HOE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTMBER 2019

Apologies were received from Tom Godwin, Barry Huxley, Frank Kelly, Hugh Janes, Chris Penberthy and Paul Spackman.

1 Future Parks Accelerator

Jemma Sharman, Natural Infrastructure Officer, PCC, gave a talk on the Future Parks Accelerator and it's benefits for the Hoe.

Contact details for any suggestions regarding work needed or voluntary work offered in the area is natinfra@plymouth.gov.uk

During the following discussion, David Carson mentioned a document regarding Risk that members might find helpful, available at https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/risk-2/risk/

He also highly recommends reading Hilary Cottam's book *Radical Help.*

Cllr Ian Tuffin asked for contact details for RIO Enrich Training Days. He's particularly interested in the group working at Victoria Park.

Action PT

There is a Poole Farm Tree Training Day for the software needed to carry out a Tree Survey in Plymouth which covers identifying existing trees, disease threats, where trees are needed, where trees need to me moved, planting, lack of canopy cover, and gaps. (details already circulated)

The details of Parks and People Stronger Together event on 2 November , 11.30 am – 4.30 pm for which one or two volunteers are sought has already been circulated, but just in case the email got deleted by mistake, here are the details again: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parks-and-people-stronger-together-south-west-tickets-73263197195?aff=Direct (Dorothea and Marcus have kindly offered to attend on behalf of the forum)

There is also a Dataplay event on 1 November for anyone who is interested in attending. Details from Jemma Sharman at the email address above.

2 Working Sub-Groups Progress Report

Hilary Kolinsky circulated a Venn diagram which shows each of the Working Group's scope, plus the overlapping topics, and includes areas of evidence gathering that has been achieved so far. It's a working document in development, so please send amendments, alternations and suggestions to HK. (One such suggestion made at the meeting was that the Pro-Social Behaviour Policy should be included in the Blue and Green area.)

The next stage is that the Strategic Objectives need to be identified: The Vision, such as maintaining public access to the Foreshore.

It was noted that Health, Well-being and Work are not part of the current topic areas. (Pro-social may fit better here?)

3. Interactive Mapping Tool

Martin Worrall gave a demonstration of the Interactive Mapping Tool now available to the Group, so that bespoke maps can be produced for each Working Group which individually won't need to include extraneous detail.

The Heritage Group is interested in mapping Hidden Heritage, and developing existing or new walks to complement those devised for PCC which tend towards the eastern side of the local area, favouring the Barbican and the Box, rather than developing enhanced access to the Hoe. In addition, Kim and Penny are developing an app to cover a walk about Nancy Astor, which will cover the places locally that have a particular association with her time in Plymouth. This will also include many other women who have shaped Plymouth over the last century.

Mike Thomasson suggested it would be particularly helpful if HNF members without access to Facebook could have a map marking the boundary of the HNF area (this can be found by searching on PCC's website also).

Members asked if the development talk on lighting of the areas of interest and monuments on the Hoe had been followed up by PCC. The meeting was told that the gentleman who had given the talk had sady died, very suddenly. Cllr Tuffin said he would follow up on where this work was now.

Action IT

4 Planning

A discussion about PCC's requirement to replace like for like wooden-framed, single-glazed windows ensued regarding Planning Application 19/01017/LBC.

It was noted that PCC is far more reluctant to allow alternative materials to be used that either Edinburgh or Bath, both of which have the highest conservation standards. This issue sits between the Blue and Green / Heritage sub-groups, and a volunteer is sought to research both PCC's planning policy on this subject, and given the Climate Emergency status recently declared by the City, whether it would be appropriate to suggest a policy with wording such as, 'we will support measures to make our buildings energy efficient.'

Action All

It was suggested it might be appropriate to ask the Conservation Officer and a Planner to a meeting to discuss and develop ideas around this issue.

Action PT

5 Register Office

Jacky Clift updated the meeting on current thinking about the site. Locality and David Chapman of Aecom are interested in supporting HNF to apply for a £50k grant to conduct a feasibility study into possible alternative development ideas for it. Initial suggestions were a community hotel, or housing to let or sell, although the idea of another mid-market hotel on the Hoe was not popular with attendees because the market is already over-saturated with accommodation of that type. The only accommodation not available is top end, close to five star accommodation. This meeting needs to be convened soon and volunteers who wish to be involved are asked to contact Jacky.

PT had a quick chat with Cllr Mark Lowry, Cabinet Member for Finance, PPC who advised her that there are no immediate plans for disposal of the site, and he is open to a half hour follow-up discussion about ideas. Graham Lobb will also help.

Cllr Tuffin said he would seek an update from PCC as to where the 1620 development currently is, given that the planning permission for the site is now over two years old and may have expired.

Action IT

The developers and builders of Crescent Point are in dispute and the building remains empty while a final appeal is awaited.

6 Any Other Business

The UK's first Marine Park has been declared in the Sound.

Mike Thomasson is following up discussions with the Waterfront Partnership about the possibility of a ferry calling at the Hoe between the Barbican and the Royal William Yard. The state of the jetty appears to be an issue.

Louise Clements has been trying to identify a planning consultant who might be willing to work with HNF pro bono, but has identified two locally. She hopes to contact them. Louise will undertake a discrete project to identify the key stakeholders and landowners in conjunction with Patrick Knight, after he offered help and support to Penny (for which we are most grateful).

Cllr Tuffin said that he was aware that there were two homeless people who had been living in the Peace Garden; they have now been moved on. There is spare hostel accommodation in Plymouth at the moment.

Jacky Clift asked Cllr Tuffin about any plans for The Dome which is now back under the control of PCC. The possibility of it being used as a Marine Park Centre was suggested. The Corinthian has been sold, and it is believed it is to continue as a yacht club.

Penny and Kim are involved in organising an event at the Guildhall to coincide with the unveiling of Nancy Astor's statue on 28 November, which coincidentally is also Illuminate and the official launch of Mayflower 2020. Further details to be circulated soon.

7 Date of Next Meeting

Penny away for October date so workgroups to use time to continue with their own projects.

27 November will be a general meeting with an update from Victoria Allen, Events Manager, on Mayflower events on the Hoe.

We will have an early seasonal celebration afterwards, as no December meeting; could everyone bring a bottle and a plate to share please.