**DEEPCUT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT DEEPCUT VILLAGE CENTRE ON 29 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30PM.**

**Agenda Owner**

1. Introductions David Rushmer

2. Chairman’s Report David Rushmer

3. Treasurers Report Howard Hyde

4. DNF Plans David Rushmer

5. Committee Member Elections Chairperson

6. Q & A Chairperson

7. AOB Chairperson

The following are Notes of the Meeting’s proceedings:

**1. Introductions**

The Chairman David Rushmer (DR) provided:

- a welcome to the attendees

- an introduction to the committee members in attendance namely,

Howard Hyde (HH) the Treasurer

Peter Bambridge (PB)

Alan Barnard (AB)

Plus an introduction to key Deepcut residents actively supporting the DNF, namely Angela Clarke (AC) and John Watkins (JW).

- an overview of the agenda

and he submitted apologies from Paul Deach (a Ward Councillor and the SHBC representative on the DNF), Caroline Clark, and Susan Stewart.

**2. Chairman’s Report for the Year Ending 31st December 2015**

DR reported that since the last AGM the following had happened:

- the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was currently in outline draft and being worked on

- funding had been applied for and received to support various DNF activities

- the Public Consultation had been held in September 2015 and this produced key Issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address from both residents and businesses.

- the DNF had spawned the Deepcut Business Association (DBA)

- there were currently two external Studies being conducted for the DNF covering:

   1. The Character & Heritage of Deepcut

   2. Employment

with these Studies hopefully to be received by end May from the Consultants.

- regular meetings had been held with Studio Hive (SH) re PRB/Co-operation opportunities

- the DNF website was up and running, as well as a Facebook presence

- BUT the DNF still needed more local residents’ support and active participation.

**3. Treasurers Report**

HH reported that:

- £100 was our opening balance, these monies having been received in 2014 from Lloyds Bank for inconvenienced caused when opening the DNF Bank Account.

- £7,890 had been obtained from LOCALITY to cover a number of DNF needs, including publicity, projects and studies,  public liability insurance, room hire, etc..  Any unspent funds, as at December 7th, had to be returned to LOCALITY (about £122 was returned) along with breakdown of Actual Expenditure against Planned.

Bank balance at 31st December 2015 was £100-00.

- DNF would be submitting a request for funding for 2016 in April when a new Funding Window opens.

**4. DNF Plans for 2016**

DR reported that the 2016 DNF plans included:

- completing the NP (will use funding, if secured, for relevant tasks - such as possible Parking and Housing studies)

- looking to engage local residents to support the DNF and its goals; without such support, there was a risk that the objective of a 2016 Plan Completion might be missed

- driving stakeholder engagement;

Angela Clarke (AC) informed the meeting that there are two strands:

   1. document all possible stakeholders and stakeholder groups (ongoing)

   2. harvest opinions from individual local residents (the NP has to be seen to be representative).

All to be completed/submitted before end May.

- DR advised that, to secure an Approved Neighbourhood Plan, certain steps were involved.

These will involve some further timely Consultation with Residents/Local Businesses before the Plan is finished. Once completed a Draft Plan will be scrutinised by SHBC planners, amended if necessary, then submitted for review by an Inspector whose role is to ensure the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is fit for purpose and meets a number of criteria (such as being genuinely representative and has a robust evidence base).  Once agreed by the Inspector SHBC organises a Local Referendum: the Plan is adopted if a majority of the voters support it.

**5. DNF Elections**

The following DNF committee roles were put up for election:

Role: Nominee: Proposer: Seconder:

Chairman David Rushmer Peter Bambridge Howard Hyde

Treasurer: Howard Hyde Ross Burgess David Rushmer

Secretary: Clare Kennedy David Rushmer Peter Bambridge

The following Members were re-elected to the Committee:

Role; Nominee: Proposer Seconder

Member Peter Bambridge David Rushmer Howard Hyde

Member Alan Barnard David Rushmer Peter Bambridge

Additional Members were recruited to the Committee as follows:

Member Katie Truesdale John Watkins David Rushmer

Member Angela Clarke David Rushmer Howard Hyde

**6. Q & A**

Q1. The proposed traffic light system in Frimley Green was raised in the context of the Traffic implications for Deepcut residents of the PRB re-development plan. What was the DNF position on the likely impact of the proposal?

A1. DR - the traffic light system proposals were the result of a number of traffic flow studies.  The conclusion of the studies was that traffic flow would be improved by the installation of these traffic lights, but in practice it would be necessary to monitor the success or otherwise of the scheme.  DR took an action to engage with the groups that had commissioned the traffic studies, and seek to provide access for the local residents to the consultants involved in conducting the studies, perhaps via Studio Hive public meeting.

Q2. The issue of the siting and access to the proposed new Primary School was raised. The resident cited the paradox that if the proposed school was sited in one of the candidate lots (at the extreme Northern edge of the development), the rules covering catchment would mean that children living at the other end of the development would not be eligible to attend that school.

A2. PB - believed that some 5 locations had been proposed, and that their siting would ultimately need to be consistent with both the catchment rules and the needs of parents living in the PRB development.  PB and DR are pushing for the promised (in September 2015) public meeting to be convened with Studio Hive to allow local residents to highlight their concerns and to gain an understanding of the current situation/thinking. It was also proposed from the floor that local residents consider the role and use of an online petition; Lindsay Morgan highlighted the facility on the SHBC web site to set up online petitions and will liaise with residents on this possible course of action.

Q3. Lindsay Morgan raised a concern about the lack of tree screening caused by Frimhurst Farm Industrial Centres (FFIC) recent deforestation activities in support of their plans to build a new road adjacent and parallel to the Basingstoke canal.  The result of the removal of large numbers of trees and undergrowth had resulted in LM suffering views of unsightly industrial structures.  LM asked Libby Halford (one of the FFIC Directors present at the meeting) if she would make an undertaking to provide screening / landscape the site to prevent the views of unsightly industrial structures.  As a supplementary question, JW asked if FFIC, having had their attempt to build the new road rejected unanimously by SHBC, would now repair the damage to the rural landscape by replanting trees in the planned route of the road.

A3. LH refused to commit to any such undertaking, and highlighted the fact that there were a number of appeals with SHBC and the Planning Directorate pending.

**7. AOB** - there was no AOB and the meeting was closed at 9.05pm.