

ACCESS ADVISORY FORUM

MONDAY, 8 JULY 2019

PRESENT: Angela Clark (Chair), Lisa Hughes (Vice-Chair), Sharon Carrigan, Peter Haley, Dominic Manley, Dean Yorke, Claire Watson, Liz Kelsall and Robin Pemberton, Councillors Gurch Singh and John Bowden

Also in attendance: Collette Gray and Sharon Bunce

Officers: Shilpa Manek, Vernon Nosal, Barbara Richardson, Anna Robinson and Colin Symmons

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Angela Clark welcomed all to the Forum.

Angela Clark expressed a special welcome to Councillor Singh, Anna Robinson and Barbara Richardson for attending the Forum.

Angela Clark also welcomed the residents that had attended.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bowden, Carroll, Johnson and Stimson, Rachel Kinniburgh, Tim Clare, Interim Head of Housing at RBWM and Housing Solutions.

MINUTES FROM LAST FORUM

The minutes of the last Forum on 25 March 2019 were approved subject to added Dominic Manley to the attendance and including an important point that Liz Kelsall had raised that no one in the Council was taking ownership and leading the way for the housing concerns for the future. There was no one over-seeing the overall areas of housing, education, planning, transport and health.

RESOLVED Unanimously: that the minutes of the Forum on 25 March 2019 were a true record subject to the two changes above.

MATTERS ARISING - CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRMAN NOMINATIONS

Lisa Hughes proposed that Angela Clark remain as Chair. This was seconded by Peter Hayley.

RESOLVED Unanimously: Angela Clark remain as Chair.

Robin Pemberton proposed that Lisa Hughes remain as Vice Chair. This was seconded by Dominic Manley.

RESOLVED Unanimously: Lisa Hughes remain as Vice Chair.

MATTERS ARISING - WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed all.

The Forum wanted to know the roles of the Councillors. Councillor Singh explained that he had just been newly appointed to the Forum and he saw his role as a conduit between the Forum and the Council. He felt his role was to reflect the concerns that the Forum had and try and get them resolved or delivered.

The other forum member, Councillor Bowden was a very experienced councillor with a broad brief across the council. Having both councillors would give good representation from both Windsor and Maidenhead. Councillor Bowden was Chairman of Windsor Town Forum and Councillor Singh was Chairman of Maidenhead Town Forum.

MATTERS ARISING - AAF TERMS OF REFERENCE

Anna Robinson, Strategy and Performance Manager, informed the Forum that they could amend their ToR rather than having to seek full Council approval for any changes. However, any proposed changes should be referred to democratic services before implementation to ensure they were compatible with governance requirements.

Anna Robinson advised the Forum that they agreed an immediate change to update the reference to the council's most recent Equality Policy.

RESOLVED Unanimously: to update the reference to the council's most recent Equality Policy in the ToR.

The Vice Chair suggested a change of name for the Forum. The current name did not explain what the Forum did. The Vice Chair suggested the Disability Forum. Liz Kelsall explained to the Forum that when dealing with young children, parents and carers did not consider learning difficulties as a disability, so suggested Learning Difficulties & Disability Forum.

The Chair suggested that the Forum members suggest a new name and the item to be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to place on next meeting agenda

MATTERS ARISING - MAIDENHEAD TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Barbara Richardson, Managing Director, RBWM Property Company Ltd, initially provided an update from the last meeting's minutes as follows:

- There will still be blue badge spaces at the front of the Town Hall, as off-street parking. Barbara Richardson would pick this up with the Operations Team.
- The Chair suggested two spaces outside the registrar office but was advised that this would all soon be constructed with new landscaping.
- The Vice Chair informed the Forum that there were three level access spaces in the Town Hall car park when it was there and these could be reserved for members attending council meetings. These had not been replaced anywhere. The two spaces on the main road were very used. Barbara Richardson informed the Forum that the three spaces from the Town Hall car park had been replaced into the members' car park for use by staff. Barbara Richardson would pick this up with the Operations Team to see if they could be accessed by way of reservation for visitors to the Town Hall.

ACTION: Barbara Richardson to speak with the Operations Team on two points above.

- Barbara Richardson informed the Forum that ShopMobility car park was still going to be temporarily placed in West Street during the construction of the new car park but this was always the plan and it was only the timing that had changed.
- Barbara Richardson informed the Forum that the northern side of Queen Street did not need to be closed for the redevelopment of The Landings. The Vice Chair said it was still closed. Barbara Richardson would check why this was closed.
- Barbara Richardson informed the Forum that there were due to be seven social housing disabled units in a later stage of development. These would be at an affordable level and under shared ownership. There were other schemes soon coming too.
- Barbara Richardson advised the Forum that there were to be seven social rental properties in the York Road development. However, none of these were designed to disabled access standards. Private developers did not want to produce social rented units due to the income from the tenure type not covering the cost to build them. This is why they are in short supply. However, the Prop Co is looking at putting 30% social rent on its sites, with some cross subsidy from shared ownership in order to deliver more affordable homes at this level. They would be considering disabled access units, even though this was not a planning policy requirement.
- Barbara Richardson advised the Forum that if someone would explain as to what was required, she was happy to champion and try and provide. Some properties were coming forward that she could consider. A report was due to be presented to Cabinet in August to approve the property company business plan so could include in the mix specialist housing for adults and children.

Barbara Richardson gave the Forum an update on what was in process now. The following points were highlighted:

Town Centre

- The council owned 50 percent of the freehold of the shopping centre, the new owners had 50 percent with an unexpired lease of 117 years from the Council. Therefore the council had some control but the ownership was complex. The council and the new owners had signed a heads of terms in order for both parties to work in partnership to deliver a new town centre.
- Negotiations were currently taking place and a report was due to be presented to Full Council soon. A report had gone before Cabinet in July 2019. The suggestion was that the car park would be relocated on a better location as a straight swap and then the existing car park all came down and was built from scratch. The new area would include retail, office space, some residential including some retirement living. The new owners would take forward a hybrid planning application after further public consultation over the next couple of years.
- The standalone car park would be able to accommodate the ShopMobility minibus. The timescale, if all terms agreed with the new owners would allow the council to put forward a planning application early next year. The start of phase one would be 2021 with completion expected in 2022 for the new car park.
- There would be more car parking spaces than now once all work completed. ShopMobility would be in the new car park on the ground floor. The footprint would be similar to existing but more efficient. There would be more blue badge spaces than now but would need to check that the width and space would be more. The temporary Queen Street car park would have 40 car parking spaces which would include five blue badge bays. When the permanent car park was built, it would have 90 car parking spaces which would include 10 blue badge bays for temporary use until the scheme is completed and the parking is needed to be handed over for its residents.

Joint Venture Sites

- York Road
 - The York Road site consists of three phases. It is only in phase one now and this is due to complete Dec 2021. Phase two will be the community centre and

phase three will be the heritage site. This is still all being agreed. The location for a community centre is still being agreed.

- The Chair asked about the external building materials that are going to be used. Barbara Richardson informed the Forum that the materials had still not been agreed. These would be on site for residents to comment on. Barbara Richardson to advise of dates. The Planning team would sign off the materials.

ACTION: Barbara Richardson to advise on the dates of when the materials would be available for residents to go and see.

- St Clouds Way
 - A public consultation would take place in Autumn 2019. Barbara Richardson to inform Forum of the dates.

ACTION: Barbara Richardson to inform the Forum of consultation dates.

- Discussions with the surgeries were taking place to agree whether they wanted to be a part of the site or not. The CCG had been contacted to discuss if they wanted a health hub, but they had missed the opportunity for St Clouds Way but one could be added to the Reform Road site.
- An underground car park would be put in at St Clouds Way. The current surgeries would have parking close by for blue badge holders.
- West Street
 - Barbara Richardson engaging with BT to produce a better looking building.
- Reform Road
 - This site will be visited after the St Clouds consultation.

Barbara Richardson informed the Forum about a small programme of residential development owned by the property company. This would be a mix of shared ownership and social rented accommodation. The first will be St Edmonds House, in Maidenhead. This would have sixteen apartments of one and two bedroom units, some with front door access, all would be 100% affordable.

MATTERS ARISING - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Lisa Hughes, Vice Chair, informed the Forum that she had reviewed thirty-three planning applications between April and June 2019 and had commented on nine of them.

Lisa Hughes also attended:

Friends of Battlemead Common 18 Jun 2019

Lisa Hughes was representing users with disabilities at this multi-group forum. The inaugural meeting took place on 18 June 2019 and was invited to give a presentation on the barriers faced by people with disabilities in accessing greenspaces.

Ascot Place-Making Workshop 26 Jun 2019

Lisa Hughes attended the workshop, facilitated by RBWM planning, alongside around 40 other community members. A SWOT analysis and vision for Ascot was developed in round table discussion. Lisa Hughes drew attention to the need for accessible new homes.

Great Western Railway Disability Focus Group meeting 2 Jul 2019

In January GWR asked some passengers with disabilities or additional needs, and relevant charities, to provide input to the development of staff disability awareness training. The workshops were filmed. In July the focus group was invited to a follow-up meeting in Bristol at which GWR's strategic training partner presented the training.

It was an exceptional training programme, including the filmed contributions from PwD, short filmed dramas of passengers journeys in which the focus group's words and situations had been built into the script (and actors with disabilities were used in the dramas), plus a training booklet and online course. So far they had trained over 750 staff members, including the whole Executive Team, and by next July would have trained all 6,000 employees.

The commitment of GWR time and money, the excellent training programme developed and a genuine engagement with service users was not only a beacon among train / public transport providers but across the public and private sector.

Local Access Forum meeting 4 Jul 2019

Lisa Hughes updated the LAF on the work of the Accessibility Working sub-group and their recommendations. The forum was not quorate therefore no decision could be made but the chair would write to the absent members to seek their approval for accepting the recommendations. The sub-group had recommended an initial focus on improving accessibility at six sites around the borough. These were; Battlemead Common, Runnymede at Old Windsor, Cock Marsh, Green Way, Ockwells Park and the Thames at Boulters Lock.

ITEMS - GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION FOR CHANGING PLACES

The Chairman informed the Forum of a consultation for a new proposal to have a changing places facility at all public places. The Chairman requested that Members sent their responses on to the Chairman by Monday 15 July 2019 in order for a response to be sent from the RBWM Access Advisory Forum.

ITEMS - HOUSING FOR ALL WITH DISABILITIES INCLUDING TRANSITION AND INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR YOUNG DISABLED ADULTS

Colin Symons, Team Manager Preparing for Adulthood, CYPDS, Achieving for Children, gave a presentation, attached.

Questions asked by the Forum included the following:

- How many young children with an EHCP were on the disability register as it was voluntary to add yourself to the register. The figure was unknown. The Forum would encourage people to join the disability register.

ACTION: Colin Symons to inform Forum of how many young children are registered on the Disability Register.

- What happens to young adults who cease secondary school and the transition back to the borough after education? Colin Symons informed the Forum that these children would fall under other teams, depending on individual cases. If it was a permanent move then all details would be passed over to new local authority.

Vernon Nosal, Head of Statutory Services, Optalis, gave a presentation, attached.

Questions asked by the Forum included the following:

- Barbara Richardson pointed out that accommodating out of the borough was very costly emotionally and financially. If a site was needed in the borough, it was a three to five year period to provide. Vernon Nosal informed the Forum that there was no provision in the borough for people that needed to come out of hospital.
- Collette Gray, member of the public, asked why there was no provision for people with autism. Vernon Nosal that there was a specialism autism worker. Vernon would look into the case.
- All the information was out there. More commitment was required from Councillors, AfC and Optalis.

Lisa Hughes, Vice Chairman, gave a presentation on Accessible homes for RBWM residents with disabilities.

- ACTION: Place on next meeting Agenda.**
- ACTION: Send all presentations to Councillors Johnson and Carroll.**
- ACTION: Send all presentations with minutes to all Forum Members.**
- ACTION: Invite Councillors Johnson and Carroll to next meeting.**

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman were happy to receive items from Forum Members to include at future meetings.

DATES FOR FUTURE FORUMS

The next Access Advisory Forum would be on Monday 9th September 2019 at 11.00am in the Grey Rooms, York House, Sheet Street, Windsor.

The meeting, which began at 11.30 am, finished at 2.00 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....