

Carlton Village Neighbourhood Forum (CVNF)

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2019

Present:

Darren Etherington (DE), Jacqueline Rooney (JR), Peter Ellis (PE), Cllr C Harrison (CH) - part, Cllr Diane Chapman (DC), Cllr Stewart Golton (SG)
Ian Mackay, Abbie Miladinovic both of Leeds City Council Neighbourhood Planning Dept.

Apologies:

Steve Carmody (SC), Kevin Kuszyk (KK) Verity Britton

AGM held on 29th August 2019 at Carlton Social Club

Welcome & Introduction

Peter Ellis opened the meeting by thanking all of the villagers and councillors who had taken time to attend. He then went on to explain that in the absence of the Chair, Steve Carmody, he was presenting on behalf of the CVNF as a member of the Forum Committee. He also thanked Steve for all his efforts as Chair over the past few years and particularly in respect of leading/co-ordinating the process to contest the Strawberry Appeal on behalf of the Forum, despite the outcome.

Strawberry Fields

CVNF representatives along with local councillors, spoke the public enquiry in January where Leeds City Council barristers argued against Miller Homes' application to build 129 houses on the Strawberry Fields and grass verges opposite the Social Club. The enquiry was heard by a Govt. appointed Inspector who ruled in favour of the development. To date, Miller Homes have not submitted any further applications (known as reserved matters) to the council detailing the design and layout of the houses and surrounding area.

One of the key reasons for approving the application was that Leeds City Council had not yet ratified the most recent land allocation plan for its area therefore it was argued that the council was not meeting its targets for release of sufficient land resources for developers to build on. The new plan reduces the number of houses by well over 10,000. As they are permitted to do as a developer, Miller Homes applied for the release of the Strawberry Fields and the Inspector agreed. The council's land allocation plan has now been agreed and published albeit too late for Carlton.

Carlton Neighbourhood Forum

The current committee of the CVNF due to personal priorities and responsibilities have advised of their resignations. One objective of the meeting was to decide as a community if we wish to continue with the CVNF and finish the neighbourhood plan or form an Action Group to potentially liaise with the developer in shaping the Strawberry Fields development.

If the CVNF is to continue, new committee members would be required from the local community. The Forum structure needs 21 members as a minimum under the govt. legislation to allow groups to be designated Forums. The CVNF has more. Where it is lacking is in the active committee members.

Neighbourhood Planning & Forums

To help explain the merits of a Neighbourhood Forum, Ian Mackay from Leeds City Council Neighbourhood Planning team addressed the meeting.

Ian presented his view of the positives of the CVNF so far:

- The Forum is approved or designated a Forum by LCC
- Designated area approved
- There has been significant engagement with the community over the past three years or so to discuss, explain, present the status of the Forum and seek Community views on the future of the village.

Ian felt it would be wrong to discontinue developing a Neighbourhood Plan as the benefits outweigh the negatives. Ian stated opportunities are:

- Neighbourhood Planning is not solely about housing. They are about shaping the local environment and infrastructure among other things notably:
 - A Forum and Neighbourhood Plan
 - can identify and request the designation of green spaces (to protect them)
 - will be consulted with by the Council
 - can identify heritage assets
 - can identify local needs e.g. is there a need for sheltered accommodation / a school/GPs etc
 - can identify employment opportunities
 - can influence the design of the development e.g. layout, look, feel not just allow the same 'cookie cutter' design
 - can apply for funding from central govt. to assist with costs
 - would be given full support of Ian & Abbie
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- Rothwell, Oulton & Woodlesford both have forums and plans underway at different stages. Walton and Holbeck have excellent plans according to Ian and Walton's won national recognition.
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- The SAP (site allocation plan) will be in force until Yr. 2023 thereafter any unprotected land may be vulnerable to developers applying to build. It is important that 2 or 3 or more people help complete the plan for Carlton.

Peter confirmed that Rothwell Royds development had an action group successfully persuade the developer to spread the social housing properties across the estate, amend the location of some of the houses and put in more green areas. Proof that it can work. Ian Mackay confirmed that the Council would be wanting to see that the Strawberry Fields Developer had met local representatives in respect of its detailed proposals.

Stewart Golton addressed the meeting and reinforced the vulnerability of Carlton in 2023 when the Council SAP plan expires. He pointed out that the Forum had also stalled in creating the Plan due to efforts required to prepare and attend the public enquiry. Act now by continuing with a forum, create a Plan to protect the future of the village was the advice

After some debate, it was decided that the CVNF would continue as is and instead of appointing specific roles during the meeting, there would be opportunities at further sessions to fill the roles from the body of volunteers who put their names forward. Ian Mackay agreed this was acceptable from LCC view.

AOB

- Volunteers from the Community tonight wish to be included and contacted not ignored as they felt had happened previously. Peter apologised for this.
- Meeting to be arranged with those who put their names forward tonight to be committee members
- Contact non active Forum members and advise outcome of meeting
- The club charges £20 for the hire of the room therefore contributions were sought from attendees towards the cost. *Note, there was a surplus of £0.85 which will be given to Carlton in Bloom for plants.*
- Thank you to Peter Ellis for stepping in to host the meeting.