

EDENFIELD COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MARCH 2024 UPDATE



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Forum will be held in the Community Centre on Tuesday 26 March 2024 commencing at 7.45pm. **Everyone is welcome so please attend if you can.**

As well as conducting the formal business of the Forum the meeting is an opportunity to hear about the Forum's work over the last year and its plans. There will also be the chance to ask questions of the Management Committee.

To see an outline of the Forum's efforts on behalf of residents over the last year please see the Forum website www.edenfieldcommunityforum.uk and look for the "Activity Report". For more information or if you have any questions then please come along to the Annual General Meeting.

FORUM MEMBERSHIP

To join the Forum please visit its website and click on "Become a Member of ECNF" after which it is a very straightforward process. There is no cost to become a member and you will receive email updates.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CAN YOU HELP?

It is anticipated that at the AGM there will be three vacancies on the Management Committee. If you are a member of the Forum and would like to join the Management Committee or just need further information please email committee@edenfieldcommunityforum.uk. Note that Committee members are only required to contribute to the Forum's efforts to the extent with which they feel comfortable. There is no lengthy list of tasks awaiting new committee members to undertake!!

MASTERPLAN FOR H66

The H66 site is that identified in the Council's Local Plan located west of Market Street being the field at Chatterton Hey, the fields between Market Street and the bypass and the fields between Blackburn Road and the bypass. The latest version of the Masterplan was submitted to the Council in September 2023 and was subject to a public consultation which ended on 6 November 2023. Using the words "Edenfield Masterplan" in the search facility on the home page of the Council's website access can be gained to all the relevant documentation, in particular: -

14/11/23 and 9/2/24 - all the comments made during the consultation process including those made by and on behalf of the Forum.

12/12/23 – two letters issued by Michael Atherton (Head of Planning & Building Control) setting out the Council's required changes to the Masterplan as currently formulated.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are currently two major planning applications for site H66 being from Taylor Wimpey for 238 houses on the fields between Market Street and the bypass and by Northstone Development (part of the Peel Group) for 50 houses on the first field between the bypass and the top of Blackburn Road. This latter application also includes plans for a car park off Burnley Road on Green Belt land adjacent to Guide Court and the school. A considerable number of objections were submitted, including from the Forum, which again can be viewed on the Council's website by clicking on "View a planning application" on the home page and using reference 2022/0451 for the Taylor Wimpey documents and 2023/0396 for those documents relevant to Northstone. Both applications are currently on hold pending the completion of a satisfactory Masterplan.



CHATTERTON HEY FIELD

The Forum has been informed by the Methodist Church that conditional bids have been invited for the purchase of their land and it is expected that the Church will be in a position to select their preferred bidder within the next three months. A topographical survey has recently been undertaken and there may well be site visits from potential bidders over the coming weeks. Ultimately, this is likely to lead to a Planning Application being made for this site. This will, no doubt, bring about issues of access and parking arrangements concerning Exchange Street/Highfield Road and the general increase in traffic in these locations and the surrounding area.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Forum's draft Neighbourhood Plan was submitted to Rossendale Council in mid-February. A Neighbourhood Plan allows a local community to have a say in planning policies for the area involved. Sadly, it does not override the Council's Local Plan which has allocated the building of up to 400 houses on site H66. However, once a Neighbourhood Plan has been put in place it should mean there is some greater control over the layout and design of any houses to be built.

The draft Plan submitted by the Forum runs to over 350 pages and the Council will firstly need to consider whether it is complete and in an acceptable format. Thereafter, information will be published on the Council's website and there will be a six-week consultation period which it is anticipated will commence in May, followed by a review by an independent Examiner. Approval of the Plan will be sought from residents by way of a referendum.

DONATIONS APPEAL

The Forum much appreciates previous support and donations which, over the last twelve months, have allowed the engagement of an external traffic/transport consultant to compile a report submitted as part of the representations produced in response to the various Masterplans and Planning Applications. However, further funds are needed to fund the consultant's ongoing attendance at meetings with the Council and LCC Highways. If you wish to donate, please follow the guidance below.

- By cheque made payable to Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum and posted to 123 Market Street or 2 Highfield Road
- By bank transfer to account number 26141914 sort code 01 01 42 account name Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum
- By credit/debit card, PayPal or Google Pay via GoFundMe.com (search for "Save Our Beloved Village")



All amounts, large or small, will be gratefully received by the Forum and used to fund its endeavours to mitigate the impact of plans for hundreds of new homes in Edenfield.

www.edenfieldcommunityforum.uk

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