

North Kingston Forum

Queen's Head Public House, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 7:30pm

14 in attendance + Councillor David Cunningham

The meeting opened at 7:30pm

The first item was a slide show review from the presentation on Neighbourhood Planning given by Viv Evans on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015, St Luke's Church.

- There was an overview of the planning system, Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 and the Localism Act of 2011, which allows the creation of Neighbourhood Development Plans.

The London Plan is the overarching strategic planning document for all London boroughs.

RBK Local Development Framework includes: The Core strategy, K+20 and the South London Waste Plan.

- It was explained how neighbourhood planning was for local people to set out what they value and think needs to be preserved or enhanced. It is a new way to allow local communities to influence planning in their neighbourhood area.
- Communities working together to meet their long term needs.
- Once the plan is adopted, they carry material weight for planning decisions in the plan area.
- Neighbourhood Plans are governed by legislation, may take up to 2 years to produce, and can cost anywhere from £55k-£120k depending on complexity.
- They must conform to the London Plan and RBK's LDF.

Councillor Cunningham suggested that the timeline outlined in the slide presentation regarding the London Plan dates may be optimistic given that there will be mayoral elections in 2016. RBK will be bringing their Issues and Options consultation forward, thus earlier than the quoted Summer/Autumn 2017. In an ideal world, the RBK local plan would be adopted after the London Plan, but we must ignore the timing as the London Plan is an evolving document.

There was discussion about how the NKF potential plan could fit in with this or just fit in with existing plan. It was felt that we should not hold back. We should start the process keeping in mind existing and emerging plans. If significant change, then we have to debate and accommodate.

Richmond Council have quite a lot of information on their website, having been through the procedure with the Ham and Petersham Neighbourhood Forum.

### **Funding**

The council does not give any financial support, although it is responsible for the costs of the final Plan examination and the referendum. Next slide outlined potential funding routes, however, we need a strategy as funding is strictly controlled e.g. Locality. Future costs needs to be identified, and used with 6

months. Any underspend needs to be returned. There are a number of grant routes available.

Non grant funding could be found by fundraising, website advertising and donations, crowd funding.

### **Constitution.**

Some email comments had been received regarding the following and the discussion agreed the following:

**Proxy option** – to be investigated

**Financial year end** – to change to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec thus allowing an AGM within 3 months at a time that is easier members re: school holidays

**Quorum levels** – suggestion of 20 for an AGM and 10 for general committee meetings

**Vice Chair role 5.2** – suggested to include ‘also acting as deputy for the Chairman’.

**A few typos etc.** – to be changed

### **Paid membership.**

Would it be too difficult to determine who has/has not paid up prior to an AGM for example?

Does it send out the right message?

How do we define a paid up member?

How do we manage Quorum if have a mix of membership?

It is important that it is not a closed body.

Should it be voluntary contributions only?

It was left with Diane to investigate how other NFs that quote paid membership in their constitutions handle this dilemma and then make further decisions before we can agree in principle.

### **Fighting Fund**

Until we can obtain a grant, a small fighting fund will need to be established to help carry us forward until that time.

Costs include the following quotes:

Premium membership to WordPress (website host) = £85

10,000 A5 single sided B/W flyers = ~ £130 (quotes available) may be able to obtain a bit cheaper on line.

Venue hire = variable

The evening finished on various discussions on how to reach out to all parts of North Kingston. We will need to convince the council planning officers our proposed boundary area is sound. We need to demonstrate we have community agreement and a good scatter of members as proof. It was suggested to hold a drop in exhibition sometime in December if we can find a venue. Also, BRaG Winter Warmup will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, and it is planned to have an exhibition there. **Volunteers will be required.**

It was a great privilege to be part of a group of people who showed their generosity by donating a total of £75 in cash towards the fighting fund. This currently resides in one of my unused teapots. Full accountability will be provided. Hopefully we will have a real bank account in the not too distant future.

The evening finished at 9pm.

**Attendees**

Marilyn Mason  
Clare Francis  
Liz Parton  
Shirley Hull  
Des McRow  
Pauline White  
Corinne Foster  
Caroline Scott  
Andree Frieze  
Jan Gow  
Graham Dagleish  
Diane Watling  
Howard Sheppard  
Steve Ransome

**Apologies**

Glen Keywood  
Duncan Combe  
Dan Falchikov  
Barry Bennett  
Margaret Levy

Minutes were transcribed by Steve Ransome and summarised by Diane Watling