

## **West Saint Leonards Neighbourhood Forum**

**AGM Tuesday July 30 2024**

### **Draft Minutes**

Bryan Fisher, the vice-chair welcomed participants.

- 1) Present: Evelyn Murray, William Ackroyd, Lindsay Fowler, Bryan Fisher, Virginia Vilela, Patricia Walton, Anna Sabin, Cllr Trevor Webb, Cllr Tony Collins, Steph Drayton, Tom Truscott, Yvonne Fisher, Alison Wilkins, Ken Davis (HUDG)
- 2) Apologies: Cllr Andy Patmore, Cllr Adele Bates
- 3) The minutes of the AGM of May 17 2023 and the SGM of February 9 2024 had been circulated and were unanimously approved.
- 4) Report of the WSLF's activities over the year.
  - a) Anna Sabin reported on the letters and meetings held with Hastings Borough Council Planners . A planning officer dedicated to work with WSLNF has been promised but has not yet been appointed. HBC had not advanced consultation on the Town Centre Plan, and there was no more information on plans for the bathing pool site. A meeting between the borough and Southern Water had taken place, but the outcome was not clear.
  - b) Patricia Walton presented a summary of the large number of local concerns and outline ideas for Neighbourhood Plan collected in surveys and meetings. She used a Venn Diagram grouping the issues under three main headings, housing, environment and wellbeing, and showing their overlap in the need for connectivity, both physical and social. The extent of consensus expressed by residents was remarkable, and emphasised the need for more people to be involved in planning and defining objectives.
  - c) Designation – William Ackroyd explained why the organisation had required two designation procedures in order to expand the area covered by the Forum, which is now established.
  - d) CIO application - WA explained that the initial application to the Charity Commissioners for status as a Charity Incorporated Organisation had been rejected as failing to meet the objectives of a charity, but a second attempt will be made after consultation with Hastings Voluntary Action. The status is important for the WSLNF to be able to apply for funds to develop a neighbourhood plan and to continue its activities to enhance community coherence.
  - e) Virginia Vilela reported on the activities of the Community Committee: the Go West exhibition at the Electric Studios, WSLNF members invoved in clearing an overgrown path from Essenden Road: other events included an afternoon with music at The Compound, afternoon tea at St. Ethelburga's and Bowls taster with the Bowls club; and Quiz Nights and other Drop-In sessions are planned
- 5) Financial Report
  - a) William Ackroyd, the treasurer, presented the accounts for 2023 (previously circulated) which have been examined and approved by Stephen Hobson. The report

was accepted unanimously.

- b) On funding: Two unsuccessful bids had been made to the Foreshore Trust and Hastings Direct, a further application to the Foreshore Trust is being prepared.
- c) Now that the Forum is designated an application can be made to Locality for help with re-designing the web-site , printing flyers, and obtaining technical support to produce a Neighbourhood plan with full local participation.

6) Elections to the Management Committee

2 members of the Management Committee, Bryan Fisher and William Ackroyd were re-elected, having come to the end of their term. Yvonne Fisher volunteered to join the community committee.

- 7) Discussion of the future management and work of the WSLNF. The need for more members and further community involvement was noted.

8) AOB

Ken Davis raised the problem of the loss of community assets, citing the case of St. Mary in the Castle. A one day conference for consultation on plans for West Marina including the Bathing Pool site is planned, but a suitable venue has not yet been found.

Another area of concern is the increased likelihood of flooding in the area, and the need for a central hub for local activities.

The meeting closed at 7.30, for informal discussion and refreshments

Evelyn Murray

3 August 2024