

Minutes of Second General Meeting

Date of meeting: Monday 26 January 2015

Start time: 6:00pm

Venue: Baden Powell Suite, YMCA, Whetstone Lane

Members present: Philip Barton (Honorary Chair)[**PB**]; Eileen Branscombe; Jayne Clough; Cllr Phil Davies [**PD**]; Margaret Grundy; Vicky Martin; Maureen More; Margaret Rushton; Greg Vogiatzis (Honorary Secretary) [**GV**]

Non-members present: Martin Davies (*ACE audio-visual*) [**MD**]; Susan Mahoney [**SM**]; Margaret McNelis [**MM**]

Apologies: Cllr Alan Brighthouse; Cllr Pat Cleary; Cllr Jean Stapleton

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
1	Welcome and apologies	<p>PB opened the meeting and confirmed that it was quorate.</p> <p>The purpose of the keypads given to each member upon their arrival was explained and MD, who provided technical support for the electronic voting system, was introduced.</p>	Item discharged	
2	The area boundary	<p>PD had another meeting to attend at 7:00pm and so the running order was altered.</p> <p>It was confirmed that SM, although not yet a member, would qualify for membership and was entitled to vote. The number of people qualified to</p>	Item discharged	

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
		<p>vote was ten.</p> <p>PB explained the development of the neighbourhood plan area boundary proposals. Since the first general meeting one Councillor (not present) had objected to the inclusion of Victoria Park without also including houses surrounding it and a Council officer had recommended a new proposal relating to the <i>Cammell Lairds</i> yard. Given the critical importance of agreeing the area to be put forward for designation by the Council, it was considered essential to revisit this issue. The Birkenhead & Tranmere Ward had already been agreed as the 'default' Neighbourhood Planning Forum area. The following five changes to the area were proposed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cloughton Ward: Extend the area to include Bentinck Place, Cloughton Place, Cole Street, Cloughton Road (part), Grange Road West (part), Eastbourne Road (part) and Grange Mount (part). Reason: to ensure all shops are included in any potential retail policies; residential area similar in social character to Menai Street. 		

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
		<p>2. Oxton Ward: Extend the area to include <i>The Williamson Art Gallery & Museum</i>, with or without surrounding houses. Reason: To support a potential 'cultural triangle' policy between <i>The Williamson Art Gallery & Museum</i>, <i>Birkenhead Central Library</i> and <i>The Little Theatre</i>.</p> <p>3. Rock Ferry Ward: Extend the area to include Victoria Park with or without surrounding houses. Reason: To ensure any potential open spaces policy applies to both parks.</p> <p>4. Rock Ferry Ward: To extend the area to include Holborn Square; Sidney Road (part); Holt Road (part), and Queen Street (part). Reason: To allow for <i>Tranmere Tunnels</i> to be included in the area as part of a potential tourism/heritage policy; common sense to have the boundary follow Old Chester Road.</p> <p>5. Cammell Lairds: To exclude that part of the yard which falls within the Ward boundary or to extend the area to include the entire <i>Cammell Lairds</i> site.</p>		

Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
		<p>PD asked why the proposed boundary could not simply be drawn down the middle of roads.</p> <p>PB explained that the Forum was being pulled in two opposite directions. Councillors were concerned to ensure that as many of their constituents as possible would have a say in the making of the Neighbourhood Plan; whereas Council officers were concerned that the area would be too large to manage. Consequently, only those homes that would be directly affected by proposals to extend the area were included. This inevitably involved an element of subjective judgement but PB applied his knowledge and experience as a chartered town planner to decide which homes would potentially be most affected by the proposals.</p>		

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
3	Vote on boundary proposals	<p>PB explained that a vote to abstain would be counted as a vote to retain the existing Ward boundary (i.e. the ‘default’ position). The electronic voting system was used and delivered an instant result, which was displayed as a bar chart on the projector screen. The results for each proposal were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 60% voted to retain the existing Ward boundary. 2. 60% voted to extend the area and include surrounding houses. 3. 90% voted to retain the existing Ward boundary. 4. 80% voted to extend the area to include all of the named roads. 5. 70% voted to exclude <i>Cammell Lairds</i> from the area. <p>PD and MM left the meeting once voting was concluded.</p> <p>PB confirmed that the agreed changes are final and that a revised plan of the area would be distributed to all members before the area designation application was completed.</p>	PB	1 Feb 2015

Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
4	Discussion about changes to the constitution	<p>PB explained that the Council had advised a number of changes. The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations require a Forum to be duly constituted. Therefore, it is critical for the Forum to have a constitution that is fit for purpose.</p>	Item discharged	
5	Vote on proposed changes to the constitution	<p>PB explained that in this case a vote to abstain would be ignored. The electronic voting system was used and delivered an instant result, which was displayed as a bar chart on the projector screen. The results were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 89% voted to alter the wording of Clause 2a) 2. 78% voted to alter the wording of Clause 2b) 3. 89% voted to alter the wording of Clause 2e) 4. 100% voted to alter the wording of Clause 4) 5. 100% voted to alter the wording of Clause 5b) 6. 67% abstained and 33% voted to retain the wording of Clauses 5e) and 5f) 7. 67% voted to retain the wording of Clause 8d) 	PB	1 Feb 2015

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No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
		<p>8. 67% voted to retain the wording of Clause 8f)</p> <p>9. 100% voted to retain the wording of Clause 8g)</p> <p>10. 100% voted to retain the wording of Clause 8l)</p> <p>11. 67% voted to retain the wording of Clause 9). The vote was repeated after a technical problem led to one vote being registered twice</p> <p>12. 89% voted to alter the wording of Clause 10f)</p> <p>A copy of the amended constitution shall be distributed to all members as soon as possible.</p>		
6	Branding workshop	<p>PB reminded all in attendance about the branding workshop for which the Forum has received central government funding. The workshop will be open to members and non-members and is to be led by Lucy Mason from <i>Brand</i>. It will take place at St Catherine's Community Centre from 6:00pm on Monday 16 February 2015. Further reminders will be distributed to members closer to the time. The purpose is to come up with ideas for positive phrases and images</p>	PB	16 Feb 2015

