

## **Eden Community Neighbourhood Forum.**

Minutes from the Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Attendees:** - Steering Group: Ian Lord (Acting Chair), Gillian Hoyle, Trevor Boothman & Alan Ashworth. Apologies from Richard Bishop.

**Prospective Members** :- Richard Lester, Roger Barlow, Gillian Hulme, Carol Ashworth, Christine Murrell, Gordon Worth, Margaret Filkins, Jennifer Mead, Geoff Lord, Mark Welsh, David Fisher, Paul Bradburn, Ann Marie Coyne, Michael Coyne, Helen Iggulden, Liz Stooke, Cllr Janice Johnson, Brian Langrish, Chris Ross and Milan Pular.

**Apologies** Cllr Anne Cheetham, Karen Lester & Barbara Lord.

The Chairman opened the meeting by asking if everyone had received their e-mails with the attachments containing the Agenda, Draft Constitution, Area Map, Membership Application Form and Minutes from our previous meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017. He advised spare copies were available if required.

The Chairman then updated everyone with respect to the latest information available from Rossendale Borough Council, confirming the number of responses received by them to their Local Plan from the Borough was 1800 and 818 of these were from our area. Objections were 810, Neutrals 3 and Supporters 5. This was a fantastic result and thanks were given to all the Members of EVRA for the massive efforts made.

Following the opening remarks the Chairman moved on to the Agenda items:-

- 1) **Minutes of Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.** Everyone present at the meeting confirmed they had read the minutes and they were unanimously approved.
- 2) **Forum Boundary and Name.** Discussions took place reviewing the various considerations that had taken place regarding the boundary, initially we have adopted the Eden Ward area and this includes Irwell Vale, Stubbins, Strongstry, Chatterton, Turn and some outlying areas like parts of Nangreaves as well as Edenfield. There were no representatives present from Turn, Stubbins, Strongstry, Chatterton or any of the outlying areas and the Chairman confirmed we were still awaiting confirmation from their respective Resident Groups that they would join our Forum. We will assume for the time being they will join our Forum to avoid delaying our progress and then adjust as necessary as we move forward. We next discussed the name and all the considerations involved and it was unanimously agreed we would be "Eden Community Neighbourhood Forum" to meet all the regulations and where appropriate it would be shortened to Eden Community Forum (ECF) for brevity.
- 3) **Constitution.** The Chairman referred to all the work that has gone into the preparation of this document and thanked Trevor Boothman and Richard Lester for their major contributions. He then reviewed the document section by section to ensure all present understood the various issues and answered all the questions raised. The meeting then voted on the adoption of the Constitution The vote was unanimously to accept the Constitution and there were no objections.

- 4) **Membership.** Completed Membership Applications were collected by the Chairman and it is pleasing to record we now have twenty-five members.
- 5) **Report on Meeting with the Forward Planning Senior Management at Rossendale Borough Council .** The attendees were Nicola Hopkins & Adrian Smith for RBC and Ian Lord & Alan Ashworth for ECF.

The Chairman reported that the meeting was very positive, the Council were supportive and they explained what was required for us to gain initial designation. We advised them of our progress to date and they appeared quite keen for us to get involved. We explained our objectives were to minimise the effect on our Green Belt and reduce the proposed building numbers from fifty-four percent in the Local Plan to about twelve percent which is the figure for the Borough as a whole. They responded by saying they will still have to meet their overall number and the houses will have to be built somewhere in the Borough. We next asked about the actions and timing going forward with their plan and they provided the following details:-

- a) They will analyse all the objections received throughout the Borough and determine the main issues. They expect the 1800 objections received could lead to 8000 issues. They will select the major issues and work through them with a target for completion by end December.
- b) The first three months of 2018 will be spent working on the reports from Highways and Utilities which should be available by then.
- c) After this they will make any changes they feel are required to their draft plan and this should be completed by the summer of 2018.
- d) There will then be a six week consultation but objections can only be considered based on the "Soundness of the evidence base", "Legal issues relating to procedures followed" or "Duties to communicate issues with Highways & Utilities".
- e) The plan is then published & submitted to the Inspectorate, target October 2018.
- f) Planning Inspectorate will then examine the document and follow up with site visits in spring 2019. At this point there will be round table discussions involving all interested parties which will include our Forum along with the Developers etc.
- g) The Inspectorate will then decide what if any changes are to be made and this is likely to be completed by the summer of 2020.

We also asked if the Council would be reducing the housing numbers in line with the recent statement from Jake Berry but they advised they will continue with the number in the current draft of the Local Plan.

We agreed to prepare our application for the Neighbourhood Forum and our target is to submit it in December 2017.

## 6) **Publicity & Communications.**

- a) **Communication Strategy & Plan.** The Chairman outlined the progress made on this by Gillian Hoyle; it is a very complex area particularly the Vision Statement. We are

targeting to have a draft available by the end of December and then publish early in the New Year.

- b) **Website/Social Media.** This area is being covered by Richard Bishop, significant progress is being made and we have registered our domain name so we can move forward to develop the website. This is particularly important for Younger Members; hopefully it will assist us in improving membership diversity. The domain name is “edencommunityforum.uk”.
  - c) **Newsletter to all Homes & Businesses.** Gillian showed the type of one page document that is being worked on and the target is to complete and deliver to all Properties and Businesses in our area in the next three months. Mr G. Worth suggested we include in our Newsletter a comment relating to the possible re-allocation of building sites when the Council review their plan to advise Residents of the areas who have not yet decided to join our Forum the benefits of becoming Members. Mrs J. Mead advised she has details of all the addresses in the area and the Chairman advised all present he would be looking for “Foot Soldiers” to do the delivery in due course. The Chairman of EVRA agreed to ask the delivery Team from EVRA if some of them would also be willing to assist. The chairman of EVRA confirmed they use Kershaw’s and sometimes Studio 51 for their printing requirements and he agreed to forward the relevant contact details.
- 7) **Planning Consultants.** The Chairman advised of the need to employ a Firm of Consultants to assist us in putting the Plan together and he confirmed that whilst we have not ruled out Kirkwell’s we are in contact with the ones who have assisted the Woodford Neighbourhood Forum. We are proposing to visit this Company and others very early in the New Year and then select the best one with experience in Rural Development. We are also looking for local Architects and people with planning experience to join and provide inside expertise to the Forum.
- 8) **Grants and Funding.** The chairman confirmed that Government Grants are available for Forums like ours; there is one for nine thousand pounds to get the Forum up and running and one for up to eight thousand pounds for specific Technical issues with the possibility of other small amounts being available from elsewhere. He confirmed it may be that we have to look at some type of fund raising going forward and we are to examine what methods other Forum’s have used for this. One of the Attendees suggested we consider the website “Go Fund Me” and this will be followed up.  
The Chairman of EVRA kindly offered to lend the Forum £200 until we were able to obtain a grant for us to cover printing costs, the cost for using the Community Centre going forward etc. Our Chairman thanked him for the kind offer and accepted it.
- 9) **Date of Next Meeting.** Not fixed targeting February 2018.
- 10) **Any Other Business.** Mr Roger Barlow advised the meeting that the development of the Horse and Jockey site will commence on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.