

Minutes of Over Hulton Neighbourhood Forum

30th April 2019

702 Manchester Road, Over Hulton, Bolton

Attendees:	T Hewitt, N Taylor C Bevis N Taylor S Williams M Bevis S Frewtrell N Douglas (By Conference Call)
Guests	Hannah Mitchell, Thomas O’Kane (Troy Planning)
Apologies	D Parkinson

Thomas O’Kane / Hannah Mitchell joined our meeting to present the key themes from the March consultation event and they wanted to express their thanks to everybody who came to support the event and provided their feedback.

Landscape, Farming, and Hulton Park - Many residents have made comments on the significance of Hulton Park and the surrounding Green Belt, both as defining features of Over Hulton, and of their significance to the local farming community.

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Protection of Greenbelt - Many residents commented that the greenbelt should be protected, and that the environment should be protected from all development. Some comments note that farmland preservation will become more important as the UK leaves the EU, and protecting green belt land also helps local farmers. Some residents have also commented on the importance of flora and fauna in the area.

Housing - Residents do not like that new developments have included driveways, rather than front gardens. There is a concern from residents that any new housing development will remove the “village” character of Over Hulton by making it less green, and, in combination with nearby employment allocations, “transform Over Hulton into an industrial eyesore.” There is also concern that any new housing development will be too expensive for local residents to afford. Bungalows were identified as the type of housing most needed in Over Hulton.

Peel Development Proposal - All sticky notes mostly mentioned Peel L&P development proposal and are set against it. Many residents complain that a golf course will not pay homage to the historic Grade II designation of the property and the estate, while other community members note that the Golf course will not have longevity and is not likely to be used. A few residents have stated if the land is to be transformed, they would rather see a solar farm than a golf course. Residents note that flooding may increase if a golf course or housing is developed on the green belt.

Traffic Safety and Air Pollution - There is a consistent worry that any new housing development will impact road capacity, therefore increasing noise and air pollution. Residents complain that the Cutacre employment site was already much bigger than expected and has significantly contributed to traffic and air and noise pollution. There are calls for improved non-vehicular transportation, including better train service to Bolton, and improved bus service along Newbrook Road. There is one call to improve road safety around the “4-lanes end” intersection at Newbrook Road and the A6. It was acknowledged that many residents in Over Hulton rely on private motor vehicles and many trips are taken by car. High levels of private vehicle use was also identified as the most important key issue in the survey.

Community Infrastructure - The closure of Hulton Park has greatly impacted the community. Many residents have stated the space should be kept open for community use, and that the public footpaths are vital to the character of Over Hulton, and to residents’ health. Some residents noted that the footpaths are not suitable for wide variety of users, and need upgrading to improve their accessibility. Additional signage for public footpaths was also suggested.

Lack of open space/ recreational space - was also raised during the consultation event. Facilities for younger people were identified as the type of facility most needed in Over Hulton.

Healthcare - Residents raised concerns that there are not enough doctors surgeries in Over Hulton to accommodate its currently aging population. Residents also worry that potential new housing and employment development will increase demand for medical and education facilities, which Over Hulton has not planned for.

Local enterprise - In the survey, the need for new business was not identified as being present in Over

Hulton. This being said, residents have stated their aspiration to support and develop local businesses through agritourism, and providing local attractions for recreation visits, such as Farmers markets in Hulton Park.

Feedback on Consultation Event

Hannah Mitchell confirmed the event was well received and had a great turnout. Photographs were taken of all the post it notes, comments and maps and they are able to read all of them so we don't need to provide hardcopies. Some key themes emerged from the event such as : landscape, farming, housing, Hulton Park, Peel development & proposal, Traffic safety, air pollution, community infrastructure ie doctors, dentists & local business enterprise to benefit the neighbourhood. Troy planning will condense all the feedback so that we can email the forum members.

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Amended Programme

The amended NP programme was circulated to the Committee that accounts for some slippage in March/April which unfortunately means the Plan is now anticipated to be completed in November and NOT August. With the public inquiry taking place in October this will have a detrimental effect. The NP programme will be reviewed again in June so we can see if we have managed to catch up. Until our funding is approved for this next funding period, the Planners are unable to continue work on the plan.

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In the meantime, the Committee must keep up momentum and work on the following areas below.

Grant Funding Update

CB advised as we are outside the grant funding window, the Planners can only give us limited support until the new funding window opens which is expected by end of this week. Rules prevent them from doing work retrospectively on neighbourhood plans. The grant funding window for technical support is available now. CB to complete EOI for technical funding grant application. There is no limit how many we can apply for.

CB

Review of Visions & Objectives

Draft document will be provided to by Troy Planning shortly. Committee must read through and flag any areas of concern.

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Baseline Assessment

This document was sent over to us in February and is now deemed as urgent. The Committee were asked to review and provide comments/observations so that Planners can action. TOK from Troy Planning will re-send with tracked changes so far.

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Character Assessment

As above.

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Key Views

Key views are beneficial evidence within a Neighbourhood Plan. The photographs we need to take should be unique and stand out which reflect the heritage of the area. Planners require digital photos that can be emailed over to them of our key views taken all around the perimeter and inside Hulton Estate and from public footpaths.

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List of Non Heritage Assets in Over Hulton

We are to provide a list of non-heritage assets. CB circulated copy early February. We need to agree

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what we send onto Troy Planning.

Designated Green Local Spaces (URGENT)

We are to provide to Troy Planning a list of any local greenspaces that are worthy of protection within our boundary i.e community playing fields.

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Deadlines

Troy Planning have asked for the return of completed documents by end of April

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30/4/2019

Date of next meeting

.To be confirmed