

Virginia Water Neighbourhood Plan Forum Meeting

Via Zoom, 4 pm 16th September 2021

Present:

John Pyle	(JP) Chairman	Robert Bates	(RB)
James Periton	(JDP)	Prof. Philip Beesley	(PB)
John Tenconi	(JT)	Cllr. Jonathan Hulley	(JH)
Gill Morgan	(GM)	Harmonhan Dhanjal	(HD)

Guest: Andrew Whittingham, Motion Consultancy

Topic	Minutes
Welcome & Received Apologies	Received apologies Andrew Tyley (AT)
Approval of minutes	<p>RB and JP have not had the opportunity to meet regarding getting the untapped community groups on board.</p> <p>JP has sent the first draft of the VW Design Code historical synopsis to Judith Vaughan and Jill Williams from the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society to fact check as this will be incorporated into the Design Section of the NP.</p> <p>Minutes 8th July 2021 JP proposed. JDP seconded.</p>
Andrew Whittingham, Motion Consultancy	<p>Motion Consultants, based in Guildford, previously worked closely with the Wentworth Residents Association on challenging the Local Plan. Andrew is well acquainted with the area and fully appreciates the traffic issues which is a high priority for residents.</p> <p>His recommendation would be to firstly understand the vision and then to commence the Plan by introducing the character areas followed by what the development policies and the range of areas the Plan wishes to put forward.</p> <p>To set the structure AW recommended looking at the specific policies to put forward in terms of all character areas, then look at site specific policies these may include against or pro development, the station, and the car parking.</p> <p>AW recommended a Longcross section again with specific policies written relating to the impact on the surrounding areas like proposing traffic calming schemes.</p> <p>AW confirmed that the NP is a great opportunity to put forward recommendations to improve on infrastructures which relate to specific Policies being created. For example, the speeding down Wellington Avenue, this could be linked to a Policy under Traffic Calming or Extra Traffic, stipulating in Policy xx speeding is a problem and would encourage a 30 mile speed restraint to be adopted, or this could be set out under the Vision Section, one of the general issues in the area is that the three key routes through the village is generally subjected to heavy and/or fast moving traffic inappropriate for the type of road.</p>

	<p>AW explained how certain policies can be linked under Active Travel, this could be linked to different types of issues all concerning travel in and around the village. It is important to convey ambition and relate to specific policies within the Plan.</p> <p>JT asked what specific Traffic Surveys are required to support the policies, AW confirmed straight forward daily traffic flow surveys, accident data, traffic delays and queuing traffic hotspots. This is to highlight the traffic through the village is more than expected in this area, mainly due to traffic problems on the A30, M25 and M3, which causing VW to have the additional traffic heading through the village being used as a 'cut through'.</p> <p>AW recommended for the forum to send him a clear key plan showing the Rights of Way and layering with a cycle/bridleway plan in order Motion can understand what the village would like to achieve in terms of intra village transport for cycling and pedestrians for them to look at the implications on traffic because of those enhancements layering over the expected traffic volumes. AW will be able to recommend what evidence is required to support this. He asked for the forum to be very specific with headings in what is needed to be included, ie carbon reduction and parking and in this way the document can be structured correctly.</p> <p>JP confirmed a sub committee will be created to investigate this and share with Motion the data and ideas in which the forum can include into the second consultation to share with the residents to gain their views prior to starting on any vast reports.</p>
<p>Progress Update on Public Rights of Way/Footpaths Prof. Philip Beesley</p>	<p>PB confirmed that all the public footpaths within Virginia Water have now been walked and assessed. PB's feedback from the walks completed is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Footpath through Golf Club leading from Wellington Avenue, through woodland and emerging onto West Drive continuing to A30 onto Coworth Park and VW lake, this was slightly overgrown in areas and badly signposted. ii) Footpath through the village leading to/from the Station is very badly lit and highly used. iii) Public Area/Nature Trail around Cabrera Trust is heavily used and an important area of biodiversity woodland and also wetland woodland. iv) JP walked the Stroude Road to Callow Hill bridleway which contain a series of pathways called Hollow Ways which would date back to medieval times, but this track is very overgrown and poorly maintained. v) Lastly the Longside Lake is a very well used pathway and overall not well kept as it is very overgrown. As there is currently a Planning Application for leisure activity on this lake, this is something that could be linked in to support the importance of maintaining the surrounding walkways. <p>All data and photos are ready when required to feed into the Plan.</p>
<p>Chairman's Report John Pyle</p>	<p>JP has issued the first draft of the O'Neill Homer Design Codes document to the Forum, covering the different neighbourhoods and the history of the village. JP in the process of working with JDP covering the details for the Estate itself.</p>

	<p>JP requested all Forum members for any comments and additions they may have especially covering their own local areas.</p> <p>JT recommended for each detailed map which is to be included into each individual character section should include pictorial mapping and wording giving detailed listings of the incorporated roads, distinctive buildings, railway bridges and showing separation between any Green Belt and urban areas in each of the character sections. JDP has forwarded these maps to JP.</p> <p>After meeting with JDP to look at the Wentworth Estate, O'Neill Homer decided that the East and West to be split, making seven character zones within the Plan. It was identified that the East and West are two very distinct areas and fundamentally one being Green Belt, this along with the density of houses, plot sizes and values make these two areas very different.</p> <p>Phil Jones Associates (PJA) due to visit the village on 13th October to gather information and data. They will be walking through the village and would like to hear from Forum members of the thoughts on accessibility to the core village and where we feel the weaknesses are. Jon Dowty will be attending for part of the day and JP expressed any Forum members who wish to join would be very welcome and would appreciate the support.</p> <p>JP to contact Georgina Pacey at Runnymede Council to request any Planning Applications within the VW Neighbourhood Plan area to be notified to the Forum giving an opportunity to comment.</p>
<p>Finances John Pyle</p>	<p>JP confirmed Finances of £15,396 with a further £5,000 Runnymede funding and £700 collated on the JustGiving page. Donation has been received of £5,000 from the European Tour and waiting to receive the donation from Wentworth Golf Club of £,5000. Still working on sourcing additional funding from a couple of further opportunities.</p> <p>JP wished to thank Jonathan Hulley for the £1,000 funding received from Surrey County Council.</p> <p>There is expected costs from O'Neill Homer, PJA and Motion, all of which can be covered with the current holding funds.</p>
<p>Planning Applications - JDP</p>	<p>JDP confirmed that he is keeping up to date with Applications not only in the VW Boundary but also nearby, these include 1,400 student accommodation units on the Proctor and Gamble now Royal Holloway site and 116 units on Thorpe Lea Road by the Nursery, which is receiving a large volume of letters of objections, even though this was previously allocated for development in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Padd Farm – PHD Scaffolding Company Planning Application for the Head Quarters, a training centre and for storage facilities, Runnymede still waiting on two further pieces of information before they can allocate a reference number to start the Planning Application process.</p> <p>Bellbourne Nursery Application – south side of the site has been concreted and they have submitted an Application under Permitted Development. RB has approached Chris Howorth for an understanding concerning drainage and on the feasibility that the current small building on the hard standing could be demolished and replaced with a 25,000 sq ft distribution centre but to date CH has not replied.</p>

	<p>The owners submitted an amended design with additional information, and this will be reviewed with an additional proposal which is being submitted for a wider redevelopment site.</p> <p>45 Applications received since last meeting, most being single Applications on either extensions or discharge conditions/variations.</p> <p>One Application to note is the Retrospective Application on the land opposite Great Fosters Hotel for mobile units.</p> <p>JP to liaise with JH and Rob Shrimplin to ascertain what the options are for the NP to comment when Retrospective Applications are made within the NP boundary.</p>
AOB	<p>Next meeting 4pm on 11th November followed by the AGM.</p> <p>No further business items were raised and the meeting was closed at 6:03.</p>