

Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Forum Steering Committee meeting held on Monday 17th January 2022, 2.30pm, on 'Zoom.'

Present: Andrew Knight, Keith Malcolm, Ken Sainty, Mary Pett, Mike Hatch.

Apologies: Kirsty Pollard.

The following matters were discussed:

1. Review of any activity or changes since last meeting.

AK noted that the pandemic had affected the forum very significantly. The last steering committee meeting was in December 2019 and the last forum AGM in May 2019. However the forum was redesignated for a further 5 years in November 2020 and gradual relaxations in pandemic restrictions would seem to allow for the forum to make progress again towards producing the neighbourhood plan.

2. Draft policy screening by Council

AK noted that pre-pandemic Andrew Ashcroft had written draft plan policies and community actions for our consideration based on the forum vision statement and community survey findings (post meeting note: AK emailed these to the steering group on 13th March 2020 requesting comments and amendments).

These draft policies require 'screening' by Brighton & Hove Council, which process the Council were unable to do under pandemic restrictions but can now do. AK reported that changes to planning law during the pandemic had rendered two of our policies non-compliant with planning policy and he has arranged for Andrew Ashcroft to revise the draft policies accordingly. This document was circulated by email to steering committee members on 7th January. Brighton & Hove Council have advised that they can carry out screening of the policies during February and then need to undertake a statutory 6-week consultation.

MP noted that the steering committee has never had the opportunity to discuss the draft policies and community actions document properly and check that we are happy with it and that it captures all that we want it to.

It was suggested that this could be circulated to steering committee members in some online document format for consideration over, say, the next 3 weeks. AK will do this.

3. Steps and programme to producing a plan consultation draft.

AK briefly ran through the likely steps to producing a draft plan for community consultation:

- a. Draft plan policies need agreeing and screening by the Council. Given their 6-week consultation period this is likely to take until about Easter.
- b. A draft plan needs writing into which the draft policies will fit. Andrew Ashcroft had provided a possible outline for chapters in the plan which is attached with these minutes. AK

wondered whether steering committee members (or indeed other forum members) would be able to contribute to writing some of the general non-technical material needed.

4. Planning a forum AGM

AK noted that a forum AGM is long overdue. After some discussion it was agreed that the best time for this may be the afternoon of 28th March, before the Marina Residents Association meeting. The Malmaison hotel would be the preferred venue.

AGM will need a report of the activity of the steering group.

KS said that the AGM really needs something presented to it to give confidence that there is some progress.

AGM would also benefit from something to engage the interest of attendees. MP questioned whether somebody involved in Landsec's proposed disposal of their interest might be able to be invited to present, or indeed someone who could attend and speak about development. This would help make the meeting more relevant to people.

AK will investigate possibilities.

5. Grant funding application.

AK has submitted an application for grant funding for the forum up to the available amount of funding, which is an additional £4610 on top of money previously spent.

6. Any Other Business

AK said that Brighton Council had contacted him saying that at recent public events they had very little attendance from Marina residents and could the forum share their information and ask for comment. AK has received the material from the Council, which KM has posted on the forum website under the documents heading [here](#). Agreed that AK will circulate to forum members asking them to comment to the council if they wish to do so.

7. Date of next meeting.

Agreed that a zoom meeting on the afternoon of 22nd March would be useful if the AGM is to be held on 28th March (room availability may affect this.)