

## **Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association**

### **Minutes of the Working Group Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

#### **Present**

Lesley Berry (Chair), Mavis Boatwright, Liz O'Shea, Derek Weller, Terry Weller, Ron Ellis, Cliff Green. Rosemary Englander, Dave Lee, John Orr and Sheila Taylor (minutes).

#### **Apologies**

Kathy Higgins and Dave Boatwright

#### **Guest**

Julia Bandy, Team Leader, Resident Engagement Team, Milton Keynes Council

### **Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

These were taken as read. Lesley commented that there were only two actions recorded. Both were for her and both were completed.

#### **Public Realm Improvement Fund (PRIF)**

Lesley welcomed Julia to the meeting. Before she updated the group on the PRIF, Rosemary raised the subject of the murals on the walls of the underpass between Tinkers Bridge and the school. These have recently been refurbished, apparently by the original artists at their own expense. It was not clear if this had been approved or agreed by anyone, although it was also not exactly clear whose authority would have been required. Rosemary and Sheila both felt the new work might not be suitable for the route for young children walking to school but other members did not share this concern. Cliff suggested that the artists should be reimbursed for the cost of the paint. It was agreed that John would talk to the artists and invite them to the next TBRA meeting. **Action John**

Julia explained that the process of bidding for funds from the PRIF is now well advanced. Tinkers Bridge has been allocated £12,160 but this must be spent by the end of March 2020. We have put forward three possible uses for this funding: murals, speed bumps and work on the trees. We now urgently need to prioritise these items and to get costings. Julia's team is able to help us to do this. The work will be done by MKC and the funds will not need to go through our accounts.

After discussion it was agreed to recommend prioritising speed bumps but to allocate up to £1000 for improving the murals on the side of the meeting place. It was suggested that speed bumps should be placed on the longest roads i.e. Colne, Hatton and Aldenham (near the central roundabout and the junction with Marshworth). Lesley also suggested a mirror so that pedestrians can see traffic approaching the big roundabout. Julia agreed to liaise with Council colleagues with a view to getting costings and permissions so that the October TBRA meeting could comment on these firm Working Group proposals and vote on the order of priority.

### **Housing questions**

Lesley asked for questions for Julia on this topic. Liz asked about how to deal with the effects of neighbours' gutters which have not been unblocked. John suggested a downpipe to divert the water to a storm drain. He suggested the Council should be providing these for all their properties. John also asked Julia if there would be a consultation with tenants on the new planned maintenance programme. Julia said she would find out.

### **Housing and Regeneration strategy consultations**

Dave L said that RORE submitted responses to these consultations and has asked each RA to do the same. One key point is that the Housing Strategy does not mention the impact of the need for student accommodation in future. There is a meeting as part of the regeneration strategy consultation on 6<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed these should be key items for the agendas of the October TBRA meeting and the November WG. Dave agreed to try to prepare a presentation for the TBRA meeting.

Julia left the meeting at this point.

### **Finance report**

Mavis reported that the balance at the end of September was £3027.40.

### **Grant report**

Sheila said that we have been awarded £800 from MKC for Hallowe'en events, the pantomime and the Christmas party. We may be eligible for further funding from WCC this year. Suggestions for these bids included renewing the woodwork around the entrance to the community garden and deep cleaning projects. Sheila will need costings if a bid is required.

Sheila said that it is difficult, in writing bids for grants, if we cannot provide evidence that the community supports the activities involved. She said that our action plan is now quite out of date. John asked who now has the original questionnaires from the First Steps Action Plan. No-one knew. It was agreed to include this subject in the review of the role of the WG and its terms of reference.

### **The Bridge**

The following content for the October Bridge were suggested:

Panto advert – Dave L

Housing and Regeneration consultations – Dave L

Public Realm Improvement Fund – Rosemary and Sheila

Hallowe'en recipes – Rosemary

Tabletop Sale – report Terry, photos John **Action named people**

Dates are:

Copy to Sarah Friday 25/10

To Cliff for printing Monday 28/10

Delivery Tuesday 29/10

Lesley will pass this on to Sarah. **Action Lesley**

**Any Other Business**

Liz said she had been to a meeting where the topic of planting vegetables in public spaces had been raised. She wondered if this (including planting apple trees) could be done in Tinkers Bridge. Ron said that this had been tried before but the trees had been vandalised.

Ron said he had given a Welcome Pack to a new resident. Sheila agreed to give a copy to WCC and 3 or 4 to MKC, in the hope the Housing Department will issue them to new colleagues. It was also agreed to give a voucher for £50 to Sian Lewis to thank her for designing the pack. **Action Sheila**

Liz said she will be organising a Mind, Body and Spirit Day in the New Year. The Tinkers Bridge meeting place is not big enough so she will be using the Age UK building in Peartree Bridge. Tinkers Bridge residents will be welcome to attend. Sheila will put Liz in touch with Caroline Bell in the hope that the plan for a keep fit group can be revisited. Sheila will also apply for funding for meeting place hire for this group if it is set up. **Action Sheila**

**Forthcoming meetings**

October

Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> 19.30 Full Council

Weds 30<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Regeneration scrutiny committee

**Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> 19.30 TBRA**

November

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> 19.00 RoRE general meeting

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> 18.30 Cabinet

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> 18.30 Regeneration consultation

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Community and ~Housing scrutiny committee

**Weds 13<sup>th</sup> 19.00 Working Group**

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> 18.15 Regeneration Cabinet sub-committee

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Regeneration strategy consultation ends

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Housing strategy consultation ends

Weds 27<sup>th</sup> 19.30 Full Council

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> 19.30 TBRA**