

Notes of Knebworth NP Steering Committee meeting held on 10th October 2017, 8pm in the Village Hall

Present: Clint Bull (CB, chair)
Graham Dormer (GD, vice chair)
Bob Hall (BH)
Penny Berry (PB) - Note taker
Paul Ward (PW, KPC)
Claire Graham (CG, KPC)

Apologies: Robert Sprigge (RS)
Jenny Harrison (JH, KPC)
Gareth Hawkins (GH)
Paul Ambrose (PA)
Steve Hemingway (SH, KPC)

1. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 6th September 2017 were agreed.

2. General Updates

• Group Objectives, Visions

PW produced copies of his original vision for the village and a revised version. Some preferred the original. GD suggested that everyone reviewed the vision and reported back to PW with any helpful suggestions as soon as possible.

• Any progress or meetings

GD - Environment and Flooding.

- This WP currently has no group members.
- As the concept of Environment seemed very vague, GD had concentrated on researching submitted documents online, Local Plans and the Knebworth Rural Profile. Information has now been extracted in preparation for when the WP has members.
- A new flood risk survey is currently being carried out in Knebworth. Minimal works were carried out, eg clearing access to soakaways, following the 2014 survey
- Field owners have responsibility for any rain runoff from their fields onto roads, roads are a different responsibility.
- New developments have to have SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) which take current situations into account and should therefore improve the existing ground water situation.
- Developers have to pay to solve the problems and it is noted that this is a requirement.
- BH suggested that we ask for more than that as there are known infrastructure problems, we should ask for current problems to be addressed, perhaps as part of Section 106 funds and that it should be part of NHDC strategic plan.
- CG suggested that ACOM/AeCOM should query the impact on the total number of dwellings and whole infrastructure. They had said there were no problems when clearly there are.
- There is currently £6,000 for technical support and £9,000 for other support such as planning consultants, but it must be spent by 31st March 2018. There will be no

further funding. It was suggested that we contact ACOM/AeCOM to make relevant studies. PW is to organise this.

- GD will collate the information collected so far and prepare a draft vision and draft objectives ready for when there is a team.

PB - Wellbeing.

- One meeting held so far with attendance from Knebworth Surgery, the PPG and the Library. NHS dentists and Police Safer Neighbourhood Scheme unable to attend. Lots of information gathered which is currently being researched.
- There were indications that some sort of community space was needed for social care, information such as Citizens Advice or a Health Hub, self-help groups. Ken Spooner, Knebworth Surgery Practice Manager, is concerned about the numbers of older people being drawn into the village through specific housing styles such as retirement and assisted living developments. He suggested seeking Section 106 money for such a community space.

BH - Education.

- This WP has an interested group of people, however little progress was made over the summer months as school staff were not available. There will be another meeting shortly to discuss what to draw out of information already collected.
- From discussions with HCC and a strategic planner, it was agreed that KJMI should expand the existing school. A meeting between HCC and NHDC since, now shows a preference for a new separate school on the west side. There will be another meeting again soon. There are indications for support for this from pre-school and KJMI and there will be consultations with parents. BH suspects responsibility lies with HCC and therefore the SC will not have much influence.
- CG is it strategic for new JMI and placement strategy? Land has been offered by Lytton Estates (LE) for a new school. Tubb-Wallace (TW) has set aside four hectares for Education in the Local Plan on TW land (all TW land is on the east side of Knebworth). CG said that the authorities like any new JMI to be two-form entry. It should be remembered that land was allocated for a new school before, land which is now Bellamy Close.
- BH said there is still talk of expanding the existing school and improving access. Assuming LP will go ahead, HCC are the strategic authority. Any new school has to be offered for external management as a free school or academy. CB said that the village now had a voice due to BH efforts.
- The current school is oversubscribed and there is no capacity for growth in Woolmer Green. PW suggested that there is therefore an argument for a new two-form entry school. BH said the governors at Knebworth School see an opportunity to solve current school problems and would prefer to expand the present site.

• PW/(GH) - NHDC Transport Executive.

Nothing had been organised so far. CG will sort out a date.

• CB/PB - Global Volunteer email responses.

- There had been a response from Kathryn Tubb-Wallace regarding use of the TW land. PW said that (LE) also wanted to be involved in the process and work with the Steering Committee. Individual meetings with the landowners are to be arranged with the Steering Committee using the same format and topics for each meeting.

- There had been a few other responses with interest shown in particular groups. PB had forwarded these to RS, PA and BH on 17th September from the NP email account. The email access details had been sent separately from PB's personal account. There is also someone interested in the Communications/Media role. None of these offers have been followed up yet.
- Assuming that a group email may have ended up in some people's junk mail, it was agreed that the email should be re-sent in a similar style, but individually by copying and pasting the text to each separate email address.
- We need more people to get involved in groups and other roles.
- BH need objectives from all groups. GD each group should draft on paper for SC discussion. CG suggested a planner and knew of someone currently helping local groups. CG to ask if anyone else to help. Policies written by expert planners are more likely to be written in the correct way with fewer pitfalls.

3. Mini Centre

Resulting from research into their WP topics, RS, PA and PB had discovered potential need for a mini-centre. BH was concerned that the village centre could die if too much was separated from it. Ideas to consider included a mini-hub with the new school and a shop, a community centre with perhaps a couple of retail units, space for a pre-school facility, an information exchange, a larger community centre about the size of two badminton courts. Any such community space should be given to KPC, not NHDC. Other spaces suggested for potential use included the Pavilion, the Library, a room in the pub and one of the McCarthy & Stone retail units.

4. KNP Open Day

There was discussion around choosing a date soon to enable forward planning of such an event and perhaps tying it in with other events. Suggestions included the Stepping Stones Craft Fair, Christmas lights turn on or a Station Pub pop-up pub (particularly an afternoon session), starting with display boards of group visions and objectives. The poster session would be to get initial feelings to see if a bigger Open Day event would be viable. CG said that tea and cake/biscuits could be provided (costs presumably covered by the PC). PW is to liaise with Lisa Nash regarding using a pop-up pub event.

5. Application for funding

There had been some discussion on this at the previous meeting. CG is to formally register an interest in applying for funding by the end of the current week. PW is to spend time on the application and draft the scope. To be done this week on behalf of KPC. CG to check if the link has been sent. There was a discussion on what to ask for, including a housing needs survey as a strategic overview on how 700 homes will impact on Knebworth including resulting traffic flow, particularly with reference to the constraints resulting from the three bridges. BH is to contact a couple of planning firms, determine who should be contacted and pass the information on to CG. He will also contact GH.

6. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 1st November 2017, 8pm Village Hall, Main Hall. PW said this meeting will be very important and would like everyone to attend if possible.