

# Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Forum

## MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE FORUM

HELD AT THE MALMAISON HOTEL, BRIGHTON MARINA  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 5:00pm

### 1. Confirmation of Membership and Apologies for Absence.

Andrew Knight (AK) took the Chair and welcomed attendees.

AK briefly explained that the Forum is part of the Neighbourhood Planning system, giving communities the opportunity to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood by producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Membership is open to all Marina residents and workers. All present were asked to sign the attendance register. This meeting follows consultation on a draft neighbourhood plan and will report on consultation responses.

AK introduced the forum Steering Committee and also Andrew Ashcroft, a planning consultant who has been assisting with the work of the forum.

Apologies for absence had been received from Bob & Diane Towse. John & Jan Truman. Mike Squires.

A question was raised at this point as to whether the Chair had a conflict of interest due to working for a Marina developer. AK responded that he did not believe this was the case; he is a worker at the Marina undertaking Management work for Brighton Marina Group, the landlord of the Marina. Katie Sullivan, Managing Director of the Brighton Marina Group was in attendance at the meeting and commented in support of AK, noting that although the owners of Brighton Marina Group also have development interests, AK has no involvement in this activity.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were no comments on the Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022, which are posted on the Forum website [www.bmnf.org.uk](http://www.bmnf.org.uk)

### 3. Neighbourhood Plan.

#### 3.1 Report on Draft Plan consultation.

AK reported that the consultation on the draft plan (regulation 14 consultation) had taken place from 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023. All Marina residents and businesses were invited to participate and means by which they were invited were set out. Statutory consultees were also consulted. Responses were received from Brighton and Hove City Council, Outer Harbour Development Company Partnership, Historic England, Environment Agency, National Highways, Sport England, West Sussex County Council as well as about 40 residents and workers.

AK said that responses in favour of the policies were very much in the majority and showed a series of graphs with the majorities in favour being shown. AK noted that whilst there will always be differences of opinion, the level of agreement with policies was very encouraging.

#### 3.2 Plan changes proposed and the approach taken to consultation responses.

Andrew Ashcroft (AA) addressed the meeting. He explained that he had been engaged by the forum steering committee to assist with the technical work of preparing plan policies and ensuring compliance with legislative requirements. AA said that having a 'made' neighbourhood plan was a great prize for any neighbourhood and added a layer of planning control which planners considered important and would take seriously in considering applications. AA thought it was very positive that the forum has reached this stage. He said that the next stage is to move from a draft plan to a

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submission plan, which is submitted to the local authority to be examined. AA ran through the stages of this submission and examination, which might be expected to take four to five months and would ultimately lead to a community referendum on the plan, the only part of the planning process in which members of the public get to vote. AA explained that he had considered every comment made in response to the plan and made amendments to the draft plan where appropriate. This process is documented in a 'consultation statement,' which would be submitted with the plan. AA noted that the lack of objections from statutory consultees would be seen as a very positive thing at the examination stage of the plan.

## 3.3 Questions.

Questions were invited.

4.1 Q: Will consultation responses be published?

A: Part of the submission process is that a consultation statement is provided stating all comments received and how they have been addressed. AK undertook to post these details on the forum website.

4.2 Q: Why is the plan not much more specific, for example stating heights of buildings and numbers of properties?

A: AK said that the plan cannot contradict the local plan for the City, which already provides specific development aspirations for the Marina. The aim with the plan has been to find ways to add value to ensure future developments at the Marina address shortfalls of the past.

4.3 Q: The forum has not been able to make objections to planning applications on the Marina in the phase prior to having a made neighbourhood plan. How will that change if we achieve a made plan?

A: AA said that the forum would be expected to use the policies of the plan to assess future applications, noting that the experience of applications being made before the plan was formulated have positively informed the content of the plan.

4.4 Q: is the sewerage system adequate for future development.

A: this is outside the scope of the current plan and would be dealt with in the course of any planning application.

## 3.4 Plan Next Steps.

AK explained that the next step for our plan would be for us to submit the plan to the Council, which would then follow the process earlier set out by AA. If the forum is not happy to do this, then further amendments could be made in response to the consultation responses.

Mary Pett noted that there has been discussion amongst the steering group regarding the visual amenity of the harbour and how this is affected by 'static craft.' There was extended discussion around this subject and agreement was reached that an additional community action should be added as follows: 'The visual amenity of the harbour is an important part of the attractiveness of the Marina. Therefore the Forum will explore opportunities to preserve this amenity when changes are planned within the harbour. In particular the forum would not want to see the amount of static craft exceeding the currently designated areas.'

The meeting then voted by show of hands on whether to proceed to submit the plan to the Council.

Those in favour: 15

Those against: 2

It was therefore agreed that the plan, incorporating the additional community action set out above, should be submitted to the Council.

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## **4 Any Other Business**

Ken Sainty expressed thanks to Andrew Ashcroft for his advice and assistance in producing the draft plan and also to Andrew Knight for his work on behalf of the forum.

It was requested that as the process of submission proceeds, forum members should be notified of progress. AK undertook to do this.

## **5 Date of Next Neighbourhood Forum Meeting**

AK said that this will depend on progress following submission of the plan but is likely to be in the Autumn.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm