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AGM and Meeting held at Headington Baptist Church on 23 November 2022 at 7pm

Present:

Richard Bradley RB Chair HA (Headington Action), Patrick Coulter PC Chair HNF (Headington Neighbourhood Forum), Liz Grosvenor Admin Support HA/HNF
Fiona McKenzie FM Treasurer HNF, Viv Miles VM Connected Communities,
John Nealon JN Press/Communications Officer HNF/HA
Guest Speaker: Charlie Palmer CP – Incremental Urbanism

Apologies:

Mike Ratcliffe, Roz Smith

Rosemary Belton RBe, Jane Coulter, Trish Elphinstone, Keith Frayn KF, Roger Grosvenor, Claire Harvey, Sheila Hurst SH, Neil Holdstock, Priscilla Goldby PG, Frank McKenna FMc, Chewe Munkonge CM, David Nimmo-Smith, Karin Osborne, Anne Partridge, Cllr Glynis Phillips GP, Hilary Rollin HR, Margaret Samuel, Cllr Chris Smowton CS, Barney Tallack, Peter West,

	HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM AGM	Action
1.	Chair's welcome PC welcomed all to the meeting, the first since 2018 owing to the disruption caused by the pandemic. There is a lot to do and so it is important to regenerate the Forum. Every 5 years we are required to take a decision on continuing as a Neighbourhood Forum, and if so, to elect a steering committee.	
2.	Chair's Report The ongoing projects were listed in the Headington Neighbourhood Plan (HNP). 1. The proposed formation of a Community (Parish) Council was rejected by the City Council on the grounds of there being insufficient evidence to warrant it. We were very disappointed	

	<p>by this decision.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Greening project consisted of 15/16 projects but was suspended owing to lack of resources to pursue it. However, Brookes are still on board to help take this forward. 3. Reduction of Isolation and Loneliness in Headington. The Connected Communities project is up-and-running and VM, who is leading this, outlined the activities and liaison with both Health Centres (Manor and Hedena) see her report later. 4. Improving the Headington Centre. A consultancy (AR Urbanism) has been employed to carry out the vision for an improved centre 5. Improving the Headington Centre. A consultancy (AR Urbanism) has been employed by HA/HNF to prepare a plan to improve Headington Centre in line with the vision which was developed by HA/HNF last year. The plan will be published in January and its implementation will become the responsibility of HNF/HA. 6. Headington Business Association – over the years we have tried to set this up but have, so far, been unsuccessful. <p>In addition to a range of community projects the Neighbourhood Plan sets a number of planning policies for the development of Headington. Due to lack of resources we have been unable to monitor planning applications that affect Headington and to contribute effectively to consultations on the Oxford Local Plan. This is an important activity and we need to set up a working group to take this forward.</p> <p>Forward Plan 2023/2024 – the new Headington Neighbourhood Forum (HNF) steering committee needs to reinvigorate the Plan so that we can deliver projects, monitor planning applications, and review an update the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
3.	<p>Financial Report</p> <p>Since the last AGM in 2018 we have spent a total of £308 (£207 on consultancy support to respond to the Oxford Local Plan 2036, and £101 on the website and publicity). Our bank balance now stands at £54.</p> <p>As a neighbourhood forum we are entitled to have 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy fund for Headington spent directly in Headington. We have prepared a transparent process for allocating this money to projects in Headington. This process involves all elected councillors for the Headington Area.</p>	

	<p>There is currently c. £60K in the Headington CIL account. These funds are currently being used for the projects outlined above and also for other smaller projects – for example the lighting of the street trees. In the centre.</p>	
4.	<p>Questions</p> <p>We were asked where we are with the Bury Knowle Park improvements:– a company called Courtside are currently planning the resurfacing of the courts, developing extra sporting facilities, including pitch and putt, and refurbishing the pavilion to improve the toilets, create a café and social space. Unfortunately costs over the last year have increased by 1/3 and so further funding will be required to add to the funds received via CIL, the City Council, Lawn Tennis Association, etc. There are also ongoing funding discussions with Brookes University who have shown an interest in using the new facilities. The City Council has now received 800 responses to the consultation that Courtside set up with local stakeholders. A planning application will need to be made by January.</p> <p>We were asked what the relationship was between Headington Action (HA) and the HNF:- HA is a registered charity that has sponsored the formation of the HNF and partly financed the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. HNF is a statutory body governed by national legislation... The two bodies work closely together with PC and JN serving on both the HNF Steering Committee and the HA Executive.</p>	
5.	<p>Election of Steering Committee</p> <p>We plan to have regular meetings to shape and deliver the Plan.</p> <p>We asked for nominations for the steering committee. Roz Smith was nominated by HR and KF Mike Ratcliffe by GP and FM John Nealon by VM and KF Patrick Coulter by SH and HR Fiona McKenzie by JN and SH Liz Grosvenor by FM and KF Peter West by RB and KF Chris Smowton by CM and KF (We are making contact with Cllr Altaf Khan to see if he is willing to continue).</p> <p>The nominees were Accepted <i>en bloc</i> by a unanimous decision from</p>	

	the meeting. The Committee has power to co-opt further members and PC urged attendees to consider co-option or alternatively joining various HNF working groups to manage projects and the like.	
6.	Decision to continue Forum for 5 years It was agreed unanimously that the Forum should continue for another 5 years.	
	The AGM was then closed at 8.05pm to be followed immediately by a general meeting.	
	FORUM GENERAL MEETING	
1.	Forum Projects Update Connected Communities (CC) This project is aimed at the socially isolated and lonely and it is important as it has been proven to improve the health outcomes of those involved. It is hoped to run another CC week next year and to utilise more social media to spread the word. VM has some new people on board to help her and is grateful for the support being given by the Manor Surgery and Hedena Health. She has funding to enable the employment of a person to develop street contacts who will disseminate information and organise events like street parties, street lights and develop WhatsApp groups. Several HA representatives visited Frome in Somerset to look at their social isolation scheme which is quite well known and has been promoted by campaigner George Monibot. They are aware of “chat cafes” in Brighton, and “Chatting benches” in the Churchill grounds, and in Abingdon. VM would welcome people to be part of a working group to help take this project forward.	
2.	Urban Design and Headington Presentation by Charlie Palmer (Rising Star RIBA 2022) Charlie is an Assistant Lecturer at Brookes and is involved in creating architecture with community groups. This involves the exploration of urban strategic, and people-centred, design. His background includes humanitarian design <i>with Architecture sans Frontieres UK</i> , and he has worked with Norman Foster. His current project is looking at the balance between private gain and social need, and he advocates the 15 minute polycentric cities where everything is within a 15 minute walking distance from essential	

	<p>services.</p> <p>For instance, a 15 minute walk from the traffic light crossing in Headington centre extends just to the ring road in the east of our area.</p> <p>He likes the good quality neighbourhood in Headington and the variety of densities of housing and shops and appreciates the built form, outdoor space, the human scale, the identity and the pleasant microclimate. It has a good network of residential roads with mixed housing and is child friendly. Its urban centre has good supermarkets and shops; and it has a park with public space being used well, and with good pedestrian access.</p> <p>The negative side includes the carfax crossing which is too big and difficult to cross, and because of the volume of traffic there is no immediate social activity around it. He advocates reducing the space around the junction. The placement of bus stops and noticeboards impedes pedestrian flow, and he suggests moving the covered bus stop at Iceland to the edge of the pavement to allow pedestrians to walk behind it. The various pavement surfaces are not conducive to safe walking for pedestrians or those with disabilities, and they are awkward to clean, and he would like to ban cars from the peripheral narrow roads leading to the centre.</p> <p>He asks, do we want more life and activity in the centre? He feels that buildings need more space and, for example, balconies to make it alive. The Bury Knowle Park wall on London Road is a barrier to the visual access to the park. The centre is blighted by parked vehicles, but he likes the Osler Road corner which could be further developed as a public gathering space. If there were level walking surfaces this would encourage more and safe walking including for children walking to school.</p>	
3.	<p>Questions/ Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr GP pointed out that a lot of Barton Park is good in respect of level walking but some parts could be improved. • Cllr CS has offered to discuss possible policies to implement some of the ideas. • KF complained about the amount of street clutter and CP agreed that an example of this is the mixture of bike stands and notice board covering up an attractive tree near Tesco. • FMCK pointed out that abroad there are mechanisms employed for ensuring that cars slow down approaching pedestrian 	

	<p>crossings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC asked if we could influence the mix of shops – CP advocated “community wealth building” leading to community ownership (independent shops) to get this variety. He has been working with the council in Plymouth to investigate this. • The state of the toilets in the park was raised, as was the cutting through Old High Street <i>en route</i> to Marston to avoid London Road congestion – this leads to a dangerous area near the access to the library and speed reduction is needed. • Cllr CM advised that the park toilets are not going to be closed but he and colleagues are looking to make improvements. <p>PC thanked Charlie for his very interesting presentation, and he thanked the committee members and councillors for all their work on behalf of the Forum since the last meeting and for their attendance at this AGM.</p> <p>A meeting of the new Steering Committee to prepare a forward plan for the Forum will be arranged shortly. A further general meeting of the Forum will be arranged in due course to discuss and approve the new forward plan.</p>	PC/ Steering Committee
4.	<p>Close and Refreshments</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9pm.</p>	

LG 24/11/22