

Date of meeting: Monday 26 September 2016
Start time: 6:30pm
Venue: Baden Powell Suite, YMCA, Whetstone Lane

Members present: Philip Barton (Honorary Chair) [PB]; Jim Cadwallader [JC]; Cllr Pat Cleary [PC]; Jane Clough; John Davies [JD]; Richard Fassam; David Liggins [DL]; Vicky Martin [VM]; Melanie McMahon [MM]; Jane Rivington [JR]; Greg Vogiatzis (Honorary Secretary) [GV]

Non-members present: Tim Furrar

Apologies: Terence Ezra

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
1	Welcome and apologies	PB opened the meeting at 6:33pm and confirmed that it was quorate. The number of people eligible to vote was 11 .	Item discharged	
2	Minutes of 8 th general meeting (accuracy)	It was agreed unanimously that the minutes are an accurate record of the meeting.	Item discharged	
3	Matters arising (not already on the agenda)	<p><i>3.1. Tranmere Tunnels</i> JC and DL gave an update about their progress. It has now been established beyond all doubt that the Council does not own Tranmere Tunnels (although it does own the entrances in Holborn Square). The Council has admitted as much and has stated that it had no authority to issue licences to <i>Tranmere Tunnels Volunteers Limited</i> (TTVL) for the investigations that have thus far been undertaken.</p> <p>PB agreed to assist TTVL in applying to <i>Her Majesty's Land Registry</i> for a copy of the title deeds and title plan for Tranmere Tunnels.</p>	PB	30 Sep 2016

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3	Matters arising (not already on the agenda) <i>[continued]</i>	MM agreed to provide assistance to TTVL in setting up a <i>Facebook</i> profile for Tranmere Tunnels.	MM	ASAP
4	Membership update	PB stated that no new membership applications had been received and that Peter France [PF] had resigned because he no longer qualifies for either class of membership. The total number of members is now forty-two .	Item discharged	
5	Financial update	PB provided the following summary: <u>Expenditure since 28 June 2016:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £30.00 paid to <i>YMCA Wirral</i> for room hire; • £81.00 paid to <i>Wirral Multicultural Centre</i> for translation services relating to the community consultation. <u>Income:</u> No income in this period. <u>Balance as of 30 September 2016:</u> £3627.79 Donations to the Forum may be made by electronic bank transfer to: Name of Bank: <i>Yorkshire Bank</i> Account number: 44233053 Sort Code: 05-02-45	Item discharged	
6	History & Heritage Workgroup update (workgroup 1)	PF has resigned from the Forum, so a new chair needed to be elected. There was one nominee – JC – who was elected by a unanimous vote.	Item discharged	

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7	Planning Applications Workgroup update (workgroup 2)	<p>PB informed members that workgroup 2 had submitted five consultation responses:</p> <p><u>7.1 APP/16/00685</u> <i>Erection of 18 new-build apartments in a single block.</i> Corner of Holt Road and Old Chester Road</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to this proposal.</p> <p>A decision is due by 11 October 2016.</p> <p><u>7.2 APP/16/00840</u> <i>The conversion of a former Presbyterian church and attached church hall (D1) into 13 residential apartments (C3) comprising of 9 two-bedroom apartments, 2 three-bedroom apartments and 2 one-bedroom apartments.</i> Church Hall, Hillside Christian Fellowship Church, 61 Willmer Road. CH42 0JB</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to this proposal.</p> <p>A decision is due by 3 October 2016.</p> <p><u>7.3 APP/16/00964</u> <i>Retrospective application to demolish and rebuild wall/landscaping and to erect a new-build garage.</i> 2 Poplar Road. CH42 0JP</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to this development.</p> <p>A decision was due by 2 September 2016 but no determination was made. There is a right of appeal against a failure to determine.</p>		

No.	Item	Notes	Action	Target date
7	Planning Applications Workgroup update (workgroup 2) <i>[continued]</i>	<p><i>7.4 APP/16/00978</i> <i>1 no. detached dwelling.</i> Land adjacent to 33a Chesnut Grove. CH42 0LB</p> <p>The Forum SUPPORTED this application.</p> <p>Planning permission was GRANTED.</p> <p><i>7.5 APP/16/01013</i> <i>Two 38m squared bungalows.</i> Land to the rear of 20 Hampden Road</p> <p>The Forum OBJECTED to this proposal.</p> <p>A decision is due by 4 October 2016.</p>		
8	Community Issues Workgroup update (workgroup 3)	<p>GV gave an update on the group's activity. Issues currently being pursued are: 1) arrangements for weed spraying, which was evidently delayed due to adverse weather conditions; 2) anti-social behaviour (ASB) in an alleyway off Whetstone Lane. No evidence of ASB was found by the Council but residents are able to provide such proof and intend to do so, and 3) street cleansing in Whetstone Lane, which has been taking place once every four weeks rather than weekly as should be the case.</p>	GV	Ongoing
9	Community consultation update	<p>More than 100 responses have now been received but our target is at least 500. All members are strongly encouraged to advertise the consultation to their local networks. The last thing we want is to have thousands of people voting "no" at the referendum because their issues are not identified now.</p>	All members	Ongoing

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10	Hamilton Square Conservation Area	<p>PB advised that little progress has been made in relation to bin blight and eight separate enforcement complaints remain unresolved.</p> <p>PB will be writing to David Ball [DB], who has taken on responsibility for heritage matters within the Council. DB has expressed sympathy and seems committed to improvement.</p> <p>The issue of broken floodlights around the square remains unresolved. The problem has been caused by an intermittent fault in the main power supply.</p> <p>PB, with the assistance of PC, has encouraged a more strategic approach to resolving this issue and achieving heritage gains by the reintroduction of lampposts of an appropriate and historically accurate design. The Council's rejection of the idea is considered to be both insubstantial and unconvincing.</p> <p>The main problem with this and other issues across the conservation area is the lack of a management plan. Work continues to find the necessary funds to produce and implement a management plan.</p>	DB, PB, PC	30 Sep 2016
11	Community-Led Housing Early Stages Support Fund	<p>GV advised that <i>Locality</i> has approved our application for support and that a mentor will be appointed in due course, with stage one to be completed by the middle of December 2016.</p> <p>UPDATE – 28 SEPTEMBER 2016 Our appointed mentor is Tim Molton [TM], who will arrange a formal meeting with Forum members to discuss our ideas.</p>	PB, TM, GV and any other interested member	19 Dec 2016

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12	Housing Needs Assessment Technical Support Package (TSP)	<p>PB advised that this TSP remains on hold until the Council has produced an up-to-date Strategic Housing Market Assessment. However, this might be a good thing, now that we have been awarded the support for community-led housing projects, because the two support packages are complementary and will help us to understand how neighbourhood plan policies might help us deliver community-led housing projects.</p>	Management Committee	Ongoing
13	Any other business	<p><u>13.1 Locality regional conference</u> JC, JR and GV reported back on the event held at the St James' Centre on Laird Street. The main benefits of the event were the opportunity to network and information about sources of funding.</p> <p><u>13.2 Celebration Day</u> JR advised that up to £10,000 is available to stage a community celebration event. MM, VM and JR volunteered to apply for this funding and organise an event. PB agreed to provide any additional support needed.</p> <p><u>13.3 Raffles Road site</u> PB had been informed by PC that the owner of a plot of land behind Raffles Road would like to dispose of it for a nominal sum (about £3000) to a community organisation.</p> <p>It is one of a number of sites we identified as a potential 'pocket park' some months ago.</p> <p>It has been advertised for sale with offers around £30,000 being invited. However, there is no easy vehicular access and the cost of connection to services makes it unlikely to be suitable for residential development.</p>	<p>PB, MM, VM, JR</p> <p>All members</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>

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13	Any other business <i>(continued)</i>	<p>Members voted unanimously to investigate the purchase of the site.</p> <p>Any member who wishes to pledge a donation towards the purchase price is invited to contact PB as soon as possible. £500 has already been pledged. Please make a pledge only if you have the ability to honour it. Any such pledges might be matched against other funds we may apply for.</p> <p>13.4 Save Europa Pools campaign JD updated members about the campaign to prevent the demolition of Europa Pools. MM stated that the Council is determined to see this through and the only opportunity to oppose it will be when a planning application is submitted. PB agreed with MM and GV encouraged JD to inform the Forum as soon as he is notified of the planning application.</p> <p>13.5 Xinxin Cao [XC] XC attended the 8th general meeting and interviewed a number of Forum members as part of her Master's degree dissertation. XC sent PB a draft copy of her dissertation. She found significant differences between what has motivated Forum members to help prepare a neighbourhood plan and what has motivated parish council activists to do the same.</p>	JD	Upon receipt of notification of planning application
14	Date of next meeting	The 10th General Meeting of the <i>Birkenhead & Tranmere Neighbourhood Planning Forum</i> will take place in the Baden Powell Suite, YMCA, Whetstone Lane from 6:30pm on Monday 19 December 2016 . Proceedings were closed at 8:40pm	All members	19 Dec 2016

END