MINUTES
24 JUNE 2020
HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – Via Zoom due to Covid-19

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

   Apologies were received from Sue McDonald, Andrew Welch, Mary Brinsley, Pete Mehigan, Barry Huxley, Kim Stevenson, Debbie Jones, Sue Dunn and Mike Thomasson.

   Penny Tarrant (PT) welcomed members to the meeting via Zoom.

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

   The minutes of the previous meeting on 26 May 2020 were proposed as a true representation by David Ward and seconded by Stephane Kolinsky.

3. **Constitution revision and AGM planning - PT**

   PT advised members that the Forum had evolved and grown since the Constitution had been adopted in February 2016. Therefore, a fresh look is needed, to keep the constitution fit for purpose for the Forum. PT is working with other members, and hopes to have a draft version of a revised constitution ready for members to consider by the next meeting, in July.
   An example of this is that the current constitution requires 21 members for a quorum. This number is too large and could prove to be an obstacle to moving plans and motions forward. There was discussion of what a more suitable number would be. PT said that she would check with other Forums to see what is considered to be a useful number.
   Action: PT

The structure that has been adopted by the Forum is to have a slim committee of core officers, and as broad a spread of members as possible participating in working groups.

Jacky Clift (JC) enquired about progress on becoming incorporated as a CIC or similar. PT said this needs to be looked at, especially with regard to ongoing plans with the Register Office. PT to initiate research at a later time.
Action: PT

Pam and David Ward asked whether all those interested in the Forum, on Facebook, the website, and who attend meetings, are kept informed on plans and in the decision making process. PT advised that there is a lot of crossover between the various sectors, and that information is readily available. Not all those interested in HNF are eligible to vote, and as a constituted entity HNF is required to abide by the rules of voting and subsequent decision making.

PT suggested that there had been discussions with Hilary Kolinsky (HK) whether to have a series of short polls of members on specific items, possible using SurveyMonkey. This was agreed by the meeting. PT and HK to take forward.
Action: PT and HK

4 Covid-19 Response – SK

There have been a few calls for assistance through the HNF phone line which have been actioned. They were referred by Caring For Plymouth, using our phone line rather than hard copy. This is a more secure way of using personal data, rather than needing to store/dispose of it.

There have been conversations with five other Neighbourhoods, and there is potential for joining up some activities in the future. SK attended Stoke Traders meeting at which they discussed incorporating. There is the potential for learning from other groups. A knock-on effect after the virus is likely to involve ongoing help for some residents, and it is likely to be important to work with other neighbourhoods.

SK thanked Katie and Vicky for walking a neighbour's dog, and Al for helping with a neighbour's shopping.

5. Planning update – Martin Worrall

Martin updated the meeting on Planning matters. His report is attached. Gail Mallard (GM) advised that there hadn't been any further communications from PCH regarding Zion St fire escapes. This was disappointing as they had been promised. Luke Pollard MP has been made aware of the issue. The deadline for this is the end of August.

6. Neighbourhood Plan themes update – Hilary Kolinsky

HK updated the meeting and said that feedback had been received from Jess at PCC. The feedback has been reviewed, and each subgroup will meet shortly to review the recommendations. More specificity is needed across the groups. Response to the feedback will begin in July.

A new Housing subgroup will be formed next month. All interested, please contact HK.

7. **Register Office Feasibility Study – JC, PT, HK**
   PT told the meeting that an update to the study is awaited from Dave Chapman.
8. **Proposal to Close Waterfront Roads - HK**

   The proposal was put to PCC and there was some pushback. A compromise was quickly drawn up and sent in – the deadline being the same day. Unfortunately, the PCC concerns with the original proposal were not communicated until the final day. Mark Coker advised that the compromise proposal, involving only Madeira Rd rather than the whole waterfront, was not considered but will be when a second phase of funding is awarded.
   It had been HNF's hope that the original proposal would be a temporary pilot scheme. However, there had been concerns over disabled parking and general parking.

9. **Liaising with local PCSOs – Kim Stevenson (KS)**

   KS had a conversation with a local PCSO as to whether a PCSO could attend a meeting for a discussion with members. The shift patterns of the officers do not coincide with the HNF meetings.
   The meeting discussed a written report of concerns to PCSOs, or whether there could be an additional meeting twice a year with the PCSOs at a time to suit their shifts. It was noted that a PCSO has not been able to attend any Residents' Association meetings for several years.
   HK suggested that engagement with PCSOs could be included in the Blue and Green subgroup activities.
   PT suggested that members can contact police if there is an issue. If there are common themes, this will be identified and action taken more readily.
   Action: Blue and Green group

   Ian Grimshaw (IG) commented that there were a number of young people on mopeds riding on the Hoe in the evenings, and he felt that some surveillance may be useful.
   Dorothea Orme (DO) commented that some streets, e.g. Atheneum St, Notte St and the Barbican were being used at speed, causing excess noise and an H&S issue to pedestrians. The noise is amplified by the new high-rise blocks on Notte St.
   HK suggested that the Pedestrian and Transport group could be specific about these concerns in the Neighbourhood Plan.
   Action: Pedestrian and Transport group

10. **Future High Street PCC Request for letter of support – PT**

    The meeting was asked for their thoughts on the FHS Plan.
    Discussion followed, and it was generally thought to be an exciting prospect and of benefit to the City. Some concerns were raised about the impact on the natural environment, and a lack of mention of green space provision.

Another concern was whether this would be as accessible as hoped to the general public.
There was a brief viewing of the FHS presentation, which was sent to members earlier.
Rachel Tyler (RT) supported sending a letter, as requested, but considered the working somewhat lacking in detail.
Peter Sach asked whether there was a known timeframe for the 'Manifesto' and what consultation there would be.
HK advised that a funding bid would be applied for quickly and agreed with RT that there were concerns about whether it would be a 'bottom up' project in reality.

PT advised that she would send a letter of support if a majority agreed and sought comments to pass on to PCC officers separately.

11. Any Other Business.

- Bins on the Hoe
  IG said that the newly installed rubbish and recycling bins around the Hoe were often in unsuitable places – e.g. at the Wedding Cake, spoiling the view and general ambience. It did not appear that there had been any consultation concerning this, and their increased size made them more obtrusive. To be passed to Parks Liaison to see if they can be moved.

  Action: PT

- Bandstand Competition – new idea.
  DO told the meeting of an idea she had been working on, of having an annual competition to design and build an innovative temporary bandstand, to be erected on the site of the earlier bandstand, near Liner Lookout on the Hoe. This could bring additional visitors, and would promote interest in the area and encourage architects, students and a creative approach. The Serpentine in London holds a similar annual competition to design and build a pavilion. At the end of the summer this could then be auctioned off and taken to another destination.
  A show of hands was evidence of support for the idea. PT asked DO to send her the current plan, and whether she would be willing to do some further work on the project.
  HK advised that it would be in line with the Neighbourhood Plan aspirations.
  PT agreed to send out an email to members asking for comment and for volunteers willing to assist.
  Action: DO
  Action: PT
- The Terrace licensing application PT
  PT advised that The Terrace has applied, for a second time, to be licensed to sell open containers/bottles of alcoholic drinks from a modified horse-box on the waterfront, until 2am on every day of the week.

This was discussed, and various viewpoints were voiced.
It was generally agreed that the likely increase in noise, litter and the potential for anti social behaviour would be unwelcome. It was felt that there was enough opportunity for partying into the night available on the Barbican, without extending it along the waterfront.
As HNF had objected to a similar license from The Terrace previously (which had been upheld), it was agreed to re-visit and re-submit those documentation/objections again.
Concern was raised that if one business was granted the license it would create precedence.
Chris Penberthy agreed with the objections and said that the Ward Councillors would support HNF.

PT to send objection letter to Licensing Officer.
Action: PT

- Damage to Nancy Astor Statue
  Black paint and wording has been applied to the statue in recent days, linked to the Black Lives Matter movement. PCC has removed as much paint as possible and there is now a fence around the statue.

12. Next Meeting

PT suggested that for the time being, meetings should be held monthly as a way of people staying in contact.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd July at 19:00 – via Zoom.