TBRA meeting and the October Working Group. **Action all**

## **6) Registering areas for preservation**

Not everyone has looked at the document sent by Cliff and there was some difference of opinion about what can be preserved – properties or green spaces.

It was agreed all would look again and that in principle we should make use of this opportunity if we can. **Action all**

## **7) The Community Plan**

This item was linked to another on the agenda about the future of the Working Group. Dave has suggested we should consider our role and Lesley feels that the Action Plan is not supported by the community as a whole. Sheila suggested that the work of the group might need to be re-focussed, given that we now know regeneration will not be happening till 2020. Some activities, such as the Neighbourhood Plan yes campaign and involvement with other regeneration estates or other Residents' Associations might be more appropriate than others currently on the action plan.

It was agreed to bring the Action Plan to the next meeting for a broader discussion. **Action all**

## **8) Regeneration Committee**

The next meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> November. This is a useful meeting to find out what is happening.

## **9) The Bridge**

Nicky is leaving the area. It was agreed to send her a vote of thanks for all she has done and particularly for her work on the Bridge. **Action Kathy/Lesley**  
We have been approached through FaceBook by a resident who is interested in editing the Bridge. Kathy has met her and agreed she will try producing the next two editions.

## **10) Any Other Business**

1. Sheila will re-instate the Association's insurance policy. Mavis will become the contact person from now on for ongoing renewal. **Action Sheila and Mavis**
2. Ron will be attending the RAN and RIRG meetings on behalf of the TBRA. **Action Ron**
3. We can no longer use the school for meetings on a Wednesday without charge. This is possible on a Tuesday so it was agreed to try this. WE have to meet a little earlier so the time will be 6.45 – 8.45 pm.

## **11) Dates of next meetings**

Working Group Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at the school 6.45 to 8.45  
TBRA Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 in the Meeting Place