



AGM

7.30pm Wednesday 13 November 2019

St Andrew's Church, Jubilee Building Hall, Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UG

Present: Shamus Donald [Chair], Sam Clarke, Henk van Es, , Bob Colenutt, Neil MacLennan, Martin Roberts, Cllr Andrew Gant, Cllr John Howson, Tim del Nevo, Deborah Bryceson, David Nimmo Smith, Tim King, Laurel Glockner, David Sprigings, Andy Chivers, Allison Hills, Geraldine Freedland, Diana Roberts, Geoffrey Randall, Natasha Robinson [Minutes Secretary]

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm and Shamus Donald welcomed everyone and explained the plan for the evening.

Report from the Steering Committee [Shamus Donald, Chair]

The Forum was redesignated in January 2019.

The Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan took place in March 2019 and was passed with a large majority [93%] on a turnout of 18%. Following this, the Plan was formally accepted at the City Council Executive Board to become a 'made' plan on 29th April.

An open Forum meeting was held on 20th September with representatives of local organisations invited to consider how CIL funds should be distributed, following which a process for application and awarding of monies has been agreed.

The Steering Group recognised its future role going forward would be to monitor planning applications for compliance with the agreed Plan, and to allocate CIL funds in accordance with the Forum's stated aims to enhance the neighbourhood and its environment including the development of the retail district centre of Summertown; to increase sustainable transport; to reduce pollution; to retain and improve green spaces; to promote the delivery of affordable housing. Community involvement will be essential in delivering these ambitions.

Current proposed developments in the area include the transport corridors transport down the Woodstock and Banbury Roads and the commercial and residential development Oxford North at Wolvercote Roundabout.

Community Infrastructure Levy [CIL] policy for 2020 [Shamus Donald]

CIL monies are held by the Council on our behalf [currently £62620] and are available to support local projects that can potentially benefit the whole community, whilst mitigating any harm resulting from local development. Funds should also be used to help meet the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan. The process for the awarding of funds is explicit, and will include consultation with the Community. The awards cycle will start in January 2020, and will take place biannually, and be reviewed after each cycle. The CIL funding document was made available at the meeting, and can be found on the [Forum website](#).

The future of the Neighbourhood Forum [Sam Clarke, past Chair]

It is essential that we are able to recruit people to participate, and who wish to improve and reshape the area, defending it from unwelcome development, and we are appealing for volunteers to help make it happen.

CIL funds give the Forum a new role enabling it to launch and develop local projects and support regular local activities, but there is potential for engagement in other areas, for example:

- The existing Conservation Area within the neighbourhood could be extended into Summertown.
- The Forum could have a significant role to play in the Diamond Place redevelopment.
- The local shopping experience could be improved

A further option is to develop the Neighbourhood Forum into another form possibly with statutory powers for local amenities.

Following the presentations, the audience was invited to ask questions. It was clarified that the Forum would work with those in adjacent neighbourhoods, and also the County Council on matters such as transport. CIL funds available to the Forum are only 25% of those paid by local developers, the remainder being retained by the Council for projects within the City, not necessarily within our neighbourhood. A question was raised about managing the local impact of a development in Bardwell Road, and also by school buses and advice was given to address these concerns.

AGM Business

- The minutes of the 2018 AGM were **APPROVED** [proposed MR, seconded NR]
- Henk van Es gave the **Treasurer's Report** [17 transactions during the year] and noted that the last AGM ran at a loss, that we funded the Referendum, and that going forward we will have income problems as we will no longer have any regular source of income to cover the expenditure of running a website. The proposed budget shows sufficient funds for this year and next to cover running costs and the development of Alexandra Park [to be supported also by CIL money]. In response to a question, we do not have the accounts formally audited, but they are open to be viewed as wished.
- Elections to the Committee were run by Sam Clarke
- The Steering Committee consists of elected members and local Councillors.
- Martin Roberts, Neil MacLennan and Sam Clarke will be standing down having served for 2 full terms.
- Shamus Donald [Chair] and Henk van Es [Treasurer] are due for re-election. [Proposed SC, seconded GR, **ELECTED** by 18 votes]

- Deborah Bryceson, David Nimmo-Smith & Natasha Robinson have offered to join the Steering Group [Proposed SC, seconded AG, **ELECTED** by 18 votes.]

Shamus Donald thanked all those who are leaving the Steering Group for their work as founding members of the Forum and hoped that they would be willing to be co-opted [as according to the Forum's constitution] to advise on specific areas of their expertise.

The newly elected Steering Group members briefly introduced themselves to those present.

Guest speaker

Bob Colenutt introduced Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, who had stepped in at short notice on behalf of Cllr Tom Hayes to speak on the recent combined proposals from the City and County Councils to manage traffic and travel.

'Connecting Oxford' is a proposal currently under consultation to address the well-recognised difficulties of travel to and within the City. It also addresses pollution and tranquillity in affected communities. Possible solutions include a workplace charging levy, congestion charges and road closure [permanent or intermittent], and zero/low emission zones. Reduced congestion would improve air quality, and also make public transport quicker. New bus routes are planned. Better provision for cyclists is needed. The needs of commuters must also be met.

Councillor Hollingsworth took questions. He was thanked by Shamus Donald and the meeting closed at 9.30pm, after which refreshments were available.