

NOTES OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

REF: SNNF-AGM-2022

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DATE: 11 March 2022

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DATE & TIME OF MEETING: -	8 TH March 2022
WRITTEN BY: -	R. Smith
PURPOSE OF MEETING:	FORUM 2022 AGM
ATTENDEES: -	
<p>Committee: - Vice Chair: - Jean Glasberg, Treasurer: - Jean Bevan, Secretary: - Roger Smith</p> <p>Members: - Hugh Clough, Andrew Whitaker, Co-opted Member: - Roger Sewell</p>	
<p>Members: - Mary Stewart, Lynn Hieatt, Tania Elliot, Alan and Eleanor Jones, Fiona Sinclair, Pam Gatrell, Richard Andrewes, Olwen Williams, Dr Susan Bullivant, Maggie Smith, Neil Petersen and Henrietta Ryan</p>	
<p>Guests: - Cllr Markus Gehring, Cllr Lucy Nethsingha</p>	
<p>Apologies: - Dr P. A. Tate</p>	
<p>Notification of the Zoom 2022 Forum AGM meeting was sent to all listed Forum Members on the 4th of February. Apart from the committee 22 members confirmed they would like to attend. A zoom link with attached agenda and the Forum’s “Review of Activities” was issued to all those who had indicated they had wished to attend.</p>	
ITEM	AGENDA
1.0	Welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Glasberg opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees who included two of our Newnham Councillors. • Jean explained that she was the Vice Chair of the Forum and had been involved since the conception of the Forum and explained her role on the Committee. • Many attendees who attended the initial Forum meeting back in 2017 were present and she gave special thanks to them and to our first Chair, Lynn Hieatt who had been instrumental in inspiring the group to believe that producing a Neighbourhood Plan was something we could do and would be a benefit to our community. • She also gave thanks to Fiona Sinclair who took over as Chair from Lynn until a few months ago. • South Newnham was the first Forum to be designated to make a Neighbourhood Plan in the City and it appreciates the support we have been given by Councillors and by Council Officers. • Due to the tight agenda attendees were invited to add any questions they may have onto the zoom chat so we can address them later.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jean then asked members of the committee to introduce themselves. <p>All Committee members then gave a brief introduction to attendees at the meeting of their roles and responsibilities.</p>
2.0	Treasurer’s Report – Jean Bevan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last two years there have been no Forum events or functions, and hence no financial activity so the report will be for that Income and Expenditure for the year ending April 2019. For 2019, the Forum raised £472 from donations and held two events, the Swift talk and a recycling event. The Forum’s expenditure for printing and venue hire was £443 leaving a balance of £28.90. The Forum has been successful bidding for two locality grants to cover the cost of hiring Consultants for our Neighbourhood Plan. The second grant which was for the sum of £5,600 was awarded in 2019 and fees paid to consultants amounted to £1,230. As no further work could be carried out because of Covid, the balance was given back under the rules of the Grant. <p>The membership of the Forum is now 49.</p>
3,0	Review of Activities and Achievements over the last Five Years
3.1	<p>Andrew Whitaker gave an update of a few points in the Review which was issued to attendees and would answer any questions that were raised prior to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2016, up to 50 volunteers collected a comprehensive data base in our neighbourhood, street by street. Using this information and, with input from residents and advice from Cambridge Planners, the writing team has drafted a Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan’s objective is to protect and enhance our Neighbourhood and to protect the local Cam River corridor and environment for current and future generations. The Plan comprises development policies and maps and those are supported by four other documents, the Basic Condition Statement, the Consultation Statement, the Evidence Base and the Street Appraisals. Due to changes in the Planners’ advice, we have had to re-write the plan twice and have recently completed Version 3 which is now ready for review by Planners’. If it meets their requirements, it will then be made available to residents for review and will be examined by independent Neighbourhood Planning Examiners and subject to a local referendum so we can expect to hopefully get some limited further editing and revision. The Policies in our Neighbourhood Plan must be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and with Cambridge City’s Local Plan and must be unique and specific to the South Newnham Neighbourhood. <p>The policies in the Plan aim to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Protect and conserve our green environment and create five new local green spaces that are not included in the Cambridge City Plan. ❖ Protect and maintain our network of pavements, footpaths and the alleyways for pedestrians, the cycleways for cyclists and ensure they give due consideration to the needs of people with disabilities. ❖ To Improve and enhance our community assets, homes and facilities for older people. Eight additional local heritage assets have been identified for protection. ❖ Finally, they aim to promote sustainable, well-designed, and considerate development within South Newnham.
3.2	Questions
	<p>There had been only two questions submitted by members prior to the meeting: -</p> <p>1: - <i>“Whether the Neighbourhood Plan will protect front gardens from being paved over for car parking.”</i></p> <p>Front gardens are already protected against paving over in the Cambridge City Plan, under Policy 66, Paving over Front Gardens. We do not address front gardens in the Neighbourhood Plan as this would simply be a duplication of what is already in the City Plan and our Plan needs to be specific and unique to South Newnham.</p> <p>2: - <i>“Will the Neighbourhood Plan Policies protect habitat and biodiversity against developments such as that proposed by Queens College at Owlstone Croft Gardens.”</i></p> <p>Owlstone Croft Gardens is located on Map 2 of the Plan as PG2, in the Plan. This Map defines the green infrastructure network. The Plan’s seven Green Infrastructure Policies are comprehensive and include policies about protecting biodiversity, ecological connectivity and specific sites of biodiversity. Assuming we can get our Neighbourhood Plan passed, sites throughout the green infrastructure network would have a higher degree of protection. In drafting the Neighbourhood Plan and its Policies, we have made every effort to ensure the Policies reflect the views of the majority of South Newnham residents.</p>
3.3	Consultation Statement
	<p>Jean Bevan then gave a summary of the Consultation Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An essential requirement of any Neighbourhood Plan is to prove engagement with the community, and we have to submit evidence of this engagement in a document called the Consultation Statement. • To fulfil this requirement, we have documented the early workshops and, the follow-up meetings, as well as communications with questionnaires, leaflets, and notices on our website. • Issues and concerns raised have all formed the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan and the development policies we are proposing and the Plan policies that have come directly from the concerns and issues raised during consultation. • Most importantly the Policies covering our green spaces stem from the value that the community places on our natural environment and the concerns raised for its protection and conservation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recent survey of the footfall in Paradise Nature Reserve has shown it is highly valued by the local and City community and by visitors from surrounding villages, towns from across England and even tourists from abroad. On a wintery Sunday afternoon, around 140 people per hour were recorded visiting the reserve and in summer this would be very much higher. Visitors were attracted to the wildness of the Reserve; its peace and beauty and they want to see this protected. • We have consulted with Greater Cambridge Shared Planning in our Neighbourhood Plan and proposed policies and adapted these Policies according to their advice and guidance. • We have also met the City Councillors Sustainability Officer who gave us feedback on how our Policies could incorporate the effects of climate change and biodiversity. These included the biodiversity net gain that would result from a Green Infrastructure Policy and ensuring the proposals impacting on our connectivity network would do not increase the risk of flooding. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and this principle has guided us in our consultations and policy writing. • As mentioned in our Review, once Covid-19 restrictions eased, we were able to continue our work on the Neighbourhood Plan which is now ready for submission to Cambridge City Council. • The six-week consultation period is the next stage of the Plan process which will provide an opportunity for further community consultation.
4.0	Vote on Continuation of the Forum
4.1	<p>Jean Glasberg summarised the Forum’s response to Planning Applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since designation, the Forum has been a Statutory Consultee on planning matters for the Greater Cambridge Planning Service. • The main task of the Forum Committee has been to consult with the community on key issues of concern for our neighbourhood and to draft the Neighbourhood Plan. • Although there have been hundreds of Planning Applications, during the five years we have been a Statutory Consultee, we have only commented on 59 of them. • Some applications have been supported but where we have objected, these have all been Applications where there have been objections from neighbours and often from the Conservation Officers themselves in the Newnham Croft and West Cambridge Conservation areas. • Some applications have been major applications such as Croft Gardens or 31 Grantchester Street, but most have been single house extensions. • A few have been for applications or consultations on the edge of our area where Forum members have felt strongly, such as the felling of the willow trees at Newnham Mill where we have objected three times. • We have also responded to the recent consultation on the public work of art at Sheep’s Green which many people are strongly against. • As we don’t yet have a Neighbourhood Plan, our comments can only be based on the Policies in the Cambridge Local Plan and the Conservation Area and Supplementary Planning Documents.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These planning policies have not been created by the Forum and the Forum doesn't make any planning decisions. • When approved, Neighbourhood Plan Policies will have to be taken into account in any Planning Applications in this area alongside the NPPF and Local Plan. It will still be Planning Officers or Councillors though who make all the decisions on whether to Approve or Refuse an application. • For more details about our Consultations and Planning Applications, there is a summary on the website, or get in touch and we will let you know the details.
4.2	Vote on Forum's Redesignation
4.3	<p>The Forum was designated for five years so now we are at the end of that period. We now need to decide if we want to ask for re-designation so we will be able to take our draft plan to formal public consultation.</p> <p>Jean Glasberg asked members if there was anyone who would like to speak against the Forum and there was no response from those present.</p> <p>She then asked for anyone who wished to speak in favour of the Forum continuing and several members raised their hands.</p> <p>The following people made comments for the continuance of the Forum: - Pam Gatrell, Lynn Hieatt, Olwen, Williams, Markus Gehring and Tania Elliot.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pamela Gatrell. said that she was a Founder member of the Forum and had been resident in Newnham for 60 years, was formerly a teacher at Newnham Croft and was now Chair of the Friends of Paradise. In this capacity Pamela would fully support the Forum and its continuation into the future and was valuable to the community. A lot of its work goes unseen and unnoticed, but it is so important to residents that it is there, and, in a crisis, we will need it. Specific Policies on the protection of our neighbourhood biodiversity and our habitats are increasingly important. We will face many threats and, as Chair of the Friends Group, it is enormously reassuring and heartening to know that the Forum has worked so hard and is committed to supporting biodiversity which is so close to all our hearts in Newnham. 2. Lynn Hieatt stated that due to Covid, the Forum has not been able to be as visible in the Community and thought it would be important for the Forum to get people involved again. Lynn expressed concern about some recent planning decisions and thought that the Forum's continued existence was essential to address such of supporting these things that are so dear to us, so I really think the Forum should continue. 3. Olwen Williams: - wanted to endorse what has already been said by Lynn and by Pam and to thank everybody who has done such a huge amount of work and the Forum should certainly continue. 4. Councillor Markus Gehring then asked to speak and said that although he was not a Forum member, from his perspective, the Forum has been essential in shaping the planning landscape. If we want to preserve the character of our area and develop sustainably and not have all the playing fields and green spaces covered by more development, then we need this Forum to continue. <p>Tania Elliot said she was involved in helping to identify buildings of local interest so was very interested in the architectural building side. She was very disappointed with what has happened to Croft Gardens as it had recently been designated as a BLI so residents must be</p>

	<p>vigilant and keep an eye on other buildings. She cited Maitland House which was by the same architect built in the mid-30's. She expressed a wish that the Neighbourhood Plan will support our BMI's.</p>
4.4	<p>Members were then asked to vote if they were in favour of redesignation of the Forum The vote was unanimous in favour of. There were no votes were against.</p>
5.0	<p>Election of the Committee</p>
5.1	<p>Prior to the meeting, Forum members had been asked for nominations for the committee and there had been no response.</p> <p>Excluding Councillors, Forum Members were the asked if they would vote on the following: - Whether co-opted member Roger Sewell could formally join the Committee – This was voted in favour unanimously</p> <p>Jean G then asked if Forum members would be happy for the present Committee members to continue – this was agreed unanimously.</p>
5.2	<p>A vote was then taken for Committee Officers who were then proposed, seconded and elected for the following roles: -</p> <p>Jean Bevan – Chair, proposed by Jean Glasberg, Seconded by Fiona Sinclair. Jean Glasberg: - Vice Chair, proposed by Roger Sewell, seconded by Olwen Williams Roger Smith: - Secretary, proposed by Andrew Whitaker and seconded by Lynn Hieatt. Hugh Clough: - Treasurer: - Nominated by Roger Smith, Seconded by Tania Elliot</p>
5.3	<p>All business having been finalised; the meeting was concluded at 8.18pm. Jean Glasberg thanked everyone for attending the meeting and looked forward to their support during the Consultations.</p>