

## MINUTES OF A HOYLAKE FORUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2013

**Present:** Peter Edwards (PE) (In the Chair) Matthew Biagetti (MB) Cllr John Hale (JH)  
Jackie Hall (JaH) Mark Howard (MH) Rose Kirkby (RK)  
Stewart Lowther Christopher Moore (CM) Richard Stowe (RS)  
Vaughan Williams (VW)

**Apologies:** John Percival (JP)

**In Attendance:** Richard Lewis & Andrew Fraser. Wirral Borough Council (Item 2)

### ITEM 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

1. The Chairman welcomed those attending and noted the apologies for absence. He explained that the order of the Agenda had been modified to allow those attending from WBC to depart as early as possible.

### ITEM 2. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS

2. Richard Lewis (RL) introduced Andrew Fraser (AF), who will be WBC's primary contact for HV henceforth. He confirmed that WBC had formally approved the designation of Hoylake as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. RL then outlined the sequence of events going forward:
  - HV to draft Plan;
  - HV to undertake a 6 week consultation exercise, involving statutory consultees such as English Heritage and Natural England, as well as local interests, including residents and businesses, Wirral Society etc. AF to supply comprehensive list of consultees. Funding for this consultation exercise can be drawn from the £20,000 allocated to HV by WBC;
  - Plan to be revised and finalised in light of consultation responses;
  - HV to submit Plan to WBC;
  - WBC to carry out further consultation exercise;
  - Plan to be submitted to Examiner [*presumably following any further revisions?*]
  - Examiner to ensure that Plan does not conflict with any other WBC or National policies;
  - Plan submitted for referendum
3. RL confirmed that the consultation exercise to be undertaken by HV needs to involve placing the draft Plan on deposit in key locations accessible to the public (library, for example), and that the existence of the Plan should be communicated widely.
4. WBC will cover the cost of any referendum, using any funds remaining from the HV £20,000 plus a further £30,000 allocated to WBC by central government. There is uncertainty over the scale of the cost of a referendum. RL/AF to advise further. The importance of ensuring there was a reserve of funds to cover any referendum was emphasised.
5. JH asked whether any of the £30,000 allocated to WBC could be made available to HV. RL was uncertain, but indicated that a further grant of £7000 could be applied for.
6. It was acknowledged that the cost of staffing a referendum could be reduced if it was timed to coincide with another election, which would also help turnout.
7. RS suggested that the voting age for the referendum could be set at 16. RL indicated that there are new regulations on referenda, and that the age of franchise would need to be checked. Also, there could be difficulties in identifying a section of the population that was not on the existing electoral roll, as well as increased costs incurred.
8. JH asked if there would be a specific cabinet member with responsibility for delivering local

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plans. AF replied that either the leader of the Council, or the Cabinet, could delegate that role.

9. MH asked what WBC's view was on the involvement of HV in the potential International Golf Resort. AF replied that a tendering process was underway to identify a potential development partner, and it would be for that organisation to consult with HV.
10. MB indicated that the HV Committee had agreed to appoint an external planning consultant to assist with the preparation of the Plan, and was keen to hear views on when best to make the appointment, given the need to make the most efficient use of the limited budget available (c. £5000). AF suggested that it was important for HV to prepare a very clear brief for the consultant, which he would be pleased to review prior to issue. The first stage of the consultant's commission should be the preparation of the consultation draft.
11. AF further indicated that the Planning Advisory Service and Planning Aid can advise on such commissioning and may review draft plans etc, possibly for free.
12. Thanks were extended to RL and AF for attending, and for the advice and guidance RL has provided to date. RL and AF left the meeting.

### **ITEM 3. COMMISSIONING OF PLANNING CONSULTANT**

13. General discussion followed and it was agreed that HV was not yet ready to appoint a planning consultant. There was a need to review the Devonshire Park process and to learn any lessons, as well as to develop the detailed brief

### **ITEM 4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS**

14. PE indicated that the recent Night-time Economy meeting went well, but it was disappointing that so few people had attended and that only one bar was represented. There is a danger that any discussion becomes focussed on alcohol and anti-social behaviour – this is only a small concern in the context of making Hoylake a vibrant community.
15. There was general discussion on a need for a central source information on events that take place in Hoylake. MB suggested that the Town Team should perhaps look at this. JaH pointed out that the Helpshop window conveyed a lot of information on local events.
16. RK pointed out that there was a danger of HV becoming too mired in such detailed matters, and that the main focus should be the preparation of the Plan.
17. PE proposed that, now that the key issues raised by the public opinion survey - Beach Management and Night-time Economy - had been the subjects of public meetings, there was little merit in holding further such meetings.
18. MH agreed that the priority now was to get a plan drafted and put it out to consultation and begin dialogue with interested parties.
19. CM proposed that a small working group of HV members should identify the main outlets for getting information about HV and the NP to the wider population. Although there was a consultee list that WBC would provide but there was a clear need to reach people who don't normally access publicity websites or emails. CM, MH and RK volunteered to form a working party
20. VW suggested having a stall or a "pop up shop" on Market Street to present the plan and discuss with people.
21. The meeting agreed to move to a draft final Plan, highlighting the areas that may give rise to concern. It was proposed that a summary leaflet be prepared, to be delivered to every household in boundary.

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### **ITEM 5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

22. Minutes of 15th March meeting were approved.
23. Co-operative Society – CM has been in contact but has had no reply – Co-op going through difficult times, so perhaps to be expected.
24. Beach – need to get approval from Council for discussions with NE
25. Meeting local concerned individuals about the grass – 31st May. SL, VW and CM to attend.
26. Beach looks better – grass appears to have been killed off where spraying had taken place – no sign of seedling growth – next spraying planned for June. Important to ensure this does not slip into the migratory birds season (late Sept – Nov), although the timing is not determined by HV.
27. Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group – CM received letter from Chair of Wirral Commissioning Consortium – provision of GP cover is not their responsibility – have passed CM’s enquiry to Head of Primary Care.
28. Town Centre Action Plan – MH has been assured that it would start in May. Kate Ellison and/or David Ball will be attending next Business Network meeting at Monte Carlo. Need a sense of coordinated action over the concerns and needs of Hoylake businesses.
29. Barnes Community Association Model – CM had circulated a paper – feeling is that Hoylake may not yet be ready to adopt a similar approach. – may be better to allow a Community Association to develop through HVL or be included in the NP.

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**ITEM 6 AOB**

30. RS – Coastal Communities Fund – an application has been made by Hoylake Allotments Association for funding to lease 2.7 acres of land next to allotments. Idea is to try to create nine jobs by improving the land and creating new allotments, running an apprenticeship scheme etc. Used online neighbourhood statistics to gain data on Hoylake population to support the bid. RS asserted that the general point is that access to greenspace should be part of the Plan.
31. JH – situation re toilets on Promenade is appalling – closed most of the time – both Dove Point and Promenade Gardens. JH trying to bring pressure – need for a public campaign.
32. CM – Richard Neal of Robinson and Neal is quite interested in a pop-up shop in Hoylake to have a West Wirral outlet. – was interested in the former Banqueting House, but this is now to become a Vegetarian Restaurant.
33. RK – HV has £536.00 in the bank with Creditors up to £950. RK trying to have monies released from WBC.

**ITEM 4. FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will take place at 6.30 pm on 27<sup>th</sup> June (changed from 13<sup>th</sup> June).

SL 10 June 2013