

MINUTES OF THE BRIGHTON MARINA NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MEETING

HELD AT THE MASTER MARINER PUB, BRIGHTON MARINA

ON THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT 18:00

Introduction, Membership & Apologies

Andrew Knight took the Chair and welcomed attendees. He outlined the purpose of the forum in developing a neighbourhood plan for the Marina, and explained that the Brighton Marina Forum have already begun working towards such a plan.

Forum membership is open to all Marina residents and workers and all present were requested to sign the attendance register and to complete a membership form if they had not already done so.

Apologies for absence had been received from the Rottingdean Coastal Ward Councillor Joe Miller, Brenda Simmons (Resident) and George Hills (Resident).

The Chairman introduced the members of the Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee who are:

Andrew Knight (Worker)

Kirsty Pollard (Worker)

Mike Hatch (Worker)

Mary Pett (Resident)

Keith Malcolm (Resident)

Ken Sainty (Resident)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM) held on the 16th May 2019 were approved. The Chairman noted that these minutes, as all documents relating to the Forum, are on the Marina website www.bmnf.org.uk

2. Update on Steering Committee Progress

The Chairman reported that since the last meeting the steering group has carried out the following actions:

- a. A grant to fund the work of the forum has been successfully applied for. The grant totalled £7953. To date £2171 has been spent, principally on consultant fees, but also on the forum website and the recent survey.

- b. A response has been made to the Council in respect of the Outer Harbour Development Planning Application. In accordance with the forum constitution the response did not support or object to the application but drew attention to comments previously made to the developer and contained within the application.
- c. A community survey has been carried out in order to identify policy areas for the neighbourhood plan. This is addressed in a separate agenda point.
- d. A response has been made to Brighton & Hove City Council expressing support for their proposal to 'zero-rate' the Marina in their Community Infrastructure Levy draft charging schedule. This position is in line with a previous position expressed by the forum.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Community Survey Results

Keith Malcolm reported on the recent Community-wide survey. This had been carried out principally using the 'survey-monkey' tool and a total of 150 responses were received which was felt to be a positive response. Keith handed out copies of the response received. This document is available on the forum website. Attendees were given time to read the report document. And there was brief discussion of this.

4. Update on Council Plans for Madeira Terrace and Black Rock.

Andrew Knight reported that he had recently attended meetings with Brighton & Hove City Council regarding these projects in the vicinity of the Marina and wished to report back as he is aware that they are of importance to the Marina.

a. Madeira Terrace.

Andrew had attended a 'project workshop' session with representatives of local residents businesses and community groups. This was essentially a 'brainstorming' session seeking opinion and ideas for the refurbishment and redevelopment of the terraces. It was clear from this session that there are no developed plans at present for the terraces and it is likely to be some time before anything happens. The Council intends to seek lottery funding.

b. Black Rock

In recent contact with the Council it has become clear that there are now fairly well developed plans for improving the area between the Marina and Dukes Mound and that there is funding for this that the Council needs to spend within about the next year. This work both smartens up the area and prepares it for future development proposals. The plans include:

- i. Enhancement of the public area at the bottom of Dukes Mound and remodelling of the junction of Dukes Mound and Madeira Drive.
- ii. A new 4m wide boardwalk across beach, with new beach habitat creation.
- iii. Improvement to pedestrian experience on Madeira Drive with new crossing points, incorporation of footway where practicable and with new signage.

- iv. Creation of new 'hub' based around Reading Rooms and the Volks terminus, providing meeting place, play opportunities and improved pedestrian access.
- v. Creation of flexible public space for events at the current Black Rock site.
- vi. Creation of new 'staging-post' at eastern edge of site and gateway to Undercliff walk at the bottom of the zig-zag path up the cliff.
- vii. Rebuilding of the sea wall further South, meeting with the Marina Breakwater around the area of the South side of the Multi-Storey Car Park.

Comments from attendees were that these proposals appeared positive, improving a currently very unpleasant area and hopefully providing better and more joined up pedestrian access to the Marina.

The Council intend to hold consultation events on the proposals including at the Marina.

NOTE: the consultation date stated at the meeting has been superseded. It is now anticipated to be 27th November but will be confirmed by correspondence from the Council.

5. Neighbourhood Plan Next Steps

Andrew Knight outlined the anticipated next actions that the steering group intend to take to progress towards the neighbourhood plan as follows:

- a. Preparation of a draft plan, in conjunction with our planning consultant.
- b. Discussion with Brighton & Hove City Council to ensure our plans correspond with the Local plan.
- c. Preparation of a 'pre-submission' plan.
- d. Community wide consultation on this plan for a 6-week period. We hope to achieve this during the first quarter of 2020.
- e. Renewal of the forum designation, which comes to the end of its five-year period in June 2020.

6. Any Other Business

There was brief discussion of changes of use of commercial premises at the Marina and whether any new openings were due.

End.