



## Woodford Community Council

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 At Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

#### **WCC members present:**

Terry Barnes                      Chairman

Jane Sandover                  Secretary

Avril Furness,                  Treasurer

Evelyn Frearson, Khan Moghal, Robin Berriman, Peter Crossen, Maxine Wood

Steve Johnson (SJ) Jude Craig, Neil and Pam Collie, Peter Ashford, Mary and Geoff Law, Carolyn Williams, Kelly Harvey (RMG), Councillor John McGahan (JMG) Kris Hayward

**Apologies** have been received from, Rev David Russell, and local councillors Brian Bagnall and Mike Hurleston, Helen and David Buzzard

#### **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The chairman opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to all.

#### **2. Annual Report**

'It has been another unprecedented and challenging year. This has of course impacted on our activities. This time last year we were in Lockdown 2 which lasted until May this year and it was not until July that restrictions were relaxed to the point that as a committee we could meet in person.

However this did not prevent us having regular zoom meetings and dealing with various issues that arose during the year. In addition the committee has been busy with emailing and phone calls to address any issues raised by residents.

Some of these have been planning issues and were more suitably dealt with by the Neighbourhood forum but some The Community Council rose with the relevant officers at Stockport Council like the cutting back of the hedge along Wilmslow Road to clear the path, which the councillors assisted.

The main items discussed on committee were:

- Sponsorship. The pandemic impacted the sponsorship we receive with some organisations reducing their outgoings. In order to encourage more sponsorship we agreed different levels which gave a sliding scale of marketing exposure they would receive
- The main sponsors currently are The Avro Heritage Museum and the Deanwater Hotel
- In addition to the Website refresh, which was completed last year, we have significantly reduced the support costs.
- The production of Newsletters and Newsflashes
- The on-going saga of the notice board is approaching resolution with the help of the new owners of the Budgens site.

We continue to work with our Neighbourhood Forum to implement the many aspirations that arose from the questionnaires in the lead up to the Neighbourhood plan. It should be remembered that the Neighbourhood area does not include the Garden Village

Our Councillors attend our committee meetings, are very supportive of the Plan and the aspirations. We are very grateful for their support.

Our secretary, Jane together with Avril our treasurer, have done sterling work and Evelyn likewise and I would thank the committee for their commitment during the last year.

Last year we indicated, we were hoping to hold a fair at the Community Centre where local organisations will have a stand explaining their role and activities in the community. Due to Covid we were unable to do so, but now have the community centre booked for June 18th next year'.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

The draft Minutes of the 2020 AGM had been on the website and copies were provided available around the room.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Khan Moghal, seconded by Jude Craig.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Avril Furness presented the Treasurer's report talking through the slide projected to the room; At the start of the year the bank balance stood at £1166. Sponsorship for Avro Heritage Museum was received and banked but the monies from the Deanwater Hotel arrived after the year end, so income over the year was just the £250. £286 was spent on the website. This leaves total monies available at the year-end standing at £1130.

The cost of running the website has been formalised now to be £20/month.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Evelyn Frearson and Seconded by Maxine Wood.

### **5. Election of Management Committee members**

Robin Berriman has decided to step down having served for more than 15 years on the committee. The management committee presented him with a card and gift to thank him for all he has done for the WCC.

The remaining members on the management committee have agreed to stay including our new member Peter Crossen who has helped with the publicity on the Redrow estate. Members could also assist with the June event

Note there are 7 places available on the management committee should anyone wish to join it. All residents in Woodford are members and they can be co-opted on to see if they would like to become a member. They can also get in touch via [info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk)

### **6. Close of the AGM.**

## **Part 2: Update on SMBC Local Plan by Steve Johnson**

Steve Johnson thanked the WCC for inviting him to talk about the new Local plan of which he is the lead responsible for the Local Plan, but had previously been involved with the Neighbourhood Forum Plan.

Using the existing basis of the previous UDP of 2006 and the existing policies from the plan of 2006-2011, and incorporating the requirements set out in the governments National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a new updated plan will be developed.

A land use plan will deliver the vision for Stockport with the right land to provide the right homes with the infrastructure in the right places. The climate emergency factors will feed into the plan. The team will identify the places and sites.

The idea is to have a bottom up input from Neighbourhood plans etc. and have taken and will take up input from groups in the borough, as well as top down from the NPPF

Each neighbourhood will be developed using brownfield land for employment, homes etc. They will look at the infrastructure; social, schools etc. Heritage is also important and they need to maintain sustainability and create places where people want to live, work and play in. All this information will feed into the planning.

At some point next year the formal consultation will be carried out.

Using the Government's recommended methodology for the Housing Need Assessment produces a need for 18,500 new homes. Michael Gove was speaking the day before Michael Gove speaking the day before and the council were following this closely. There may have to be alterations but they are working to increase optimisation in urban land and protect the open land in areas within each urban area.

The team have more understanding though meeting with the Neighbourhood forums as they have more understanding or planning considerations than other residents.

Question from floor; is there a brownfield register; Answer; yes this can be found by google but there is limited number of sites which includes sites already with planning approval.

Question from the floor; is affordable housing being provided? Answer; SMBC works closing with their partner Stockport Homes to look at sites. £1million has been paid from Woodford Garden Village to build affordable homes and they work closely with Homes England. JMG suggested that St Thomas's site would be good for that. SJ commented that the Mayoral Development Corporation enables bring homes forward.

## **Part 3: Local Update**

### **Woodford Garden Village report by Peter Crossen**

Within the village there are regular liaison meetings, and following the end of Covid WCC attended one on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

RMG (Residential Management Group) look after the green spaces within the development and the number of houses 400 houses completed and there will be 450 available by mid to end of next year. The school is expected to open and ready for attendees in September 2022. The building started in August and will be ready to hand over for the school to organise the internal fit out by early June.

The next stage 3C plans are about to be submitted to the council for approval. It has been pointed out to Redrow that there needs to be more parking near to the play parks and there is a need for signage too. The sub-committee are holding regular meetings and they are encouraging residents on the estate to sign up for their newsletter and looking for more volunteers on the sub-committee.

Question from the floor; what is happening with regards to the extra 500 houses proposed TB answered that the flight sheds are near there and it is previously developed land but has been returned to agriculture under the planning permission. TB in his personal view there is good green belt and poor greenbelt. Cheshire East Council is resisting the link with Poynton Relief Road. JMG said that Harrow have pulled their Planning application for the road link. Anyone can comment on the additional 500 more homes proposal. Redrow are asking for the road to be adopted. JMG mentioned that there are 8 applicants looking to run the school. The assessment will be done from 3-16<sup>th</sup> January. Parents can not apply for a place at the new school until it is built.

The JW Lees pub is aiming to be open in April.

### **Woodford Neighbourhood Forum (WNF)**

Don Foster, housing minister in 2013 visited Woodford and discussed with the then chair Paul Rodman that that Woodford should create a Neighbourhood Plan. The government had proposed and trailed this idea to help communities look after their own villages and towns. The aerodrome site was excluded from the Neighbour Forum by the Council at the request of Harrow Estates thus the Redrow estate is excluded from the Forum area, however WCC membership covers the whole of the Parish of Woodford.

The Forum has been responding to the various planning applications that have been sent to them by the SMBC planning department. In all there had been 50 planning applications this year and the Forum had commented on 17 applications. The comments can be found on the website [www. http://woodfordnf.co.uk/planning-application-responses](http://woodfordnf.co.uk/planning-application-responses) .

The Forum has been working with WCC to try and implement the aspirations that came out of the original consultations from residents. These include promoting walking, cycling and use of public transport as well as integrating the old original community with the new on the Redrow estate. Liaison meetings with Redrow have recommenced after the lockdown and we now have two people on the management committee.

### **CEC Local Plan Part 2**

The Cheshire East Plan Part 1 was adopted in 2017, now part 2 has been issued in a Site Allocations and Development Polies Document. This allocates site for development in towns including Poynton. A virtual hearing over a 3 week period to 4<sup>th</sup> November examined the allocations, with the adoption expected in spring 2022.

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial-planning/cheshire-east-local-plan/site-allocations-and-policies/site-allocations-and-policies.aspx>

### **Handforth Garden Village**

Evelyn Frearson reported that the Forum has been following the progress the Cheshire East growth village, now known as Handforth Garden Village as it comes right up to Woodford's border. A planning application has been submitted to CEC May 2019 to build 1500 homes, employment uses, a village centre and green infrastructure. Revisions have been submitted in September 2021, the applicant is Cheshire East Council who also owns some of the land. The council's Economic and Development team are leading the project not the planning team. The Neighbourhood Forum have submitted a response as each time the plans appear the boundary is shown in a different place

<http://planning.cheshireeast.gov.uk/applicationdetails.aspx?pr=19/0623M&query=dc29856c-7b2b-4bfb-97a8-aa4f29fcc06a>

## **Update on Poynton Relief Road**

This is a joint project between Stockport and Cheshire East and runs from a new junction off the Macclesfield road south of the existing industrial estate access, cross the Woodford Aerodrome on the Stockport side of the county boundary and then go under the existing Chester Road and link up with the Oil Terminus roundabout.

Graham were awarded the £26.5m contract to construct the two way single carriageway road and will have footway and cycleway facilities. Two new bridges over the road will be installed and there will be ponds for drainage. Regular bulletins are issued by the contactors; information can be found on [www.graham.co.uk/poynton-relief-road](http://www.graham.co.uk/poynton-relief-road) as well as in Woodford Community Council newsletters and on the WCC website; <https://www.woodfordcommunity.co.uk/index.htm>

## **Places for Everyone (GMSF)**

Stockport withdrew from the GMSF in December 2020, and a joint committee was set up by the remaining 9 councils. The remaining members continued with the Joint Development plan which was issued for consultation between 9<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> October at what is known as Regulation 19. WNF sent representations stating that it should not be at Regulation 19 as it was not compliant and sound due to the change.

[www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/the-plan/](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/the-plan/) It will then be submitted to the Secretary of State and be examined by a panel of inspectors before adoption.

## **Save Greater Manchester's Green Belt (SGMGB)**

This began in 2016 following the issue of the GMSF and angered many communities at the loss of Green Belt. Woodford became a member and the SGMGB through their campaigning became a stakeholder in the process.

The GMSF was revised in 2019 and 2020, when SMBC withdrew and the 'Places for Everyone' was created with the remaining 9 authorities. WNF members have helped the group members have been educated on how to respond to the consultation and how to assess the soundness of a plan. WNF members helped to improve their website. The group enlisted the help of Leith Planning Consultants to prepare a robust response funded by fund raising. [www.savegmgreenbelt.or.uk/](http://www.savegmgreenbelt.or.uk/)

## **Any Other Business**

JMG highlighted that the Local Government Boundary Commission has a legal duty to review electoral ward boundaries in each borough and has been consulting on recommended proposals for ward boundary changes in Stockport. JMG explained the changes proposed for the Woodford and Bramhall South ward which, under the new proposals, would include much less of Bramhall and much more of Cheadle Hulme. Residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation which ends on 10th January 2022.

As there was no other business so the Chairman thanked the speakers and everyone to attend the meeting and closed the meeting.

*Minutes Approved, on behalf of the Community*

*Chairman*

*Date:*