

# BRIGHTON MARINA NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Minutes of a meeting held on 22 May 2019

Present:

Andrew Knight (Chair)  
Mike Hatch  
Keith Malcolm  
Mary Pett  
Kirsty Pollard

Apologies:

Ken Sainty

1 Forum response to Outer Harbour Planning Application

Andrew reported that since the AGM the previous week, he had been lobbied by Forum members who wanted the Forum Steering Group both to support and to object to the current planning application for the new phase 2 of the Outer Harbour development.

Andrew referred to the Forum constitution, which states in paragraph 10:

“The forum is to make the plan in the first place and therefore, at least until the plan is made, shall not express any views on any particular planning application (other than those it makes itself) prior to the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, unless with the majority approval of Forum members.”

He stated that in the work of the Forum to date, the Steering Group had succeeded in achieving a lot of consensus amongst members. That consensus was an important foundation for the Forum going forward, and he did not want to put it at risk. The current planning application risked being very divisive, as there are strong views both for and against amongst the Forum membership, and while the constitution did permit a ballot of members to determine whether to support or object to the application, to do so risked alienating members and undermining the good work of the forum going forward.

Mary and Kirsty both expressed the view that there was an expectation amongst Forum members that the Steering Committee would be making a response to the application. It was a very significant development that would have a profound impact on the marina, and therefore to say nothing equally ran the risk of alienating Forum members, who believed that the Forum exists in order to exert influence on behalf of the marina community in planning matters.

It was noted that the Steering Group had made two responses to the applicant on their first and second pre-application exhibitions, and that these responses had been drawn up on the basis of wide consultation among Forum members and contained important points. It was of concern that members of the Council's planning committee may not have the opportunity to see these two letters and to take note of the Steering Group's views on the issues that are of the greatest importance when considering the planning application.

Andrew expressed the belief that the pre-application letters from the Steering Group had been submitted to the Council as part of the application. On checking, it was discovered that the letters appear at the end of the document entitled "Statement of Community Involvement", which is one of the vast quantity of supporting documents required as part of the application. While the Steering Group were pleased to see their letters included in this document, there was concern that they may not be seen by the Planning Committee, as they may be lost among the large volume of supporting information.

After some discussion it was agreed that it was important for the planners to have a response from the Forum on the planning application. It would refer specifically to the comments made by the Forum to the developers during the pre-application process, so that the Planning Committee were aware of the points the Forum had made about the plans, but it would neither support nor object to the application.

Mary agreed to write a first draft and to circulate it to all Steering Group members for agreement.

Action: MP

Once the final wording has been agreed, Andrew would write to all Forum members, explaining our constitutional position, and enclosing a copy of the submission.

Action:AK

## 2 Policy Topics

Disappointment was expressed at the low turnout at the previous week's AGM. It was agreed to try to hold the next Forum meeting, on 7 November, in the Master Mariner, as a nicer venue may assist in attracting more members. Kirsty agreed to speak to the landlord.

Action: KP

Mary had circulated her comments on Andrew Ashcroft's first draft of the policy topics document. All other Steering Group members agreed to send round their comments by the end of the week. Mike would also circulate his harbour strategy.

Action: ALL

It was agreed that it was important to get the document to the stage where we can hold a Forum-side consultation on it before the summer, by way of a questionnaire that people can engage with.

It was agreed that the policy wording should be clear and unambiguous, and avoid jargon. The correct terminology was important, particularly when referring to the harbour, as the words 'harbour', 'marina' etc meant different things to different people. It was suggested that this section of the document could be entitled simply "The Water".

Andrew agreed to collate all comments received, and to commission Andrew Ashcroft to write a second draft for consultation.

Action: AK

3 Date of next Steering Group Meeting

To be confirmed.