

AGM Minutes of Meeting

Over Hulton Neighbourhood Steering Committee held at Over Hulton Conservative Club, St Helens Road, Bolton on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 7pm

Agenda :

Chair's welcome and apologies

- Approval of last AGM Minutes/Annual Accounts
- Election of officers

Update on Over Hulton NP Reg.14 consultation

Guest Speaker : Elaine Taylor Hulton – Past and Present - Volunteer Founder of Lancashire Gardens Trust

Questions/AOB

Fundraising raffle

Approval of last AGM Minutes /Annual Accounts

- The last AGM minutes were unanimously approved.
- The annual accounts & minutes were shared by email to all members. Monies available to us for the neighbourhood plan is £18,000. Total net grant monies received to date 2018-19 £14,600.04. Grant allowance in this period is £3,399.96 leaving remaining balance available to us = £2,703.34.
- There has been a donation from OHCC towards the cost of building our website in the sum of £300.
- Our bank account details were shared with members for any donations that may be required for any additional planners fees/advice we feel may be required following examination stage.

Election of officers

- A presentation was showed detailing the present officers for the neighbourhood forum who have held their posts since the inaugural meeting held on 22nd March 2017. The constitution advises a term runs for 5 years and the present officers have agreed to continue for a further term. No new nominations were received at the meeting. Members present voted for the committee to continue for a further term.

Presentation

DP shared her presentation on the screen and projector for all the members to view that showed the Reg 14 consultation ran for a period of eight weeks. It was decided to extend the consultation by a further 2 weeks until 30 September 2021 to allow for people to return back from holidays. Period ran from 01 August 2021 until 30 September 2021.

Number of responses received were 246 with 94 'other comments' from mainly local residents, those who live close by or who visit or work in Over Hulton.

Methods of Consultation - The survey form was available in paper and electronic format for completion during the consultation and we encouraged the use of electronic version hosted on google forms along with a QR code providing a direct link to the survey. The Reg 14 version of the Plan and supporting documentation was also available to view electronically and to download from the website during this period.

Results of responses

Members were advised that from the responses received, the majority all indicated a very strong level of support for all of the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. There was one response received from a local resident that suggested the "The Plan could be simplified, focussing on key issues, bringing greater clarity there was no need to prepare such extensive guidance as set out in the Design Guide and Code, that matters of national policy need not be repeated, and that there is an over emphasis on Hulton Park." Whilst the final submission version will be subject to review for such matters, and also through the examination process, the broad scope of the Plan and content is supported by the majority of respondents.

Slides were shown that detailed the demographics of respondents with nearly 40% of the responders being over the age of 65 and 67% of the respondents all agreed that they would like to be contacted with regard to their responses.

Headline responses were summarised as below which included :

- *"The area benefits form a strong sense of community and local businesses. This should not be undermined by future development."*
- *"Important green spaces within the area should be protected. This extends to the extent of the Green Belt around Over Hulton, as well as areas of wildlife and biodiversity."*
- *"High traffic volumes are a barrier to movement and community integration, and thus traffic volumes should be limited".*
- *"Any new development – including housing associated with the Ryder Cup – would place increasing pressure on local infrastructure, including highways and community facilities."*
- *"Any new and existing homes should be energy efficient and in keeping with the character of the neighbourhood."*
- *"Hulton Park is part of the identity of Over Hulton and should be retained."*

Statutory Consultees

A notice of the consultation was sent directly to 89 organisations representing statutory consultees, which included Peel Holdings, Bolton Council and other utility and service providers. Although we received a response back from the landowner, other responses from the statutory consultees were limited. Where no specific comments were provided these are taken as endorsement of the Plan. Where comments were provided in respect of water efficiencies and infrastructure it is considered that the Local Plan, together with the NPPF and Building Regulations, sufficient addresses these points. A response from Bolton Council is also awaited. The organisations which responded are :

- The Canals & Rivers Trust, Homes England, Natural England, The Coal Authority, Historic England, National Grid, United Utilities

Next steps

- DP advised those present following reviewing all comments and representations received any changes will be made to the draft neighbourhood plan.
- Bolton Council will formally consult on the neighbourhood plan and appoint an independent examiner to review. If the examiner is happy that the Neighbourhood Plan has followed due process, a referendum will take place shortly after that for everyone who is eligible to vote in the designated area and will have the chance to say whether they think the Neighbourhood Plan should be used to begin shaping future change and determining planning applications. If more than 50% of the votes cast agree with the Neighbourhood Plan, then it will become part of formal planning policy for Over Hulton.

Following a short comfort break, DP then introduced our guest speaker – Elaine Taylor. Elaine studied the History of Garden Design at the University of Manchester and followed on with the course Landscape, Heritage and Society at the University of Chester, gaining a Master of Arts. She gives lectures and courses in garden history. She was co-founder of Lancashire Gardens Trust in 2007 and currently leads the Research and Recording initiative. She is a volunteer advisor to Heritage Lottery Fund projects, specialising in Lancashire's Edwardian landscape architect Thomas Mawson. Elaine then continued with her slide presentation. of Hulton – Past & Present.

Questions/AOB

The presentation came to an end and DP/TH thanked everybody for attending the AGM and supporting the neighbourhood plan over the last few years. Appreciation and thanks were given to those who had attended our various consultation events, those who helped with leafleting and research.

Questions were invited by TH however none were forthcoming. The meeting formally ended at 9.05pm with a fundraising raffle. Tickets were sold at £1 a strip and all prizes were donated by members.

End of Meeting