

"Knebworth aims to be a vibrant, inclusive and independent village community which will accommodate sustainable growth and development in its population, services and infrastructure, whilst ensuring that its fundamental rural character is maintained."

Notes of Knebworth NP Steering Committee meeting held on 14th December 2017, 8pm in the Village Hall

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

Apologies: Robert Sprigge (RS)
Paul Ambrose (PA)
Jenny Harrison

1. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 1st November 2017 were agreed with a minor amendment - the addition of "infrastructure" to the Steering Committee Vision, as per emails during October (see revised header).

2. Group Objectives, Visions, Progress, Meetings

Environment and Flooding

- GD had updated the scope, vision and objectives for Environment and Flooding following an initial meeting of this group.
- Feedback from this meeting had indicated that sustainability, pollution and energy conservation should be included in the scope.
- GD has used a personal Dropbox to share documents with the members of his group. He would like to see a Steering Committee Dropbox facility to share group documents.
- GD had produced a comprehensive mind map for the E&F group, some overlaps of topics were noted. Please advise GD of any areas of overlap with your own group.
- There is another E&F meeting planned for 18th December.

Wellbeing

- A second Wellbeing meeting had taken place.
- A lot of research had been completed and was discussed at this meeting with a resulting view emerging that a space is needed for information on local safety and security issues, plus health and social issues.
- The Safer Neighbourhood Team had declined to attend the meeting, but PB is meeting the local PCSO next week to discuss a possible occasional Police presence somewhere in Knebworth. PW would like involvement if possible as there have been a number of problems in Knebworth recently around drug dealing and vandalism. The Parish Council are looking to introduce additional CCTV cameras based on a live camera system.
- PB and PW to liaise regarding contacts.

Schools

- The group had not met for some months, however BH had attended HCC meetings.
- The scope of the group had been divided into three sections, concentrating initially on pre-school provision, but now moving on to junior schooling.

- Provision of a new one-form entry school is required with developments of 500+ dwellings, but with over 600 new homes due to be built in Knebworth and about 200 in Woolmer Green, there seems to be a need for a 1½ - 2-form entry school. There is space and opportunity on the Knebworth Estates land.
- Previous attempts to establish secondary provision locally had been rejected due to HCC admissions policy.
- WelwynHatfield have assessed a need for additional secondary school provision in the north of their district for a four-form entry secondary school. HCC objected; not being part of their strategic plan being neither efficient nor effective.
- The NHDC Local Plan had possible provision. HCC objected.
- This has now been identified as a threat to Knebworth children.
- Three weeks ago, due to pressure on accommodation and now struggling, BH attended a meeting, taking several problems to address such issues as access and transport.
- BH is a Knebworth School governor and they are about to start projects looking at all the issues.
- There will be a School group meeting in January to move forward.

Traffic, Transportation and Parking

- GH had updated and issued revised Terms of Reference for the TT&P group.
- Suggestions were made for a sort of bypass around the whole village to avoid all the narrow bridges and consequent problems from increased traffic due to new developments; an arterial ring road providing access to new housing while taking pressure off the village centre.
- Professional help will be needed.
- As yet no meetings have taken place, GH to contact potential group members very soon.

Paul Ward took an action to produce a simple tracker to cover each subject group to record progress such as meetings and research. This would facilitate reporting back to the Parish Council.

3. Email responses

- There had been a few responses to the second email request for help. These expressed areas of interest, which PB had passed on to group leads.
- As a result, E&F and H&C had formed groups and held initial meetings.
- There are people willing to join TT&P and LE groups and they need to be contacted.
- PB to circulate the latest list of contacts to all Steering Committee members.

4. Meeting with land owners

- There was a discussion on the best time within the process to engage with the land owners and judge how what they are offering compares with what is required.
- We need to balance doing the right thing for the village while keeping the land owners amenable.
- We need to explain the need to obtain evidence of what is required without them influencing what is proposed for their own commercial advantage.
- PW took an action to draft a communication to the land owners. He will send this to CB, Claire Graham and Roger Willcocks for review and comment before sending.

5. KNP Open Day

- Originally proposed for late January, no suitable dates were available and the event was therefore postponed.
- Groups are not yet in a position to hold this event. The format of the event needs discussion.
- CB is to contact Roy Oosterwouder who expressed an interest in the PR/Comms role.
- GH to liaise with Lisa of the SOSPub group regarding a potential joint event. 17th February was suggested.
- If a date and format are agreed, details need to be publicised to get maximum footfall. BH can ask for it to be mentioned in Knebworth Primary School's parent email and the deadline date for the February Parish News is 16th January.

6. Application for funding

- PW apologised for the delay in the application, however he has confirmed with CG that current applications relate to 2018.
- GD had identified a need for someone to define data required and determine if it already exists.
- PW said the fund application form has a type of "menu" of the type of funding granted and therefore estimate a rough budget for each group.
- PW took an action to send everyone a copy of this "menu".

7. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd January, 2018, 8pm Village Hall