

Windmill Hill BL Partnership Board

Minutes of meeting held on 18th March 2019 at St Berteline's Church, Windmill Hill

Attended by: Margaret Hicks, Jackie, Phil Saunders, Ann Marie Tynan, Nicky Banlin, Bobbi Slavin, John Tynan, Sharon Thornton, Jon Thain, Tanya, Anne Sherriff (Big Local Rep), Siân Jay (independent Chair) Nicola Goodwin, Chris Featherstone.

Apologies: Irene, Billy, Wendy, Claire

Observing: Mike Shepherd

1.0 Local Trust Statement

Siân read out a statement from Chris Falconer who is Head of Programme Delivery at Local Trust which clarified its position on issues raised at the last meeting. Every member attending received a copy of the statement and it is attached to these minutes as Annex 1.

2.0 Welcome and Introductions

Siân spoke to Mike Shepherd who was present in the church but was not seated at the Partnership table. As Mike is not currently a member of the Partnership, Siân asked if she could help him with anything. Mike responded by saying that he wanted to observe the meeting. Siân asked that he not comment or participate in the meeting in any way. Mike left part way through the meeting.

3.0 Minutes of last meeting

The minute of the meeting held on the 18th February 2019 were agreed as a true record. Matters arising not on the agenda included:

- *Timeframe for the church project* – the Partnership had confirmed a minimum contribution of £200k but this needed to be time limited in order to allow the Partnership to identify other spending plans should sufficient match funding not be secured. The steering group would meet next on the 29th March when the project will progress to funding application status. The timeline would be discussed then and it is anticipated that a more robust version will be available by the next WHBL Partnership meeting when there will also be a recap on the core aims of the scheme and it's contribution to the wider BL programme.
- *Update on anti-litter activity* – Chris had met with Onward Homes and the Woodlands Trust (unfortunately no residents had been available but Chris was able to represent their views). There would be a series of relevant events in April. The issue of litter bins at key locations was raised (WHBL could fund but who would empty?) as was the issue of household bins with lids slightly raised not being emptied by the Council (health and safety reasons?). Involving children was important – children could write letters about their concerns? Hold a school assembly on sustainability?

ACTION: Chris to circulate dates for next Steering Group and residents to attend if they can. Chris to talk to waste management at the Council about bin issues.

- *Newsletter* – Jon was congratulated and thanked for a job well done on the current issue. The next issue is due out in around 3 months (approx. 20th June) so Jon needs copy by late May. The print run is 1200, delivered on the estate by John and Ann-Marie.

4.0 Code of Conduct

Siân reminded the group that adherence to the Code of Conduct is expected of ALL members, in and out of meetings and is not negotiable. It is not acceptable to be a partnership member and take part in funding decisions, then publicly undermine the partnership in the wider community. Members must adopt a respectful attitude towards their colleagues in the partnership and accept majority decisions. Any member not able to adhere to the Code of Conduct will be asked to leave the partnership.

She invited all Partnership members to share any concerns they had about breaches of the Code. Nicola Goodwin explained that it had been reported to her that some members of the Partnership had circulated completely unsubstantiated and wholly inaccurate rumours about her involvement in the church project. It had been alleged that she would receive a 'bonus' should the project go ahead – this was untrue (there is no process for staff receiving cash bonuses at Halton Borough Council) but also serious. It could undermine Nicola's professional integrity. Should this be repeated, Nicola and Halton Borough Council would have to seriously consider withdrawing their support from Windmill Hill Big Local and may take action against the individuals concerned.

Siân went on to explain that other members had shared with her concerns that they were not confident enough to speak about openly. This included: changes made to the Facebook page and posts approved by non-Partnership members which were inflammatory and inaccurate; matters around the SLA with CHI being discussed by some members outside of the meeting that did not reflect the Partnership's position; some members discussing changes they intended to make around the LTO, Rep and Independent Chair which were not Partnership policy and that they had no authority to make; and perhaps most seriously, unsubstantiated allegations that funds had been misappropriated.

Siân was clear that any repeat of this behaviour would result in membership rights being considered and where necessary rescinded. Members can report breaches of the Code of Conduct at the meeting, or if they prefer, to Siân in private.

Facebook – the Partnership discussed the official BL Facebook page and agreed that

- (i) All posts to the official page must reflect the views of the partnership. There have been some inappropriate posts
- (ii) The Partnership noted that Iain Hunter is an admin, as well as Phil Saunders and Jon Thain. Only Phil or Jon, as partnership members, should post on behalf of WHBL

- (iii) Both Jon and Phil were asked to reinstate Dan Ellis as an admin, and remove anyone that is no longer a member.

5.0 Urban Café Funding

This project had been approved in principle at the January meeting when it was reported that CHI had won the tender to take over the café. This followed a lot of hard work from the steering group set up by members and which met during 2018. Copies of the SLA with Groundwork and the CHI Urban Café business plan were available at the meeting for members to refer to, and which detail the level of funding commitment already agreed.

AGREED: A vote was taken and by a majority 6 in favour and 1 against the release of funding was agreed as scheduled. 3 members abstained.

6.0 Constitution

The Partnership discussed the current constitution and how they would like to see it updated – some detail needed to be clearer and had caused some confusion recently, especially around membership eligibility. We want to arrive at a list of rules which is inclusive and fair. We also want to specify how people get to be members of the partnership as current arrangements are too vague; set a maximum number; specify what we expect partners to contribute. Members will be expected to attend meetings and to participate.

ACTION: John Tynan, Bobbi Slavin, Phil Saunders, Nicky Banlin and Chris Featherstone volunteered to work with Anne on a new draft constitution, and to review the Code of Conduct, at a sub group meeting on the 15th April.

7.0 Disability Issues

Margaret raised a number of issues faced by those living with a disability on Windmill Hill and talked about her own experience in providing support to people experiencing social inclusion.

This led to a discussion around buddying, using the newsletter to reach people blighted by social isolation, making sure that BL meetings use a hearing loop wherever possible.

ACTION: Chris Featherstone to talk to Dan to find out if previous discussions re Drive scheme (Wigan) could be re-started.

8.0 Consultation and Engagement

The Partnership needs to refresh and enhance its understanding of the WH community, and enable people to meet us, to know who we are and what we stand for. A report from 2014 exists and will be useful. Needs to address 'fake news' and gather up to date information re what people want on the estate.

Local Insights is a source of data and stats. HBC also has profiles they can contribute too but it's also important to recognise the successes and positive qualities in Windmill Hill, not just the negatives.

BL is trying to build a legacy for its children - can they be brought into the conversation? CHI is trying to set up a youth board, and potentially could bring a young person rep to the Board meetings. Bobbi agreed to be the contact point. We will put a good picture of the Board members in the next newsletter and update the pen pictures on the website.

ACTION: A Task and Finish Group - Phil Saunders, Ann-Marie, Tanya, Nicky and Sharon - would meet with Anne, also on the 15th April, to look further at a draft engagement plan moving forward.

Two tasks:

- (i) How best to communicate what we're all about (the newsletter, but what else besides?)
- (ii) How to collect views and opinions from friends and neighbours

9.0 Any other business

- The Partnership asked about Dan and his ongoing involvement in the Partnership as they missed him and really valued his support. Siân reassured everyone that he would be attending meetings again from June and that Groundwork, as with Local Trust, wanted to allow the Partnership the opportunity to address the negativity and poor behaviour of some of its members before he returned.
- Several members remarked how positive and enjoyable this meeting had been and that they were pleased with the amount of progress that had been made. Siân and Anne endorsed this view and thanked members for working so hard, and constructively, on some important agenda items.
- Viridor grant (Skatepark) £20k has been awarded. The BL contribution of £30k plus £10k maintenance had already been agreed, now ratified (vote taken, 7 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstained) as match funding.

Date of Next Meetings:

Monday 29th April 2019, 10am, at St Berteline's Church
Please note change of date due to Easter Monday

Task and Finish Groups, 15 April at Priory View

10am-1pm Constitution and Code of Conduct
1pm – 3pm Communication and community profiling