

North Kingston Forum

Minutes of the 25th Meeting 7th February 2018 7:15pm Diane's House to facilitate a FaceTime Meeting with Neil Homer, planning consultant.

1. Apologies were received from John, Glen, Howard and Michael.
2. FaceTime with Neil Homer – response to our very preliminary draft reports, potential policy ideas and Development sites. Moving forward with our council meeting and agenda.

Neil joined the meeting by FaceTime. His observations were we have covered all the basics with a couple of exceptions in our reports.

He suspected the council will not have a target for housing in our area. Our worry is that they may have a large target in mind for us.

Planning for the Opportunity Area is normally regarded as a council responsibility. We could set out principles for other areas. His reservations are that the council may think differently.

Andrea asked why only The Keep may be considered strategic? Neil replied that as we are the first forum in Kingston it may make the planning department more reticent and the size of The Keep (~4Ha) may make it strategic.

Neil said we need to embrace growth and spatial strategy sensibly. The fundamental issue seems to be about densification and undermining the general feel of the area.

We need to focus on very specific sites and establish parameters for building height and densification in those areas. Neil stressed how important it is to talk to the planners.

Milton Keynes and Horsham were mentioned as successful planning departments who supported neighbourhood plans.

Our plan has the opportunity to be an exemplar for suburban London. Barriers to forums in London seem to be about the culture of the planning departments.

Neil suggested the agenda for the planning meeting should surround a very simple schedule of planning policies and receive feedback from the planners, who we want to work with. That will give them a good idea of what we are doing. We should ask them for a schematic showing the areas identified in the call for sites. Neil is drafting the broad brush policy statement schedule for our swift consideration.

Neil suggested we spend time finalising policies for key sites following the meeting on the 20th February. We should take an active role in contributing to the development brief for that site. We need to show sites on our policy map together with a statement saying something like: '*policies for a mixed use development would be supported providing etc*' we could end up with 6 or so policy principles that would determine what could happen on the site. For each site, the principle objectives/policies may include height, environment, sight line, access points, transition zone etc. We would then need a *reasoned justification* to support those objectives.

We will need to have a conversation with the landowner. Annington Homes (owner of the Keep) have not been interested in engaging in conversation with the council up to now we understand. Neil stressed we need to demonstrate we have attempted to engage with all land owners.

We agreed we would talk to the council about our desire to draft policies for key

sites.

Neil will sketch out the schedule for the council meeting on the 20th February. He asked about the business area in Norbiton including Merit Tyres.

Neil asked for an update from the communities and facilities team who have catalogued the facilities within the area. He stressed that there could be significant housing growth in and around our area. The provision of school places were discussed. The group is going to undertake market research and consultation. Neil recommended the group consider drafting a high level approach on one side of A4. Implications are more about school places and access to health services etc than pubs and shops.

We discussed and agreed to hold an internal workshop, probably late April to discuss the findings of all the work groups, together with all our ideas and get them all onto one map. It will make it so much easier for all of us to see the bigger and more complete picture.

We need to get an idea of the councils timetable for the local plan.

3. Further updates from the work groups.

- Communities and facilities team
- Environment team
- Heritage & Design
- Business and Commercials

4. Plan of action for community engagement

Time was running out so there was not much discussion here.

- Survey and drop in sessions and exhibitions were suggested with story boards. Distribution of a news letter, social media was discussed.
- Dates for potential community drop-ins need to be agreed.

5. Next meetings

Date of next team leader meeting: **20th Feb** after the council meeting. Jonathan scheduled to be away. Could somebody take notes?

Date of next Committee meeting: **Wed 7th March** Hawker Centre 7:30pm

In attendance:

Diane Watling
Asa Backman
Marilyn Mason
Jonathan Rollason
Matthew Rees
Cllr Maria Netly
Sarah Olney
Cllr Andrea Craig