HOE
NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM

Minutes of meeting held 25 October 2023

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

KS welcomed attendees and noted apologies were received from Penny Tarrant, Marilyn Harvey, Kevin Kelway, Joan Jackson, Councillor Chris Penberthy, Councillor Alison Raynsford, Barbara Sanders, Angela Penrose, Pete Mehigan.

Jon Walton, CEO and Manager of Plymouth Waterfront Partnership also regretted that he is unable to attend but has sent a written summary to be read at the meeting and which is copied into these minutes.

2. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on September 26th were read and approved, proposed by Ana Lambert, and seconded by Hilary Kolinsky.

- The item of a hedge at the Clock Garden being cut down remains for investigation, and it has also been noted that the gate to the Clock Garden has been rendered invisible by chairs and tables owned by The Promenade Cafe, placed in close proximity. In CP's absence, this matter is held over until November's meeting.
  Action: CP

- In the meeting of September 26th, AR noted that there had been an ongoing issue with people camping on The Hoe. She was to investigate camping by-laws for The Hoe area. There is no update at this point.
  Action: AR

- AR reported the following regarding PCC's use of glyphosate

"With regard to your enquiry about Glyphosphate weed killer,

As you know, and can see, there is big challenge trying keeping on top of weeds across the city. Members of the public have a broad range of views on this to ranging from they should all be removed to they should all stay.

In previous years the Council have used a combination of in house and externally provided weed spraying with a glyphosate based chemical. This is in conjunction with other methods such as manual removal using tools, the use of mechanised weed ripping and our regular sweeping programme.

We have trialled weed burning, steam treatment, and it was found that this is not as effective as using glyphosate based chemical. However, the Council have completely stopped using herbicides in our parks and green spaces, with the exception of managing invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed

It is still being used on highways and public footways, but we are always looking for opportunities to reduce and have undertaken a series of trials in the last 18 months on alternatives.

This is as I had been told that the Council are keen to avoid using this chemical and it has stopped in parks and gardens."

- A resident said that one of the rubbish bins in West Hoe Park has been removed. Members of the public are now leaving litter in the place that the bin used to be, and it's causing a nuisance.
  No update as yet from AR
  Action: AR

- There had been hopes of engagement with the police on noise nuisance from vehicles and antisocial behaviour. KS noted that she had approached the area's PCSO unit to attend an HNF meeting, but this looked unlikely to happen due to shift pattern clashes.

3. **Jon Walton, Chief Executive and Waterfront Manager, Plymouth Waterfront Partnership**

As Jon was unable to attend he sent the following update with his apologies:

Up to 19 cruise ships forecast for next year, subject to change of course but really positive.

Bonfire Night returns and supported by PWP

Seafest generated huge amounts of media coverage and still attracted over 14,000 visitors despite terrible weather. Our change in direction involving more about the sea and not just food worked well and we will develop much further in years to come

Christmas
Barbican lights switch on 1200-1800 Saturday 18th November, switch on itself at around 1730. We have new lighting for the area which will extend to other area including Sutton Harbour, North Street and subject to permissions West Hoe and Millbay Park. We also have a very special guest to be announced for the switch on. Santa will arrive by RNLI lifeboat into commercial wharf and will then embark after the switch on in his bus across the waterfront areas!

Small Business Saturday 2nd December-networking and promotion of our wonderful businesses in a wonderful area!

Santa Fun run(you should have the route) 1100-1200 Saturday 3rd December, more details to follow as soon as permissions obtained. up to 1,000 Santas running to raised money for Shekinah and Jeremiahs Journey. Organised by Saltram Rotary and PWP

The forum expressed thanks to Jon and welcomed the ongoing updates of local events.

4. **Neighbourhood Plan (HK)**

HK gave an update on the latest progress following receipt of comments from Paul Webber at PCC. Members of the sub-groups met on Tuesday 17 October to run through the feedback and had a productive discussion. At that meeting it was agreed that some of the suggestions can be taken on board, however there are other points where HNF will seek further advice to see if we are able to push back in order to maintain the true intention at the heart of those policies. The main issue relates to the HNF setting building heights which is problematic for PCC particularly in relation to the Register Office and Quality Hotel sites.

As stated in the last Minutes, the plan then needs to go to Public Consultation for 6 weeks. Volunteers will be needed for leafleting etc.
Mr Barnard is seeking to meet with representatives of HNF and Councillor Penberthy in November to discuss the plan.

Action: HK to follow up with Locality and Plan-Et

5. **Register Office (PT)**

PT emailed an update that she has a formal meeting with Councillor Chris Penberthy on 22 November to discuss the Register Office and other matters.

Action: PT to meet CP.

6. **Planning Report (MW)**

MW presented the planning report and after discussions it was agreed that the HNF would make comments on the three items listed in Appendices A/B/C of the planning report. Please find the Report at the end of these Minutes with notes on discussion points raised.

7. **Armada Way Consultation (KS)**

PT asked the meeting to discuss initial thoughts on the new plans for Armada Way so the HNF can collate a response and to encourage individual members to engage with the consultation process. Initial comments were:

- a concern that the consultation process was purely online and therefore not accessible to all though information received since that paper copies may be available at the City Library and consultants physically present in Armada Way during consultation period
- that the new cycle path was an improvement, but there are still concerns where it passes through the 'amphitheatre' area at the northern end, and also where cyclists go once they reach the end of the path at the southern end of Armada Way
- questions were raised over maintenance budgets for the new play areas, other amenities and ongoing care/cultivation of wildflower/green spaces/ trees
- questions were raised about the need for such a large play area and how this relates to the proposal to encourage the night time economy.
- A concern that the amphitheatre area appears somewhat barren, lacking in shade and the gathering space has pedestrians through the centre of the amphitheatre's stepped seating area and the cyclists could be separated from the area by being taken behind the shown raised flower bed, if relocated. As there is already an open area (the Piazza), is another required?
- A question was asked about the amount of seating throughout Armada Way for visitors to the city centre to stop, rest and admire. And that seating should have backs to be useful to all, especially those with low mobility issues.
- Concern was expressed about the 'translocation' of the six trees and their new location given that previously it had been declared that it would be impossible to move and replant any of the existing trees.

8. **AOB**

- A member was looking for any updates on the building plot next to West Hoe GP Surgery. It was thought that there were some issues with drainage and building heights.
- The Gipsy Moth pub on Citadel Rd was due to close last month, but there has been activity. A member was asking about any updates.
  Since meeting MW confirmed that the Designated Premises Supervisor was transferred on 2 October 2023 Mr John Christopher Allen of Ei Group Ltd a subsidiary of the Stonegate Pub Company. It was also asked if Westwinds guest House has an alcohol licence which it does not.
- ET mentioned the book launch this week of the 1920's Argyle player Jack Leslie's biography, signed copies of 'The Lion Who Never Roared' by Matt Tiller are available at https://jack-leslie.sumupstore.com/ and should be of interest to any Argyle fans or those interested in social history.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 November at 7pm. PT suggested that as this is the last meeting before Christmas, members may like a social at the conclusion of the meeting which was warmly agreed. Please bring drinks/plate as a contribution.