

Minutes of the North Kingston Forum Committee meeting at the Hawker Centre on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7:30pm.

Actions Arising

1 Apologies were received from Marilyn, Robert, Maria, Michael and Howard.

2 We agreed and signed off the minutes from the last meeting

Introduce Elena Besussi – UCL Bartlett school of planning course tutor

3 There will be a student walkabout on the 18th January to familiarise them with the proposed Opportunity Area, our housing needs, affordable housing, elderly care and others. There could be up to 18 students present on the day, and we will likely split up into 4 groups.

Their conclusions may include the need to tighten up on the area plan and provide examples of what has been achieved elsewhere. UCL has already worked on 10 neighbourhood plans in London, and is also working with LimeHouse Neighbourhood Forum.

UCL have many tools at their disposal, and can help analyse current and future trends.

4 Work group updates.

Good progress being made all round.

Jonathan updated on the business group. The main issues that have been raised within the business community were broadband, public transport, availability of workspace, property rents, road congestion, parking costs and signage. Concerns were raised over Canbury Business Park. He expressed disappointment at the number of replies to the questionnaire received to date. He said the group were reconvening to push for more replies. The results of the survey will be shared at a networking event at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel on the 31st January.

Di updated on the Environment group who have looked at the key areas and have drafted recommendations for policy ideas. They are not scheduling any more meetings, but the report is still considered a work in progress should updates be required. The report has been uploaded onto the secure website.

Heritage and design are almost there. The visual survey is now complete and they are drafting a series of questions. They are struggling to collate the amount of information gathered, a huge task. Suggested they share the information as it currently stands, which was agreed. Looking at trying to extend the areas of protection (conservation areas and LASC). The question will be if this is enough to protect them re: the new requirements for densification as set out in the London Plan, and if the council will agree. It will potentially mean more work and expenditure for the council. David suggested we reference the report to the council's own Character Study of the wards.

The community and facilities group met early December. Matthew wants to map community facilities and services. They are surveying other NPlans but there is likely nothing new. A comprehensive map is attached, and will be uploaded onto the secure website dropbox.

Di stated we need to start moving into the key sites analysis as soon as possible, there was still a lot of work to be completed. David suggested we think sensibly outside the box.

David Cunningham introduced the LONDON PLAN, which the Mayor of London has prepared .

In short, the London Plan is promoting densifying the suburbs in the outer boroughs of London with new housing. The Council disagrees with the plan in many ways, and is currently putting together their response to the Mayor as part of the consultation process of this plan. The council is worried that the character of the borough is at threat, and that infrastructure will not sustain the new housing numbers proposed. They have prepared a paper called “save our suburbs”. (attached)

Why is this important:

- Preparing the response to the London Plan has delayed the council’s work on our Local Plan here in Kingston, and this in turn will delay our neighbourhood plan. We need to conform with the Local plan, and the Local Plan needs to conform with the London Plan, once finalised. So this could slow our progress.
- The London Plan will put a lot of development pressure on North Kingston, especially Canbury ward, where pockets of existing building stock is “poor quality” and will therefore be difficult to defend for the council. David Cunningham said that the presumed density for new development is 4 x the existing density, so if you have 2 flats on a plot, you could argue 8 flats in a new development.
- So, not only will we have to defend our “sites” from 14 story towers, we will also have to defend our normal streets from being filled with 6-8 story blocks of flats, replacing 2 story terraces. Loft extensions are not taken into account.
- The council’s response will be out on 6 February at the Growth Committee meeting, and we should look at that closely, because that will give us the clues as to which direction the council wants to go.

The Kingston Riverside consultation document will be released this week. The document (HUGE!) can be found here:

<https://moderngov.kingston.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?IId=33422&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI30753>

We should all individually write to the The Mayor to object to the London Plan.

5 Logo update.

We contacted the Art Head at Kingston Academy to ask for the children’s help with a Logo refresh. We have already received 28 entries. These have been reduced to 2 possibles. The competition is being re-run. Entries due back in a couple of weeks.

6 Funding

- **Council.** We are delighted to report that we have been awarded a New Initiatives grant of £3000 from the council. The T/Cs state that we include the RBK Logo on website, letterhead and promotional material. Agreed.
- **DCLG/Locality.** We can get up to £15k this current round to 31st March 2018. We obtained part of this grant last year which has been extended to pay the current bill. The funding comes in tranches, and the next application (£2000) will cover 1st Feb-31st March 2018 only. Concern that DCLG has not yet awarded the tender for the next award period of 1st April 2018 – 2022. We may just be able to cover the consulting costs with this grant.
- **Potential Lottery – Awards for All.** If we do need more money, we will apply.

Surveys:

a. Results of the 'What three things do you like/could be improved about North Kingston? No surprises.

82 responses. The survey has been running for ~ 12 months via letterbox drop and digital avenues. Over 200 suggestions for each question.

See the attached document.

b. Neil's advice on a proposed general survey/meeting with the council. We need to think about how we consult the community. He recommended we hold off with a survey until we have met with the council to agree a way forward. He also feels that if we understand the council's position better, we will know how to approach it. We will therefore need outline suggestions/policies from workgroups **before** the end of January, we are trying to arrange a meeting with the council on the 20th Feb.

AOB.

Marilyn notified us earlier of a request to support an application for funding by the Green spaces team at the council for a feasibility study for community infrastructure . We would need to find out how much time would be involved.

Di asked a question about new developments and car clubs. David said that new developments should give the residents a years free access to car clubs.

Date of Next meeting: Wednesday 7th February 2018

Many thanks to Jonathan Rollason and Asa Backman for information and minutes.

Attendees

Diane Watling

Steve Ransome

Rob Hearne

Madeleine Hearne

David Cunningham

Glen Keywood

Matthew Rees

Elena Besussi (UCL)

Jonathan Rollason

Asa Backman