

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

Present: Lesley Berry (Chair), Ron Ellis, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright, Dave Lee, Cliff Green and Sheila Taylor (Minutes).

Apologies: Rosemary Englander, Sarah Mitchell, Kathy Higgins and John Orr.

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2017

These were confirmed as a correct record, except in 2) 2.2) below.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

2.2) Kathy helped Lesley with the computer, not the minutes of the last TBRA meeting. Lesley is working on getting previous TBRA meeting minutes written up.

Action Lesley

2.3) Mavis has not yet had time to investigate using the Bankline, putting Lesley on as a signatory for the bank account or cancelling the Direct Debit for Local Giving. **Action Mavis**

As John was not present it was not known if he had started on the report for the next TBRA meeting about the purchase of a bouncy castle. **Action John**

Ruth Cooke has agreed to audit the accounts again. Mavis will contact her with a view to having the accounts audited in time for the AGM at the end of February.

Action Mavis

2.4) Sheila had difficulty getting quotes to go with the application to the MK Community Foundation but, with help from Dave L, eventually supplied something that appeared to be satisfactory.

Sheila has not yet written something for the Bridge looking for volunteers for a multi-cultural event in the summer. **Action Sheila**

Ron is still waiting for the minutes of the last RAN.

Dave L reported that the pantomime trip went well, with all 57 seats sold and all money paid. He has already made a tentative booking for 19th December 2018.

The Christmas Party also went well. Sheila needs photographs and information about costs for the MKC monitoring form for this grant. Dave L will send her some photographs and she will contact John for the costs. **Action Dave and Sheila**

The Christmas Day event was also a success. There would have been room for more people.

2.5) Sarah and Kathy are believed to be working on the next edition of the Bridge. Terry will write something (preferably a poem) about the pantomime and Dave will add a few words about the other Christmas events. **Action Terry**

Kathy sent Dave L an electronic copy of one edition of the Bridge for the website.

2.6) Dave sent in our response to Plan MK. Fullers Slade RA also contributed.

2.7) Ron has been in contact with the Fire Brigade and is waiting for a date to invite them. This might be the March meeting. **Action Ron**

Dave L still needs a list of e-mail addresses so that he can send regular reminders about meetings. Ron will ask Linda to do this. **Action Ron**

3) Financial Report

Mavis circulated a spreadsheet showing the position as at 30.12.2017. The opening balance at the beginning of December was £3830.37. The balance at the end of the month is £3333.92. There is still over £1100 left of the Tesco grant for raised beds. This must be spent by May 2018 on the raised beds or another project that meets the Tesco criteria..

4) Grants update

See 2.4) above.

5) First Steps plan

Lesley asked for more ideas for the plan. In discussion, the following ideas were mentioned:

- A choir
- Another seaside trip. It was suggested that as last year's trip to Southend went well we should suggest doing the same again, to reduce the length of time needed to make decisions.
- Something to celebrate the royal wedding in May
- An Easter trip, although it was felt it was now too late to organise this for this year.

There remain concerns about how to get more people involved in organising events. It was agreed to use all our contacts to get views on this and to raise it at the TBRA AGM. **Action all**

Dave L gave an update on progress with the Plan since we reviewed it one year ago. Items that were Green then remain Green. Some Yellow items have moved on (e.g. tool storage, regeneration monitoring). Some Brown items are no longer under discussion (e.g. better access to the Meeting Place). Overall, we are not doing badly.

5) Regeneration Watch

Dave L commented that our response to regeneration tends to be reactive and that we should try to be more proactive. He suggested four areas in which this could be done:

- Keeping residents informed/eliciting input – this must be led by RAs and could include a poll on Facebook
- Monitor and challenge YourMK – Dave L reported on recent developments, including a document he wrote as an addendum to a question to the Cabinet meeting on 4th January, in response to a report submitted by YourMK on progress with regeneration. This report was felt by many, including several councillors, to be very poor and to demonstrate that Your MK is not genuinely engaging with residents of the regeneration estates.
- Monitor and challenge MKC – MKC are responsible to the voters, while YourMK is a PLC, so pressure on MKC is more likely to result in policy changes. The item on the Decision sheet for the Cabinet meeting of 2 January concerning regeneration (C112) was re-viewed, and, although this reflected the pressure that residents

had brought during that meeting, some aspects of the recorded decision were potentially able to be challenged. It was not thought practical to formally call in the decisions by the deadline of 12 January. Continuing attendance at MKC meetings was agreed.

Sheila reported on a brief discussion with Councillor Hannah O'Neill, who would be willing to meet us to talk about channels of communication. Agreed Sheila will follow this up. **Action**

Sheila

- Networking – links with FRSA – the tactics of Your MK appear to be to “divide and conquer”, for example by giving different message to residents of Serpentine Court and the rest of the Lakes Estate.

Dave L has had an email from Robbie MacPherson of Community Action MK, who came to a recent meeting of representatives of all the regeneration estates. He wanted to know if TBRA would like CA MK to get involved. It was agreed to accept this offer. **Action Dave**

Dave L was thanked for all his work on Regeneration matters.

6) Any Other Business

a) Future meetings:

17/01/2018 Full council – no items specific to regeneration, but some members should attend.

31/01/2018 Housing and Community Committee (NB not 25/01/2018 as stated in the meeting)

06/02/2018 Cabinet

13/02/2018 Regeneration Committee

21/02/2018 Full Council

There are no dates yet for RAN meetings but Ron will try to attend once the dates are announced.

Dave L will be away for 10 days and the end of January/beginning of February so may not be able to co-ordinate attendance at some of these meetings

b) Mavis announced that, due to pressure of other work, she will have to give up the role of treasurer. She is willing to continue till someone else is found. On behalf of the whole meeting, Lesley expressed thanks to Mavis for the invaluable work she has done in sorting out the accounts.

7) Dates of Next Meetings

Working Group Wednesday 14th February 7.00 at 45 Old Groveway

TBRA Thursday 25th January 7.30 in the Meeting Place

AGM 22nd February 7.30 in the Meeting Place