

Members expressed their concern and confirmed once again that the WCC did not involve itself in individual planning disputes. The statement from Stockport Planning Department had been requested in order to provide general guidance for Woodford residents, many of whose properties backed onto Green Belt land. It had been made clear on the website that the information had been provided by a Council official and that any queries should be referred back to the Planning Department.

It was agreed that the Secretary should send a copy of the letter to the Planning Services Department, with a request for their comments, and in the meantime the statement would be removed from the website and a reply sent to Mr Holmes explaining the action taken.

ACTION: Secretary

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

It was reported that the current bank balance was £810.18, but this did not include payments from the two website sponsors. A cheque from one sponsor had just been received and the other payment was awaited.

The Chairman commended Dr Evans and Mr Hanson for recruiting the two sponsors, Green Thumb and Teasdale Karomed, whose support, together with that of Southfield House, was much appreciated. He expressed disappointment, however, that major local businesses were unwilling to offer their support. Mr Rodman offered to contact the Deanwater Hotel and also to approach Olivers, who had been very supportive in the past, and Mr Davenport would visit Budgens.

ACTION: Mr Davenport, Mr Rodman

4. 2010 AGM

It was noted the proposed date – Thursday, 25 November 2010 – had been confirmed and the large hall of the Community Centre booked at the slightly higher fee of £31.50.

With regard to the main speaker, Cllr Leck reported that Mr Paul Rubinstein, Service Director Regeneration, SMBC, had kindly agreed to speak about the development of the BAE site. It was noted that this would be only six weeks after the Area Committee Meeting on 14 October at which the same topic was being discussed. However, it was felt that the issue was important enough for a further airing and that the AGM would provide residents with a much better opportunity for a question/answer session.

Other arrangements relating to the AGM were agreed as follows.

- The Calling Notice/Agenda would be delivered to all residents three weeks before the meeting. The list of volunteers to help with the delivery was reviewed and amended.
- A Feedback form to assess interest in, and use of, the website would be printed on the back of the agenda and collected after the meeting. Copies of the first draft were distributed and comments requested.
- Bar facilities would be requested, as last year.
- Committee members were asked to come to the Hall at about 7.00 pm to help set out the chairs, etc

Members discussed the best way to try to increase donations at the AGM. Options included placing a discrete box at the signing-in table, as in the previous year, or taking a more forward approach and passing around a plate. The possibility of having a raffle or draw was also considered. It was agreed that more thought should be given to this problem and a decision taken at the next meeting.

5. NOMINATIONS FOR NEW CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

The Chairman reminded members that he would be standing down as Chairman after the AGM, having served his three-year term, and that in accordance with the Constitution the longest serving members of the Council should be standing down on a rolling basis in order to allow new members to join. He therefore offered to stand down as a member, as did Mrs White. Other long-serving members would also consider their position.

It was hoped that Mr Davenport and Mr Taylor, who were present by invitation, might consider putting themselves forward for election as members at the AGM.

There were no nominations for Chairman and it was recognised that this could leave the WCC in a difficult position, since the Constitution required Office bearers to have served at least one year on the committee prior to nomination.

6. SUB-GROUP REPORTS

(a) BAE site

It was noted that there had been no meetings of the BAE Consultative Group since the last WCC meeting.

Cllr Leck summarised the current position as follows. It had been agreed by the Council that the most appropriate way forward was to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which would provide a comprehensive planning framework for the site. This was due for adoption in March 2012 and BAE then anticipated submitting an outline planning application for the site. A project plan for the SPD had been prepared and agreed between Stockport Council, BAE and Cass Associates (BAE's Consultants), so that the completed SPD could identify the appropriate level of development for the site, with a master plan. Thirteen sub-committees were currently gathering evidence in the following areas.

- Historical development of the site
- Understanding the area
- Housing
- Employment
- Other appropriate uses
- Transport
- Sustainability/Energy
- Future runway uses
- Heritage and Conservation
- Use of open space
- Landscape and visual impact assessment
- Local Infrastructure – schools, etc

- Development appraisals

The project was being led and managed by the Economic Development and Regeneration programmes. The SPD Steering Group (Stockport Council officials, BAE and their consultants) would be meeting every six weeks and the Stockport Council Project Board would meet two weeks before each Steering Group meeting to review progress.

Member consultation and involvement was seen as a crucial element in overseeing the regeneration of the site and formal arrangements for involving politicians had been proposed as follows.

- Executive briefings
- Local Ward Councillors and MP briefings
- Bramhall and Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee
- BAE Consultative Group

It was also recognised that public interest was very strong and public consultation and involvement was therefore very important. The key dates at which discussion at the Area Committee meetings was anticipated were as follows.

- October 2010: Update/summary of Project Plan and timescales
- January 2011: Update/summary of Project Plan work streams
- March 2011: Update Report on evidence gathered and options
- June 2011: Draft SPD – Preferred Option (formal consultation)
- October 2011: Revised SPD (formal consultation)

Updates would also be provided at Woodford Community Council meetings on a regular basis.

During the general discussion that followed, Mr Brown suggested that it was most important for the WCC to consolidate its views on the various issues, so that it could be in a position to influence the decisions being taken and if necessary mobilise local opinion. It was agreed that the Sub-group, of which Mr Brown would become a member, should take an active role in this and bring proposals back to the full committee.

ACTION: Mr Brown, Mr Crompton, Mr Downes, Mr Rodman

(b) SEMMMS

Members firmly believed that the completion of the relief road was essential to the development of the BAE site, but it was recognised that it was unlikely that work on the road would start before 2014/15.

(c) Woodford War Memorial Community Centre

It was reported that the WCC had been accepted as an Affiliated Organization. The date of the WWMCC AGM was not yet known, but it was agreed that consideration should be given to the nomination of another representative, should Mr Crompton not wish to take on the role for another year.

(d) WCC Website

It was noted that the Chairman would be submitting a final report to the Community Foundation of Greater Manchester showing how the grant had been used.

Mr Taylor commented that better use could be made of the website to encourage more community involvement in local issues. For example, an RSS link could be incorporated so that new posts would automatically appear in users' browsers or feed readers. Residents could be invited to join a subscribers' list to receive email alerts about the latest news items or other updates on the website.

It was agreed that these ideas would be followed up with the Webmaster and appropriate questions included on the Feedback form.

ACTION: Secretary

(e) Stockport Council Issues

It was noted that repairs to local roads were well underway.

As reported at the last meeting, the new wheelie bin system would be in place by the beginning of November.

(f) General Planning Applications

There was nothing of relevance to report.

(g) Footpaths

The Chairman reported that he had submitted information about the state of four public footpaths in Woodford to his contact at the Council on 28 July and, on hearing nothing, had followed up by phone on 18 August, when he learned that responsibility for public footpaths had passed to another Council official, Mr Purcell. From a further phone call made to Mr Purcell on 2 September it was clear that no action was being taken and he expressed his disappointment. Cllr Leck agreed to take up the matter on the WCC's behalf.

ACTION: Cllr Leck

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Street lighting

Mrs White reported that she had noted several streetlights that were not working and queried what should be done. Cllr Leck advised that she should ring the relevant council department (0161 217 6111) and should have available the numbers of the lamp posts in question.

7.2 Home Watch

At Mr Rodman's suggestion, it was agreed that a further Sub-Group should be devoted to this topic. It was also agreed that the police officer responsible for local Home Watch schemes, PCSO Maureen Crehan, should be invited to speak at the AGM.

ACTION: Chairman

Cllr Leck passed on a warning from the police that as the darker winter months approached, around 3.00 pm onwards tended to be the peak time for burglaries and that extra care should be taken to ensure that doors and windows were kept locked.

7.3 Communication

Dr Evans expressed his concern that WCC members did not receive copies of all the information received by the Chairman or Secretary and, in particular, he felt that they should all have access to the emails sent to the info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk address.

In response, the Chairman said that part of his and the Secretary’s remit was to act as a filter to ensure that only important and relevant information was circulated and that this was done. In addition, it was pointed out that it was normal to have only one or at most two people with access to the emails and any more could seriously compromise the system.

It was generally agreed that no changes were needed.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 25 October 2010, with the main business being the final arrangements for the AGM.

Approved

Date.....