

Minutes of the First Steps Working Group meeting 13/12/2018

Present: Lesley Berry (Chair), Ron Ellis, Dave Lee, Cliff Green, Rosemary Englander, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, John Orr and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

Apologies: Mavis Boatwright, Dave Boatwright and Kathy Higgins

1) Minutes of the meeting held on 08/11/2018

These were accepted by those present.

2) Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

4.5) It is not known if Kathy talked to Sarah to get her advice about our child protection policy.

3) Financial report

There was no report in Mavis's absence.

4) Grants and future activities update

4.1) Sheila has been contacted by the MKC Resident Engagement team to ask for contact details for TBRA for the MKC website. It was agreed to give John's name and phone number and the email address info@tinkersbridge.org.uk. Sheila will pass this on to MKC. **Action Sheila**

4.2) MKC have agreed to consider a different proposal for the use of the money originally given for the drama group. After discussion it was agreed to propose buying a new gazebo for events and to use the balance to buy materials for future craft activities. Dave L will get some prices for gazebos and Cliff is willing to help Sarah with shopping for craft materials. Sheila will check if this proposal is acceptable to MKC. **Action Dave L, Cliff and Sheila**

4.3) The Hallowe'en events were successful. Sheila now has the receipts and will submit a monitoring form to MKC for this and the arts and crafts events in the summer. Sarah overspent by £22.50 on the Hallowe'en event but this was felt to be good value. Cliff has already given Sarah £20 so Mavis will be asked to refund this to him as well as giving Sarah the remaining £2.50. **Action Sheila and Mavis**

4.4) 55 seats have been sold for the pantomime, including about 30% to areas of Woughton outside of Tinkers Bridge. Deanna, Terry and Derek will be the organisers on the day. Dave L will arrange for a cheque to be available so Deanna can pay for the tickets. He will also send Cliff the feedback form so that Cliff can print 50 copies for use at this and future activities. Derek and Terry will distribute the form on the night and take them to Sheila afterwards. **Action Dave L, Terry, Derek, Cliff and John**

4.5) A grant of has been awarded by MKC for the Christmas party. Jenna Smith from the Resident Engagement team has said she hopes to attend.

4.6) Sheila noted that the grant from Milton Keynes Community Foundation for the newsletter comes to an end early in 2019. No plans have been made yet for future funding.

4.7) Councillor Pauline Prop's grant of £200 (£50 for Easter activities and £150 for the maintenance of environment equipment) has now been received and Councillor Prop has confirmed this usage in an email exchange.

4.8) It was agreed to leave the discussion about activities in 2019 till the next meeting.

4.9) As agreed at the last meeting, there was a discussion about TBRA's child protection policy. This is in any case due for review. It was felt some aspects of current practice should be reviewed at the same time. Advice will be taken from a number of people with a view to a revised draft being put to the TBRA AGM in February 2019. John will talk to Steve McNay of WCC, Sheila to Jenna Smith of MKC and Dave L to Catherine and Jenny of the Jesus Army. Until this is done no children will be included in activities unless they are accompanied by a parent or other adult authorised by the parent. **Action John, Sheila and Dave L.**

5) The Bridge

The November edition was well received. There will be no Bridge in December. Lesley will check Sarah knows this. **Action Lesley**

The following items were put forward for the January edition:

Reports with photos (not of children) on the Christmas party and Pantomime

A list of all regular activities and information about Hedgerows and other useful items

Terry will try to produce some more children's activities

A recipe – Rosemary offered to do one for January

6) RORE

Dave L reported that the ballot on Serpentine Court resulted in an overwhelming vote to demolish the whole building and to rebuild, including on the park.

MKC is improving its scrutiny of regeneration, although a proposal to employ an extra member of staff to support scrutiny was thrown out in the budget process.

The Regeneration sub-committee meeting on 11th December appeared to show that MKC is re-thinking its approach to engagement, including RAs in what it is calling a Big Conversation. This will be the process by which RAs lead on the appointment of independent advisors. The Council is also re-visiting the question of whether regeneration should just be about housing or about the wider concept of "People, Place, Prosperity".

The MKC budget includes £165m for Council house maintenance over the next 5 years. Ron asked about how Mears could be replaced in providing the Council house repair service. They have a 5-year contract and cannot be removed until this comes to an end.

7) Agreement with Woughton Community Council

This was discussed at the November TBRA meeting which suggested 2 changes:

The number of hours per week when the RA can use the meeting place without charge should be 40, not 30.

We would need assurances about what would happen if we lent equipment to another RA and it was damaged.

8) Welcome Pack

Rosemary introduced the latest version of the pack and there was discussion about some aspects including transport information and how to lay it out so that new residents could see essential information straight away and then keep the

pack for more detailed reference once they have settled in. Although some more work is needed on the content, it was felt we should now be beginning to think about help that will be needed with layout, format and delivery. Rosemary will talk to Sian Lewis, who helped with the original layout of the Bridge, and John will talk to WCC about how they could help. **Action Rosemary and John**

9) Items from the last TBRA meeting

9.1) There was concern about reports that MKC's refuse centres would be charging for items taken in vans. This was designed to prevent the dumping of trade waste, but it was felt to be in practice discriminatory against ordinary domestic users who happen to have vans. Sheila will write to MKC on behalf of TBRA to complain about this. **Action Sheila**

9.2) We need to apply to have a 20mph speed limit on the estate. Lesley will do this. **Action Lesley**

10) Any Other Business

10.1) Arrangements for the Christmas party on 15th December were discussed.

10.2) Arrangements for the Christmas Day meal have been passed to John. Dave L will still do the invitations and will include John's phone number for those who want to go. **Action John and Dave L**

10.3) Ron has been given permission by MKC to put up bollards on the corner of Bascote to stop lorries driving over the planting there.

Forthcoming Dates

Dave L reminded us of the following dates in January:

Tues 8th 19.00 Cabinet

Thurs 10th 19.00 Working Group

Thurs 17th 18.15 Regeneration sub-committee

Wed 23rd 19:30 Council

Wed 30th 19:00 Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Thurs 31st 19.30 TBRA