

## Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes from the Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

**Attendees:** - Management Committee– Ian Lord (Chairman), Paul Williams (Acting Deputy Chairman), Gillian Hoyle & Alan Ashworth (Acting Secretary).

Prospective Management Committee Members: - Margaret Filkins, Paul Bradburn & Mervin MacDonald.

Apologies from Management Committee Members: - Richard Bishop. Apologies from Prospective Management Committee Members: -Richard Lester, David Rawcliffe & Mark Whitehead.

**Members:** - Roger Barlow, Peter Howarth, Gordon Worth, Carol Ashworth, Jenny Mead, Gillian Hulme, Barbara Lord, Peter Ash, Betty Garvey, Jennie Law, Michael Coyne, Ron Marley, Matthew Scanlon, Ken Parkes, Brenda Chester, Karen Lester, James Lester, Paul Formby, Gaynor Brady, Vincent Brady, Geoff Margison, Mark Welsh, John Davies, Liz Stooke, Ann Newberry, Ian Newberry, Alex Black, Arnold Wilcox Wood and Councillor Janice Johnson.

**Apologies:** - Brian & Denise Langrish, Peter Dawson, Ann Marie Coyne, Dorothy Jones, Emeline Cryne, James Cryne, David Fisher, Sue Openshaw, Graeme Conway ,Helen Iggulden, Jean-Pierre Desprez, Janet Desprez, Joanne Ash, Barry Pitt, Susan Pitt, Nadia Krasij, June Kenyon and Karen Duckworth.

- 1) **Opening Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for attending and introduced the individual Members of the Management Committee. He advised that the Forum Membership was now in excess of two hundred with representation from approx fifteen percent of the households in our area. He then advised that Trevor Boothman had resigned and thanked him for his efforts in getting the Forum off the Ground initially and for the work done in his role of Acting Treasurer.
- 2) **Minutes of Previous meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.** The chairman asked if all who were present at the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April had reviewed the minutes and agreed they were an accurate record of the meeting. A vote was taken; they were unanimously accepted with no objections and then duly signed.
- 3) **RBC Local Plan Update.** The Acting Secretary who along with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman make up the Team who are working alongside the Consultants and liaising with the Forward Planning Team at RBC provided an update of the current status. The details covering this presentation are appended, there were several questions raised and answered at the end of the presentation.
- 4) **Neighbourhood Plan.** The Deputy Chairman explained that the Forum have now commenced work on the Neighbourhood Plan and agreed a schedule with the Planning Consultants to enable us to be able to present the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate in the first half of next year. He advised there would be a short e-mail questionnaire circulated in the next few days to determine the main concerns of the Residents and then the responses would be reviewed at an initial Workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> September involving approx twenty Members of the Forum.  
This will then be followed with a more in depth questionnaire based on the findings from the initial questionnaire to form the main basis for the Neighbourhood Plan.

A draft Plan & Policies with design codes will then be prepared and followed by a Consultation with the Residents. The ethos of Neighbourhood Planning is that it is very much community-led, and that on-going consultation is central to the production of a successful plan.

The next stage is then to prepare a Regulation 14 Plan for formal Consultation purposes. Following this the Submission Plan will be prepared and put before Rossendale Borough Council.

Assuming this is accepted we will then have to prepare a "Basic Conditions Statement" and provide all the Evidence Documents prior to a six week formal Consultation taking place. There will then be an Examiner appointed to investigate the plan, any recommendations issued will be considered and the Council will then arrange for a "Referendum" on the plan involving every Household and Business in our Neighbourhood Area.

If the referendum is supported by a majority of the Community it will become part of the "Statutory development Plan".

- 5) **Financing of the Forum.** The Chairman confirmed that we have now obtained a Grant from Locality which will hopefully cover the majority of the costs associated with the Neighbourhood Plan. He confirmed again that none of this money can be used to finance the challenges that we have made or are proposing to make against the Councils plan. He advised that our fund raising efforts to date for the challenges have been very successful and they will cover all the costs for the challenges made up to and including those for the next Consultation in September. However we do not have enough money to cover the challenges we want to make to the Inspectorate early next year and he considers we have a need to raise a further eight thousand pounds to cover this. He advised that he would be writing to all the Members with respect to this shortfall and that posters were being prepared for local notice boards and for the websites etc. Additionally, when the next Newsletter is prepared a further appeal for funds will be included. He also asked for Volunteers to assist the Management Committee to form a sub-committee which will concentrate solely on fund raising through Coffee Mornings, possibly a One Hundred Club and Horse Racing Nights etc. If any Member is willing to assist in this capacity will they please contact any of the Management Committee.
- 6) **Publicity and Communications.** Gill Hoyle and Richard Bishop cover these areas. Gill updated the meeting with respect to their recent activities as follows:-
- Edenfield Fete.** The Forum had a stand at the Fete to provide an opportunity for the Management Committee to consult with the Residents and for everyone to see at first hand the proposals being made by RBC. The event was very successful; we gained 71 new Members and raised extra funds for the Forum.
- Social Media.** The Facebook page and Website are now live and generating a lot of interest from the Community.
- Forward Plans.** They are now working on two key strands, the first relating to the challenges to the Local plan and the second being the communications relating to the preparation for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Local Plan** - A "Flyer" which will be delivered to every household and business in our area to highlight the need to make an objection to the RBC plan during the next Consultation Stage and this Flyer will outline how to make the objection and what the basis for the

objection must be to ensure it will be valid. Press releases and promotions through social media will also be undertaken.

**Neighbourhood Plan** - Work is under way on finalising the initial questionnaire and work is starting on the more in-depth questionnaire which will be sent to all households in the forum area and will form the basis for the plan.

- 7) **Management Committee.** The Chairman advised the Members that we need to increase the size of the Management Committee to enable us to meet our targets of continuing with the challenges to both RBC and the Planning Inspectorate, in addition to collecting & categorising the data for preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and continuing to raise the funds required.

He confirmed that five members have kindly offered to assist and join the committee; they are Richard Lester, Margaret Filkins, Paul Bradburn, David Rawcliffe, Mark Whitehead and Mervin MacDonald. He asked the Members for a proposer (Betty Garvey) and a Seconder (Roger Barlow) and then asked the meeting to take a vote. The vote was unanimous and the Chairman welcomed the new members to the Management Committee.

- 8) **Date of Next Meeting.** We are targeting to hold two or three Neighbourhood Forum Meetings per year and we are planning for the next meeting to be early in 2019.

- 9) **Any Other Business.** The Chairman confirmed to the meeting that we have introduced a new "Friends of Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum" to include people who do not live or work in the Neighbourhood Area but are interested for a variety of reasons and have specifically asked if they could be kept informed and assist as and when required.

Signed..... Chairman. Dated.....