



## Woodford Community Council

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 via Zoom at 8.00pm

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

Terry Barnes                      Chairman

Jane Sandover                      Secretary

Evelyn Frearson, Khan Moghal, Robin Berriman, Paula & David Mott, Jude Craig, Kate Wardle-Davis, Trevor Jackson, David and Helen Buszard, John Grant, Maxine Wood. Andrew McEwan, Matt Christmas, Carolyn Williams, Councillor Mike Hurleston

**Apologies** have been received from, Rev David Russell, and local councillors Brian Bagnall and John McGahan

Unfortunately Avril Furness (Treasurer) joined the meeting but somehow got locked out, apologies were sent later.

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

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

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

In April the new website went live allowing it to be viewed on the many formats that are used today. Newsletters and newsflashes are issued regularly. Circulated to around 660 email addresses as well as being on the website. One of our main news items was receiving funding for the replacement of a notice board that used to be outside Budgens. Our local councillors recommended us to apply for funding from the local council fund, and we received the money in February, after our Rev David Russell helped us find a good supplier. It has been delivered to Maxine Wood's barn waiting for installation by Redrow, who kindly offered to install it again at Budgens near the wall facing towards the bus stop.

The chairman wished to encourage more residents to join the committee to promote the interests of all the residents of Woodford by addressing issues that affect the community. There are a total of 15 places on the committee available to residents. All 8 people have agreed to remain on the committee. Our three local councillors support and attend meetings when they can.

He was particularly pleased that residents from the Redrow Estate are attending tonight, one of which Khan, had joined the committee previously and continues to sit on the committee. Last year we revised the constitution making it clearer that everyone within the Parish of Woodford over 18 is able to join the committee.

He also mentioned that we are hoping to have an event at the Community Centre Covid permitting, to introduce WCC and inform new residents of the local facilities.

WCC will be working with the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum to pick up the aspirations that came out of the research for the creation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This included

improvements for cycling and walking in particular, improving the off road footpaths and integration of new community members.

The chairman wished to thank Evelyn Frearson and Jane Sandover for their work for the community.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM**

The draft Minutes of the 2019 AGM had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Trevor Jackson, seconded by John Grant.

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

The finance sheet providing the figures for the Treasurer's report was shown on Zoom and Robin Berriman talked through the figures in the absence of Avril Furness. The difference in cost between the money given by the Councillors and the actual cost of the notice board was the delivery.

He also pointed out that more sponsorship was needed to keep the WCC afloat. The chairman commented that the committee were tasked in finding new sponsorship, and was sad to report that some previous sponsors had not wanted to renew their support. John Grant asked how much it was for sponsorship and was told that it started at £250 but there was a sliding scale which went down to just £25 for a link to the business website. John Grant said he would be happy to sponsor the WCC and the chairman thanked him for that.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was proposed by John Grant and Seconded by Robin Berriman

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

The existing members on the committee have agreed to remain.

The chairman reiterated that there are 7 places available on the committee should anyone wish to join it. They can be co-opted on to see if they would like to become a committee member.

They can get in touch via [info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@woodfordcommunity.co.uk)

Approval of the committee was proposed by Jude Craig and Seconded by Helen Buszard.

### **6. Any Other Business**

The chairman noted that WCC had looked at the possibility of merging with the Neighbourhood Forum but this had proved impractical for a variety of reasons and handed over to the Evelyn Frearson.

### **7. Close of the AGM.**

### **8. Update on Woodford Neighbourhood Forum**

Evelyn Frearson reported that, as the chair said that the WCC considered merging with the Neighbourhood Forum. However this was not possible because the membership of the two organisations is different. The Forum excludes the Redrow Estate whereas 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 41 planning applications and the Forum had commented on 21. Of the planning applications that had been progressed to a

decision by SMBC in September 2019, 19 had been approved and 3 refused by the council. WNF generally concurred with SMBC planners. One refusal relating to the two new houses on Bridle Road refused by the council was overturned on appeal, to the surprise and disappointment of both the Forum and SMBC.

It was decided to produce a monitoring report although it was quite a lot of work. This can now be found on the website [www. http://woodfordnf.co.uk/](http://woodfordnf.co.uk/).

The Forum has also been responding to the Government White Paper on Planning Reform which aims to take local public voice out of planning. There is a move to available land for growth and renewal that would not need real planning approval, in other words taking the local voice out of planning.

## **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework 2020**

The original first draft GMSF came out for consultation in 2016, and was challenged by many groups in the Greater Manchester Area as there was so much area taken out of greenbelt. Andy Burnham was elected Greater Manchester Mayor and promised to try and find other places for new building work like what is known as brown field land (land that has previously been built on). The second draft GMSF came out in 2019. This had fewer responders but affected many more communities. 750 additional houses were put forward by SMBC on Redrow site, of which 40% would be 'affordable' in this second draft and the area would be taken out of greenbelt. This is over and above the 920 already with planning approval.

The latest plan was published on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and was presented to the council leaders of the 10 boroughs on 30<sup>th</sup> October. It was approved. This version is known as Regulation 19 and would go forward for examination and then approval. However all the boroughs had to individually approve it. Tameside were the first to approve, however on 17<sup>th</sup> November SMBC voted to adjourn as they could not approve it due to the amount of greenbelt removed. Following this Bury, Salford, Trafford, Oldham and Rochdale postponed their meetings but Manchester approved it, not sure what Wigan have done.

CI Mike Hurleston as the leader of the Conservative councillors came in at this point and confirmed that they were not against a joint plan but it had to be the right plan. They had been consistently against the loss of greenbelt and he had confirmed their view that they could not support it in its present state at the meeting scheduled for the GMSF. He had a meeting with Andy Burnham and Elise on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> before the scheduled meeting to see if there was any way they could approve it and agreed they would be happy to support an adjournment on 17<sup>th</sup> November. An updated plan emerged removing the whole of High Lane houses allocation, with a 70 house reduction on Woodford Airfield and Heald Green. A new meeting was set for SMBC on 3<sup>rd</sup> December so that discussions could take place, but the councillors were still adamant that any loss of greenbelt should be avoided and will be voting against.

In a separate consultation linked to GMSF was the Transport Infrastructure Plan and one of the conditions of the approval of the reduced numbers of houses was the Rapid Transport Busway from Hazel Grove and going through Woodford to the airport. This appeared to snake its way right through Woodford. CI Mike Hurleston stated that this would have been funded by the extra development on the greenbelt.

SMBC will need to produce a local plan by 2023 deadline if they come out of the GMSF.

## **Cheshire East Local Plan**

Evelyn Frearson reported that the Forum is following the progress as we have borders with Poynton, Handforth and Wilmslow. Particularly 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. As far as we know there has been no progress, but it is still on the Government's list of Garden Villages. We gather from John Knight who presented at the Forum AGM, that SMBC have requested £4million towards education and £250k for road improvements. There is opposition to the plan by SMBC. The Forum has lodged an enquiry as each time the layout is published the boundary is shown on a different line; either side of Blossoms Lane or down the middle. There has been no response to date.

The Cheshire East Local Plan was approved for strategic sites. Following that they have been looking at further development in non-strategic sites. Extra housing is proposed in some of the smaller towns. There is a consultation on this, which has come in from Cheshire East Council to WCC and WNF with a closing date of 23<sup>rd</sup> December. \* *More details at the end added after the meeting.*

## **Save Greater Manchester's Green Belt Group**

This has developed following the initial GMSF of 2016, and represents community groups all across Greater Manchester, which now number around 50. It has become more knowledgeable and organised, with a new constitution. It is now acknowledged by the GMCA as a stakeholder in the process. The groups are contacting councillors and looking at the soundness of the plan. They have a Facebook page; Save Greater Manchester's Greenbelt

## **Update on Poynton Relief Road**

For those new to the area and not aware of this new road, this will run 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.

The work has started investigating the wildlife on the site. They have found great crested newts, and they have been rehoused. The footpath that runs down the back of the houses at the bottom of Bridle Road and Bridle Way has been closed for six months.

## **Any Other Business**

The Chairman thanked Alan for hosting the meeting on the Avro Museum zoom. Alan would make the MP4 recording available for 5 days so it could be downloaded. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

*Minutes Approved, on behalf of the Community*

*Chairman*

*Date: 5. January 2021*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

On behalf of the Chairman

*\*The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (Part 1,) which included allocation of strategic sites, was approved in 2017. A second stage in the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2) and known as the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document –SADPD) includes allocation of smaller supplementary sites and development management policies. The latest consultation on the proposals has a closing date of 23rd December 2020. Following the consultation, there will be a public examination of the SADPD by a Planning Inspector likely sometime during 2021.*