

Windmill Hill BL Partnership Board

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

Attended by: Margaret, Jackie, Irene, Phil, Wendy, Billy, Nick, Claire, Ann Marie, Claire, Nicky, Bobby, Steve, John, Sharon, Jon, Chris, Anne (Big Local Rep), Siân (independent Chair)

Apologies:

1.0 Background to interim chairing arrangements

Siân explained that in appointing her as an Independent Chair Local Trust was responding to concerns raised by Partnership members– she would be chairing meetings but not the Partnership itself and would take no part in decision making. The arrangement will be in place until the AGM in June when the expectation is that a resident chair would be chosen by the Partnership.

Irene raised concerns that Siân had a conflict of interest as she is a trustee for Groundwork CLM which is the Partnership's LTO. Siân explained that Local Trust had considered this point but was satisfied that there was no conflict – she would not take part in any decision and the LTO was not up for review. However, to avoid any doubt Siân has stepped back from the Groundwork Board for the period of this placement.

2.0 Current issues and challenges

Siân invited every Partnership member to reflect on why they were involved in Windmill Hill Big Local and on how they felt about recent meetings. There were shared feelings and concerns including:

- Being passionate about Windmill Hill and wanting to see the area improve
- Being part of the Big Local from the beginning and wanting to see it through
- Wanting to see things improve for children, to have a better future
- Frustration, people being argumentative, personal remarks
- Our own rules and guidance not being kept to, it's embarrassing that we're not getting things done, decisions being unpicked, things getting blocked
- Shouting over people, tension, uncomfortable, not sure I can continue, distressed

Siân made it clear that Local Trust expected the Partnership to act in accordance with the Big Local ethos and values, and its own Code of Conduct, wherever and whenever Windmill Hill Big Local is discussed or represented. This included being positive about the programme and

representing its decisions accurately – agreeing to be a member meant being bound by the Partnership’s decisions even when they don’t match your own personal opinion. For members unable to do that, their only choice is to leave the Partnership. If the Partnership was unable to make progress and act as one team then Local Trust would have no option but to withdraw the funding agreement.

Irene asked if she was being investigated. Sian assured her that she was not.

3.0 Constitution and Code of Conduct

Members had a brief discussion around these documents – Siân asked that everyone re-read both and be ready to discuss fully at the next meeting. Anne suggested that 2 or 3 members might offer to work on a new version following this debate. In the meantime, some early thoughts were that the Constitution is not clear on several points, and has restricted the Partnership’s freedom to elect officers.

4.0 Minutes of last meeting

Anne took the Partnership through the minutes which were agreed as a true record other than that Claire had attended the meeting. Irene and Billy wanted it noted that they felt that the November minutes had not been approved. There were no matters arising that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

5.0 Update re church proposals

Nicky Goodwin provided an update. At the previous meeting there was a discussion about a series of options for progressing to the next stage. If the scheme is to progress it now needs to be worked up to RIBA Stage 3 standard, at an estimated cost of £20k. A 50% contribution to those costs was sought from BL and agreed in principle subject to checking that no alternative plans exist. This has now been settled, so the contribution needs to be confirmed.

A residents’ consultation meeting took place on 8 Feb. to discuss future funding prospects. There is merit in developing the plans further **only** if there is a prospect of assembling the funding package to deliver the scheme. Total cost is estimated at £1.3m, and there is a need to agree what (if any) financial contribution will be committed by BL. A decision is not required today, but this does need to be agreed soon. Halton Council have suggested £400,000. Match finding and clear support from the community are vital factors in attracting money from external sources.

Eleven potential funding sources have been identified so far, and if all of these funded to the max. possible that would achieve a total of £600,000. Halton are constantly exploring new funding sources.

To provide context, the figures below have been calculated by the LTO and indicate spend to date at WHBL and the amount left to be invested in the remaining five years of the programme.

A	Total available (including £105,000 investment return)	£1,149,500
B	Total spent to end of 2017 Plan	£ 307,947
C	Value of current Plan	£ 293,182

$$A - B - C = £548,371$$

AGREED: That the Partnership would confirm its grant of £10k for the detailed design and drawings. It would also confirm that it would consider a grant of between £200k and £400k for the project moving forward – the amount was subject to the raising of additional funding to make the project viable and to agreeing a timetable (this funding could not be offered on a undetermined timetable).

The decision on the level of funding should be taken in the light of up to date and robust community consultation to ascertain support and local aspirations. Despite the uncertainties around the future of the scheme it was felt that it was worth investing the further £10,000 especially if supported by more consultation, engagement and community development.

6.0 Flytipping

This was becoming an increasing problem especially in the woodland. Some ideas for addressing this included naming and shaming through the newsletter, providing skips on the estate, Bulky Bobs (CHI). CHI had been involved in meetings with Norton Priory and the Woodlands Trust – nature detective events were planned for the 3rd and 10th April.

ACTION: Chris to coordinate the environmental working group liaising with Phil Thornton on the work already under way.

7.0 Newsletter

To focus on fly-tipping, highlighting the problem. Other contributions still welcome. The newsletter will be produced in the next couple of weeks

8.0 Any other business

- Ann Marie explained that Pixel Perfect was taking a short break.
- The update on the Urban Café from CHI was postponed until the next meeting as there was insufficient time remaining.

Date of Next Meeting 18 March 2019, 10am, at St Berteline's Church