



KINGS HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
MANAGEMENT GROUP

Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday 9th February 2005 19:00
At Kings Heath Children's Library

- | | Action
By |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Present | |
| JH – Jimmy Hill (chair) | |
| HD - Howard Drury | GF - Godfrey Featherstone |
| JB – Jim Brady | BP - Bob Prew |
| PoB - Pat O Brian (part of meeting) | MB - Margaret Braithwaite |
| SR - Shakeel Rehman | JJ – Jonathan Jaffa |
| Apologies & Absent | |
| McV- Sgt Matthew McVeigh WM Police | AD – Adrian Davenport (Treasurer) |
| PB – Philip Briggs (Secretary) | |
| IG -Ian Galloway | |
| 2. Outstanding Actions | |
| From 9/6/04 | |
| <i>Localisation –Get a Council officer to come and explain localisation</i> | PB |
| <i>Pursuing Muna and Gary Abraham over BCC staff availability</i> | |
| From 8/12/2004 | |
| PB would draw up a list of issues from the Transportation Public Meeting | PB |
| <i>Outstanding</i> | |
| PB to arrange meeting with Mott McDonald to progress Transport issues | |
| <i>Now have a contact.</i> | PB |
| PB to contact Pat Rowland re an advertisement in Kings Heath First | |
| <i>Done – costs £40 per issue for ¼ page. I.e. 6 issues x £40=£240 p.a.</i> | |
| PB to contact (Cllr) Neville Summerfield to exchange minutes with KH Bus Assn | |
| <i>Done, awaiting KHBA response</i> | |
| AD & PB to identify a suitable signatory and get the accounts signed off. | AD |
| <i>Done – examiners appointed at AGM AD to complete inspection process</i> | |
| McV was requested to welcome TWM's interest and clear the way for a meeting in late February | McV |
| 3. Election of KHNF Officers | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair JH proposed by HD to continue. Unanimous • Treasurer AD proposed by JH. Unanimous • Secretary PB proposed by JH. Unanimous | |
| GF – PB could use help for broad range of duties as secretary. Ask PB if this is so. | |
| AGREED | |
| PoB left the meeting | |
| 4. Concerning a Special meeting for residents of roads affected by Wheelers Lane Schools development | |
| HD – as representative from the area in question suggested that opinions of the locals in 6 roads affected have not been canvassed sufficiently and that size of attendance at AGM shows strength of feeling. | |
| BP – Forming a residents association for the area might help | |
| HD – This had been attempted once without success and to some apathy locally | |
| JH – supports the idea. | |
| GF – 2 points... | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Try for a local action group on this single issue the broaden interest to a Residents Association ii) Move an objection to Balfour Beatty as part of the consortium on grounds that | |

a firm on trial for corporate manslaughter should not be allowed responsibility for construction of school buildings.

The proposal attached to the agenda was agreed, with the addition (MB/JH) that the meeting should be held in the school itself.

PB

JH – request some streamlining of the production/distribution mechanism for leaflets & posters to increase awareness of and attendance at this & other meetings

5. **Kings Heath Local Action Plan**

PB to ensure SR receives copy of plan

PB

BP emphasised that this is a draft of a draft document outlining proposals and much more work was needed on it. PB & BP have pushed the Council for a timetable for the consultation process, but the Council will not commit themselves. PB & BP are to make further efforts.

JH – Would like a letter to the Council asking them to improve their consultation efforts.

GF – Concerning the possibility of consultation between BP & PB and the planning officers to lead to single agenda item to discuss the document at length followed by a public meeting on the same basis – AGREED

HD – That the Forum invite a planning officer to a KHNf meeting to try and put more pressure on the department to commit to a timetable. – AGREED

BP – has spoken with planning officers at KH Centre Partnership and reinforces GF's view BP/HD/JB – feel that all approaches to the Council at the moment are met with little enthusiasm and wonder why.

JH – the Council give insufficient time for responses from KHNf to the Council's decisions and KHNf should be more in control of the local consultation process.

HD – said that planning notices were often not received until after the period for objection had elapsed thus preventing true consultation.

6. **Neighbourhood Forum Boundary Review**

JB – has heard that part of Brandwood may be merged with Bournville and brought within Selly Oak constituency.

7. **KHNf Programme for 2005**

Uncertainty whether this would be a pre-election Hustings, or an Any Questions event.

JH – Two meetings should be held, one for Hall Green & one for Selly oak

GF – Just one meeting in late March depending on when election is scheduled with all 9 potential candidates.

JJ – There would only be a short period between the dissolution of parliament and the declared election date to organise something so specific.

HD – The parties should be asked to provide a representative spokesperson rather than an actual candidate, due to the time constraint, allowing KHNf to organise & publicise meetings well in advance.

JJ/JH – presented the gist of PB's note concerning Dr Lynne Jones MP diary tightness.

GF/BP/HD – in their experience a midweek meeting would have the best chance of a substantial public response in spite of Dr Lynne Jones MP unavailability.

After some discussion the meeting settled on March 23/24/25 if a hall can be found.

JH/PB

Each political party fielding candidates to be invited to send a representative for each ward to a joint meeting. This should result in possibly 8/9 speakers.

Provision For Youth/Elderly/Mental Health

MB – these matters are important because Birmingham operates a policy of inclusion in this regard.

Youth

MB – Compare the local provision with Cotteridge Park where skateboard areas and teenage related play dens have been installed. Could we not press for similar in Kings Heath?

Elderly & Mental Health

MB – the Council has a plan to sell Chamberlain House and has asked "4 Seasons" to find a new home.

JJ – read out the memo of 28th October 2004 by the Highbury Officers Group to M&KH councillors. “4 Seasons” is not apparently part of this scheme.

MB – has written to Cllr Sue Anderson (Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health) seeking clarification on what is happening with Chamberlain House & “4 Seasons”

GF – opposes the sale wholeheartedly & without compromise. Anticipates sizeable objections.

BP saw 2 issues

- i) Protect “4Seasons”
- ii) Sale of Chamberlain House on which he is neutral

Sue Willey joined the meeting,

SW- has met Moseley Forum and they suggest a public meeting in due course but to let the situation lay until the Council outline their plans more clearly.

PB to liaise with Moseley Forum offering help and support of KHNF

8. **Provision of Funding for KH Community Centre “Celebrating Diversity” event**

BP – Ongoing – awaiting PoB

PB

BP &
PoB

9. **Environmental Wardens**

GF – 2 wardens in this area. Their job includes checking on domestic refuse being put out early/dog fouling/pest control/pigeon feeding. He feels the money would be better spent on matters of higher priority.

JH – supports warden scheme. Would like to see the area cleaned up.

BP – The administrative & geographic distribution of the scheme results in Kings Heath having 1¼ wardens. More are needed.

HD – The issue requires more discussion at KHNF and that KHNF should have some input concerning the wardens responsibilities - AGREED

10. **Transport Sub Group Future**

HD – needs help as there are many issues to address:

- i) Queens Bridge is cracking. The situation is being monitored by HD & GF
- ii) Traffic wardens are ticketing local traders overzealously yet ignoring drivers who park in bays reserved for disabled drivers. Could some priorities be worked out and advised to the wardens and their management?
- iii) Puffin crossings: Dr Lynne Jones MP does not respond to repeated approaches on this topic. Cllr Len Gregory is in favour of Pelican crossings although it appears now that they may have a worse accident record than Puffin crossings. HD to research this.

GF – police are not particularly helpful with traffic/paring problems in their jurisdiction, i.e. parking on pavements & blocking the highway. He has repeatedly brought incidents to their notice and they fail to act.

HD – has reported KHNF views to Cllr Gregory & Steve McCabe MP and received favourable responses.

HD

11. **Planning Applications**

GF – The Council has recently (7/2/05) agreed to a government directive that masts should be permitted, overturning the Council’s previous ban on this. The government apparently persuaded the Council by threatening a costly legal action.

GF to identify exact position of mast. Planned in PA S/08320/04/NOT

GF

12. **Treasurers Report – None**

13. **Other Notices**

KHNF have been asked whether they wish to nominate someone for the Selly Oak District Strategic Partnership. PB was nominated to continue in this role.

PB

KHNF have been asked whether they wish to nominate someone for the Hall Green District Strategic Partnership.

Kings Heath Carnival JH reports price of a gazebo as £120 and will purchase one as a shelter for KHNF members at the Carnival.

14. **Kings Heath Centre Partnership Feedback** - deferred
15. **Billesley Ward** - deferred
16. **Brandwood Ward** - deferred
17. **Date; Time & Location of Next Meeting**
19.00, Wednesday 9th March at KH Children's Library
18. **Any Other Business**
GF – raised the projected curtailment in the Fire Services provision of night cover. KHNF should write to the Fire Service to express opposition to this on the following grounds: -
 - i) Slower response times
 - ii) Predominantly domestic incidents
 - iii) Reduced reinforcements available quickly for a major conflagration

AGREED

GF – referred to potential library cuts of £350,000
HD – these are principally at Central Library to allow distribution of resources to smaller libraries
MB – has spoken to local library staff who seem unconcerned.
19. **Future Agenda Items**
Kings Heath Draft Local Action Plan
Placard locations plan
KHNF Meeting Priorities for 2005
Agree AGM date for May 2006

Please send agenda items to Phil Briggs *at least 7 days* before the next meeting. The intention is to send out agendas one week ahead of a meeting.

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