



MINUTES

Date:

Tuesday 7th August 2018

Time:

19:00 – 20:30

Venue:

Horwich Community Centre

1. Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Attended: Marie Brady, Eileen Jepson, Rod Riesco, Steve Glover, Jim Bullock, Dorothy Bullock, Barry Jubb, Caroline Turner-Preece, Peter Wright (9)

Apologies: David Barnes, Susan Baines, John Rigby, Steve Chadwick, Scott Turner-Preece, Emma Gregson, David Griffiths, Jodie Laithewaite (8)

Declarations of Interest: Members were asked to make a declaration of interest regarding items to be discussed, none were declared.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held 17th July 2018 were read and approved by the members who had been present at that meeting. All matters arising have been included in the agenda; the Chairperson signed and dated.

3. Actions Agreed from last meeting/ Actions Outstanding

Outstanding from last meeting (17/7/18): Website: No progress has been made in finding someone to design a website. Carol Hutchinson (Town Clerk) passed on the details of the person that designed and maintains the current Horwich Council website. **Action c/f:**

Actions Agreed from 17th July meeting:

- Steve Glover has spoken to Locality who encouraged him to get the application in as soon as possible to register an “expression of interest”, they will then allocate a helper as soon as possible who will be in touch. AKON advice is free, however; - a Housing Needs Assessment will need to be paid for from the funding allocated. Marie will complete the preliminaries and request the town clerk makes the application asap.
- Scott Turner-Preece has agreed to collate the presentations into DVD format to be shown at the Horwich Heritage event on 21st July.
- Caroline T-Preece has agreed to design and print feedback/comments sheets for visitors to complete at the Horwich Heritage event on 21st July.

4. Issues discussed 7th August 2018 (use topic headings)

Horwich Heritage Event on 21st July – The event was officially opened mid-morning by Horwich Mayor - Councillor Peter Wright and there was a steady flow of visitors throughout the day. The exhibition is about Horwich Past, Present and Future and had many interesting displays. An area was set aside for the N-Plan and each station was represented to engage with the public and answer questions:- Sport, Recreation + Culture, Transport, Health, Well-Being and Social Care, Open Spaces, Education, Housing, Business and Employment, Planning & the Environment.

There were many interesting conversations covering all areas, but the most popular station was Open Spaces. Rod Riesco was kept very busy discussing local green spaces and compiling a list of the ones that people attending felt were important and the reasons why, the list currently stands at ten Open Spaces and includes Stocks Park Green area. Allotment sites were discussed and added to the list. Several people from Stocks Park Residents' Association attended and requested a copy of the leaflet/poster that Rod had designed so they could use it on their facebook page. Rod agreed to collate all the responses and feedback at the next meeting. **Barry J proposed** that we request Horwich Council to ask Bolton Council to supply an 'Open Space Assessment' as we need to know how much Open Space is currently already protected as it might be a long time since such an assessment has been done, possibly as long ago as 2007. Everyone agreed.

It was noted that by far, the majority of people visiting and engaging with the people manning the stations were over 50 yrs of age. A discussion followed about how to engage with younger generations. A suggestion by Marie B was that we focus on small groups such as :- Mother & Baby groups, Slimming clubs (Weight Watchers and Slimming World), Horwich Leisure Centre (Gym and Swim clubs), and a suggestion was made that we get advertising on beer mats to appeal to people that use the very popular micro breweries that are opening up in Horwich including Blackedge Brewery.

Presentation to Horwich Rotary on 26th July – Marie Brady and Eileen Jepson were invited to give a presentation at the Thursday lunch time meeting of Horwich Rotary, which was held at the RMI club. This was to inform the Rotary Club about the N-Plan and to give a brief overview of the topic areas using a slimmed down version of the Heritage Event displays that were used on the previous Saturday. They then fielded questions from Rotary members. By far, most members were interested in talking about Transport as it impacts the vast amount of people currently in Horwich. Many felt that the N-Plan was taking on too much and should concentrate efforts on one thing (namely: resolving transport). Marie explained that there is a national push to get people to use their cars less as all our roads are getting clogged. She is meeting with Bolton Council to discuss the feasibility of having a safe cycle/pathway along the back of the railway terraces, using the underpass from Station Park to the back of Iceland and going all the way to Middlebrook.

This also leads to a primary and secondary school en-route which will make it safer for children and young people to commute to school.

There was a discussion about our failed attempts at getting Horwich businesses to become involved, as to date not one business owner has shown any interest in the N-Plan

MB and EJ used the opportunity to appeal for Community Champions and asked the Rotarians to spread the word about the N-Plan to garner more interest.

5. Application for Locality Funding – (see above section 3)

6. **You Tube videos** – Caroline T-Preece suggested that we compile a photo/film montage of Open Spaces in Horwich with a type-over (no voices) to put out on the facebook page to get more people interested in the N-Plan. Ask people to let us know which spaces are important to them and why. **Caroline** agreed to explore this possibility.

7. Website (see above section 3)

8. **AOB:** A suggestion from Barry J that we email each member of the N-Plan group to ask them to choose the area they want to be involved with and to form Sub-Committees to meet separately to plan to actively engage with more small events. **EJ agreed** to email members

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th September 2018

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm at Horwich Community Centre

Declaration: These are a true record of the meeting

Signature Date