

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 13/12/2017

Present: Dave Lee (Chair), Ron Ellis, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Mavis Boatwright, John Orr and Sheila Taylor (Minutes).

Apologies: Rosemary Englander, Sarah Mitchell, Kathy Higgins, Lesley Berry, Dave Boatwright and Cliff Green

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2017

These were confirmed as a correct record.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

2.2) Kathy helped Lesley with printing the minutes of the last TBRA meeting. MKC has recently started asking for information in preparation for next year's Health Check and this may require more TBRA meeting minutes. **Action Lesley**

3) The Bank statement that was missing last month arrived, as has this month's. Mavis has not yet investigated using the Bankline or putting Lesley on as a signatory for the bank account. **Action Mavis**

5) The Bridge was published as discussed. John and Ron suggested having a bank of stories ready for future editions.

3) Financial Report

Mavis circulated a spreadsheet showing the position as at 30.11.2017. The opening balance at the beginning of November was £4223.43. The balance at the end of the month is £3830.37. Reserves are now £2085.98. Money received from Local Giving is currently in reserves but will be allocated to printing. John reported that he was offered a bouncy castle for the price of £250. He bought it and was now seeking retrospective agreement. It was decided this should be discussed at the next TBRA meeting. A report will be prepared including issues including, insurance, safety training and risk assessment.

Action John

Dave offered to ask Ruth Cooke if she would audit the TBRA accounts again. This was agreed. The accounts will need to be ready for Ruth to audit them in time for the February AGM. **Action Dave and Mavis**

Dave reported on the meeting he and Mavis had to look at the outcome of donations to the Local Giving "Grow a Tenner" campaign. It appears that their way of working have changed and the scheme may not now represent good value for our contribution. It was agreed not to contribute to the scheme in future. Mavis will cancel our Direct Debit. **Action Mavis**

4) Grants update

Sheila reported that the application for a grant from MKC for the Christmas Party has been successful. She has also applied to the Community Foundation for a grant to publish the newsletter. They have asked for quotes for all items over £50. Sheila will discuss this with Cliff. **Action Sheila**

Sheila suggested that our summer event next year (for which we have used a grant from MKC in previous years) should have a multi-cultural theme, involving

residents from different countries and celebrating the diversity of the estate. It was agreed to discuss this at a TBRA meeting. It was also agreed that we cannot set up an event like this without more helpers. An appeal for volunteers, including people from different cultures, will be written for the Bridge. **Action Sheila**

5) Christmas planning and future events

Dave went through the following list of dates:

14th December RAN – Ron will attend.

19th December Pantomime – tickets are now being made available to residents of the rest of Woughton. 50 bookings have been made for the 57 places, although only 27 have paid so far. Deanna and John will be leading the event itself. **Action John and Deanna**

Housing and Community Committee – Sheila will attend. **Action Sheila**

23rd December Christmas Party (postponed from 2nd December) - Santa will be touring the estate from 2-4 pm and the children's party will be from 4-6 pm. Help is required to decorate the meeting place from 10 am. Volunteers are also needed to wrap presents, write cards and prepare food. Various members offered to help and to ask others. **Action all**

This year there will also be an evening social for adults, being organised by Donna and Bill Fuller to raise funds for medical treatment for a sick child.

25th December - Dave reported that there have already been some bookings for the Christmas Day meal and that Jenny has the arrangements well in hand.

2nd January Cabinet – Dave is chasing the agenda.

9th January Regeneration Committee

10th January Working Group

17th January Full Council Meeting

5) The Bridge

Sarah has agreed to carry on producing the Bridge. This was warmly welcomed. Ron said that Sarah and Kathy did a good job with the article about fly tipping. Dave will ask Kathy for electronic copies of the Bridge for the website. **Action Dave**

6) TBRA response to PlanMK

Dave circulated a draft response in advance of the meeting. He concentrated on one aspect of how the Plan was prepared, namely the extent to which comments received to the last draft have been taken on board. The views of TBRA have not been properly considered. John felt that this is a continuation of the response to our Community Plan, which was welcomed but ignored. Dave will add this to the response. **Action Dave**

With this addition, it was agreed to support the Dave's submission. All comments will go to the Government inspector. We may be called to give evidence. Dave will also send our comments to the other regeneration Ras and to MK Forum.

Action Dave

It appears that MKC have received a Freedom of Information request about the constitution and accounts of Fullers Slade Residents' Association.

7) Any Other Business

- 1.** Mavis mentioned parking problems in Brent, caused when vans park on both sides of the road. This is not illegal but is inconsiderate and can block the road and cause damage to vehicles. A request not to do this could be put in the Bridge.
- 2.** There was a discussion about who to invite to future TBRA meetings. Ron will invite the Fire Brigade **Action Ron**
John will give Dave a list of people who should be invited to every meeting (police, MKC, WCC etc) and Dave will set up regular emails reminding them of the dates of meetings. **Action John and Dave**

8) Dates of Next Meetings

Working Group Wednesday 10th January 7.00 at 45 Old Groveway

TBRA Thursday 25th January 7.30 in the Meeting Place