



Horwich Neighbourhood

Development Plan

MINUTES

Date:

Tuesday 6th November 2018

Time:

19:00 – 20:30

Venue:

Horwich Community Centre

1. Attendance, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

Attended: Marie Brady, Stuart Whittle, David Barnes, Eileen Jepson, Barry Jubb, John Rigby, Steven Chadwick, Caroline Turner-Preece, Scott Turner-Preece, Kevin McKeon (10)

Apologies: Jim + Dorothy Bullock, Rod Riesco, Steve Glover, Susan Baines, Peter Wright (6)

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

Unanimous Approval was given: for a minute's silence to honour the contribution that Hon. Alderman Barbara Ronson has made to the town of Horwich. Her funeral is to be held on the 12th November at 12 noon, St Catherine's Parish Church, Horwich.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held 2nd October 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.

Actions Agreed from last meeting/ Actions Outstanding

Outstanding from last meeting (2/10/18): Draft Vision + Objectives document: Progress has been made (**see report in section 4 below**)

Actions (on-going) Agreed from 2nd October meeting:

- Caroline T-Preece has been in touch with a number of photographers/social media up-loaders with a view to obtaining a stock of photos of Open Spaces in Horwich which could be used in future publications (online or in print; with permission). **Action: The work on this is on-going**
- It was suggested we might all benefit from training. CPRE run courses on N-Plans or Steve G may know someone who has this expertise and might be willing to give us some advice. **Action: Steve Glover to make enquiries**
- C T-P is to design some posters to be put in local Estate Agents (Lancaster's, Regency and Redman-Casey's) **Action: The work on this is on-going**

4. Issues discussed 6th November 2018 (use topic headings)

Draft Vision & Objectives: Scott T-Preece presented the working document showing the latest draft of the Vision + Objectives booklet; Scott received praise for the design and layout which was made possible by the hard work done by Stuart Whittle in drafting the framework and there followed discussions about the photographs which are to be included to represent the community actions. Within Objective 1 (Sustainability, Housing, Planning and Heritage) it was favourably accepted, with some minor adjustments to spelling / typo errors. **Action: Scott to revise draft**

Within Objective 3 (Economy + Employment, including the future of Horwich town centre) it was suggested that we include the introduction of a Farmers Market. **Action: Scott to revise draft**

Objective 5 (Transport) is to be added to by Marie B. **Action: Marie to revise draft**

A discussion followed about how readers of the document will return them with their comments. The suggestions included:- several drop-off points at different locations in Horwich, including the Library, Public Hall, Community Centre, Leisure Centre, maybe even doctors surgeries. Marie Brady suggested that to prevent fraud we should have the printers number the copies to prevent other groups copying the document and adding comments to sway their cause. **Action: MB to get quotes from 3 different printing companies**

With regards to timing, it would be wise to get the printing done in December and be ready to deliver to all households in the first week of January 2019. However, a slow drip-feed with the N-Plan Facebook account and tweets should generate some interest in the Vision for Horwich before it arrives on people's doorsteps in January.

Marie Brady was asked to give an update on the Housing Needs Assessment, this is ongoing and data will be gathered from various governmental departments. The research has to be carried out by an outside agency appointed by Aecom. A debate with members at the meeting asked that the word "Social" housing be included in the Vision for Horwich under Objective 1 (Sustainability, Housing, Planning and Heritage) "*Community Actions*" under the second bullet point. It should read:-

> Analyse housing need and specify sites where affordable/social housing could/should be built.

Action: Scott to revise draft to inc. the word social

5. **Sustainable Development Guide:** The consultants (when they are appointed) will use approved design codes for housing and a study of the town centre will recommend the use of commercial design codes.
6. **Horwich Town Centre / Heritage Development Guide:** At a recent meeting with Horwich Business Alliance they claim the biggest problem that business owners currently have is not enough parking spaces for shoppers. However, in order to prove this is the case the Business Alliance will need to do a realistic survey. This will be needed for the Consultants (when they are appointed) to be able to draft a *Conception of Improvement Plan* covering "streetscape" and "traffic management" suggestions. The consultants will need a "Vision Document" specifically for the town centre, which will need considerable input from Horwich Business Alliance. There was not enough time to discuss this and a brief for the Town Centre Study needs another meeting in the near future. It was suggested that the Business Alliance have a representative on the N-Plan to ensure good communication exists.
7. **Possible dates for Referendum:** it is not possible to say with any accuracy at the moment. However, it was agreed that householders that read the '*Vision for Horwich*' document when it arrives on their doorstep in January will benefit from having a time-frame of some description. As the Vision for Horwich has an empty back page it was agreed we draft a 7-step plan which shows the process from
 - 1) Consultations with Horwich residents and businesses to outline Aims & Objectives
 - 2) Draft Plan is sent to all residents and business owners
 - 3) Communicate the final draft plan
 - 4) Independent planning experts will check it doesn't contravene Bolton Council's plan
 - 5) If it gets the green light then we set a date for a Referendum
 - 6) Fifty per cent of those that respond to the Referendum will have to agree the plan

7) Whole process will probably take 18 months to 2 years

8. **Any Other Business:** Steve Chadwick had asked for “Nominating Items of Community Asset” to be included in AOB and referred people to the website “My Community” <https://mycommunity.org.uk/help-centre/resources/land-and-building-assets/assets-community-value-acv/> as it explains the rights clearly. Both Steve and Barry Jubb are to make a list of Community Assets for Horwich and email them to the Secretary Eileen Jepson before the next meeting. It was noted that Horwich Town Council can nominate assets.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed.

Declaration: These are a true record of the meeting

Signature Date

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th December 2018

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm at Horwich Community Centre