



Minutes for Wentworth Residents Association Executive Committee 14th July 2020

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| Present: | Nigel Moss (Chairman) | NM |
| | John Pyle | JP |
| | Andrea Tenconi | AT |
| | John Tenconi | JT |
| | Peter Lomas | PL |
| | Liz Copping | LC |
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| Apologies: | Phil Andrews | PA |
| | Ian Cox (Club) | IC |
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| Guests: | Cllr Jonathan Hulley | JH |
| | Cllr Chris Howarth | CH |
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| Minutes: | Helene Parsons | HP |

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| Welcome and Absences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM opened the meeting via video conference at 16:00 and welcomed attendees including two Virginia Water Councillors in anticipation of the Council meeting scheduled on 16th July to consider the adoption of the 2030 Local Plan after the publication of the Inspector's Report. . • Apologies for absence received from Phil Andrews and Ian Cox. |
| Q&A Session ref Inspector's Report 2030 Local Plan <i>Cllrs Howarth and Hulley</i> | <p>Cllrs Howarth and Hulley thanked ExCom for giving them the opportunity to discuss the issues affecting how they will be voting in the Council meeting on 16th July in relation to adopting the 2030 Local Plan.</p> <p><u>Cllr Chris Howarth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmed that the development and potential adoption of the Local Plan continues to be a matter of contention and frustration, especially for the residents of Virginia Water. • It's clear that the Local Plan has some fundamental flaws from the perspective of VW. • Having an out-of-date (2007) Local Plan doesn't allow for CIL to be available, many polices within the Plan are no longer fully enforceable and increasingly the Council is having to rely |

on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which is damaging to Runnymede. All of these issues emphasize the need on an up-to-date Plan that is deemed as sound by the Secretary of State in order for modern planning policies to be practised within Runnymede Borough.

- The VW Neighbourhood Plan remains an important tool to influence planning in VW.
- As VW's representatives, the Cllrs aim to make sure there is;
 - No over-development in the area
 - Mitigate challenges of the expanding Longcross Village
 - Protect the Green Belt by seeing more innovative solutions to Green Belt 'problematic' sites, eg Hurst Lane, and avoiding development in unsuitable areas such as Merlewood.

Cllr Hulley

- Cllr Hulley explained that it is a difficult situation as the Plan in its current form clearly doesn't work for VW.
- The VW site allocations are wholly inappropriate for development. It is also clear that the Inspector paid scant attention to the detail and logic of the proposals.
- From this perspective, the Local Plan offers very little or nothing at all for our community.
- It is for this reason that both Cllrs Howorth and Hulley confirm that they will not vote to adopt the Local Plan.

NM stated that both the Council and the Inspector were entirely remiss to ignore the valid representations, at the significant cost of time and money, made by the WRA. He believed that the Local Plan is fundamentally flawed and potentially damaging to the VW community. The WRA ExCom had been assured by the Council's leadership that the so-called 'Garden Village' at Longcross would be self-sustaining but nothing could be further from the truth. However, when the Wentworth community tried to take mitigating action against the escalating traffic on the Estate, the Council's Planning Committee refused the Road Committee's application. NM urged the Councillors to communicate the VW community's profound concerns at the Council meeting and not to vote for the adoption of an ill-conceived Local Plan.

JT felt the local Councillors were not sufficiently concerned about the obvious conflicts in the Inspector's report and wondered if any stakeholders will submit a judicial review. He reiterated that the Councillors must point out the flaws to the

Council. JT is concerned about the reports that so-called Garden Villages are failing due to them not being sustainable and local authorities are being challenged in court. JT raised the importance of urgent liaison with the Council about how the Neighbourhood Plan is emerging as there is now a clear vision and the NP Forum is starting to see the details of how to make VW a better place to live. The Forum is looking at planning requirements and where planning should be considered in a more sensible way.

JP feels that Councillors have forgotten that the WRA spent a considerable amount of money in presenting the case to the Inspector in an open and evidence-based manner, producing compelling reasons for not permitting significant development at both sites in VW along with the massive development at Longcross; however, the Inspector has taken absolutely no notice with evasive, weak arguments and she has been totally dismissive.

JP asked Cllr Hulley whether a Judicial Review, assuming the Council are in support of this, would be based on the process of the Plan itself, or can it be based on the inadequacies of the report that the Inspector has submitted? Cllr Hulley confirmed it is predominantly based on the process, but there is also an opportunity to attack a decision on the basis that it is so unreasonable that no other Local Authority would have come to the same decision or that the Inspector has acted beyond her powers and/or she has reached certain decision without adequate due diligence.

Cllr Hulley understands there is a six week window period from the moment the Local Authority adopts the Plan taking it to 28th August during which an interested party may seek to challenge. If challenged, it would lead to a review by the Courts prior to the adoption of the Plan, but it also invites the original decision-maker to rethink their decision.

JP asked the question about the extra number of 4,700 new homes which has been allocated once the A320 improvements have been carried out as part of the HIF Bid.
Cllr Howorth committed to check and revert to JP with his findings.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP advised that Packers raised their issues with the MP, Dr Ben Spencer, regarding their future options, but he has never responded. Also, the MP has not responded to any communication from the WRA. Cllr Howorth has fortnightly calls with the MP and will put pressure on him to respond if there are outstanding communications. <p>NM asked the Councillors if they see any silver lining that gives any sense of encouragement to support the Council because the general feeling is that the Council is working detrimentally against VW's interests. The Councillors could not except they encouraged the further development of the NP.</p> <p>NM concluded by saying that the Local Plan was fundamentally flawed and the Inspector's Report was deeply underwhelming. He urged the Councillors not only to not vote for the adoption of the Plan but to actively vote against it.</p> <p>At this point, the Councillors were excused from the meeting.</p> <p>JP to liaise with Clyde and Co to ascertain if any QCs have already been appointed by other VW stakeholders to challenge the Inspector's Report and the adoption of the Plan.</p> <p>Also, JP will obtain a quote from our previously used QC (Tom Hill) through Shrimplin Brown to consider initiating a Judicial Review.</p> |
| <p>Debrief from Liaison Meeting with WERC (10th July 2020) Nigel Moss</p> | <p>NM debriefed the meeting on the Liaison Meeting which was attended by Nigel Moss (NM), John Tenconi (JT), Peter Lomas (PL) on behalf of the WRA and Alex Howard (AH) Mark Lee (ML) and Chris Robbins (CR) on behalf of WERC.</p> <p>NM stated that the key purpose was to make some progress on the resolution that was passed on 24th February when WERC committed to present a credible, comprehensive and fully costed implementation plan for the VAC scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH explained that WERC is now taking a 'sequential' approach and are in the process of submitting five phases of planning applications. • Initial application has been made for the external barriers on Wentworth Drive. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WERC has commissioned legal advice, on how to progress the refused applications on Green Belt land, etc. This legal advice is expected within 2 weeks. • ExCom is awaiting a credible, comprehensive and fully costed implementation plan, due to seeking additional legal opinion which should be forthcoming in the next few weeks. • NM has requested a further meeting for WERC to present its plan after it has received its legal advice. • CR is WERC's new Chairman for Audit and WERC's 2019 results should be posted imminently. |
| <p>Digital Platform for Communication & Voting at EGM/AGM's <i>Peter Lomas</i></p> | <p>Following his investigations, PL ran through a viable alternative possibility to use as a digital platform as a communication and voting tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL set about this task to look for something that did not incur high expenditure but would offer a secure service to ensure that voting was handled in a correct and cost effective manner. • PL's favoured option was to use a Company called Mi-Voice (https://www.mi-voice.com). • It works on the basis Mi-Voice send out an Invitation to Vote with a Unique Voter Code (UVC). Once the voter has received this code, they can then access the Voting Site and Cast their Vote. • Examples of Email and Voting options shown below; <p>Email example</p> <p>Voting example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on a 500 electorate, Mi-Voice would charge £300.00 plus VAT to deliver each election. • The electorate would receive their invitation to vote by email, voting in advance or by proxy would be conducted online. • Mi-Voice will support WRA and the electorate throughout the project, and issue a certified results report at the close of voting. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDPR - WRA would be required to sign a Data Sharing Agreement. |
| Fibre Broadband <i>Andrea Tenconi</i> | <p>Some homes on the Estate have access to home fibre and others' suffer from poor connectivity. There should be access to fibre optic cabling for every household on the Estate. It was agreed to raise with WERC to discuss how to install such infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP is aware of a company that may have the possibility to oversee this, and will ask the relevant question before raising with WERC. |
| Speeding on Estate Roads <i>Andrea Tenconi</i> | <p>We will raise with WERC to try and get this issue along with the noise of Leaf Blowers at anti-social times higher up on their agenda.</p> |
| Leaf Blowers <i>Andrea Tenconi</i> | <p>Leaf blowers on the Estate appear to be starting earlier and noise pollution is increasing. Again this will be passed to the WERC.</p> |
| Club Matters <i>Ian Cox</i> | <p>In IC's absence, he has reported in a pre-mtg note that the Club confirm they do intend to play an Estate Invitational in September. Also, he confirmed the development of a Wentworth Estate Security initiative. IC will update in more detail at next meeting.</p> |
| 2021 Membership Pack and Christmas Champagne Event <i>Liz Copping</i> <i>/Helene Parsons</i> | <p>LC & HP revealed the new 2021 Membership Pack and explained the format and layout, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vast amount of WRA information, including a breakdown of the WRA work, meet the Committee, joining details, website details etc. • The launch of 'Recommend Your Neighbours' Scheme to receive a free bottle of Champagne. • Exclusive offers from local companies for members only. • An insert card showing a useful Local Community Directory. <p>Costs to produce membership pack along with the printing of the 2021 membership cards will be offset against local business inclusion charges.</p> <p>Christmas Champagne Evening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All sponsors of this event will be included and shown in the Membership Pack as having sponsored this event to encourage additional sponsors on all our events every year. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility to have a saxophonist to play, HP to arrange a showcase date for Committee members. • Possibility of a BBQ but, due to Covid-19, this could prove very difficult. LC will liaise with IC over the next few months to ascertain feasibility. |
| Any Other Business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional area of concern is with the increase in people walking through the Estate there has been a significant increase with dog litter bags, this may be due to the fact there are no facilities, eg bins to dispose of the bags. |
| Date of Next Meeting | 16:00hrs, Tuesday, 11 th August via Zoom |