



Notes of the meeting held on 23 January 2017 at Arden Academy

- Present

Amy Fallis (AF), David Gentle (DG), Martin Murphy (MM), Roger Thorpe (RT)

- Apologies.

None.

- Matters arising from the previous meeting on 12 December 2016 (other than those below)

There is no further information regarding confirmation of membership of the group.

- Report from the Steering Committee to include approach to the Solihull Plan.

The Steering Committee had met on 9 January 2017.

Main findings of the business survey were reported as: 40% have operated in the area for over 20 years; 83% are stand-alone businesses; 96% of staff travel to work by car; 82% anticipate they will be happy with their current premises for the next five years.

There were major concerns about car parking for staff and customers. Other concerns with significant mention include mobile phone reception, broadband, pavements, roads, transport links and cycle lanes. There was general satisfaction with the current mix of retail outlets.

There were initial thoughts that the major theme for the response to the Solihull Draft Local Plan was that the number of houses planned for Knowle is excessive.

Plans were made for the presentation at the Forum Meeting of 11th January 2017.

- Report on progress of the Planning Policy Group.

Impact statements have been prepared by all sub-groups and for all areas including environment and open spaces. The group is moving on to consider the derivation of policy statements by sub-group and area to be included in the Plan. The group is currently working on the housing policy document.

- LLCF draft Policy Document.

The LLCF draft Policy Document covers policies for indoor sport, leisure and recreation; outdoor sport leisure and recreation and availability of places for statutory education that are fit for purpose. Community actions are proposed in relation to the needs of youth; accessibility of primary care; venues regarding activities in the arts and culture; facilities for the acquisition of knowledge; an appropriate balance of retail outlets; facilities for lifelong learning; availability of preschool and childcare places and provision to cater for the needs of the elderly. The distinction between policies and community actions may require further work. Work on the policy document is 'on hold' pending further clarification regarding a common format.

Those present considered the draft document to be a fair representation of the Group's findings.



Knowle, Dorridge & Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum

Learning, Leisure and Community Facilities Focus Group

- Youth Survey.

It was expected that the results will be available at or around the end of this month (January). There had been challenges in meeting the high workload of what had been a wide-ranging survey. The findings would be particularly significant in informing policies and actions in the areas of youth work, safety, parks and open spaces and, to some extent, retail outlets. There is considerable similarity between the findings of the survey and those of the Youth Forum. The findings would be circulated to representatives of the other working groups for them to be incorporated into impact statements and policies. Some findings are expected to be of direct interest to the Academy and other participating schools.

- AOB

Arden Academy will be holding an information day regarding its development plans on February 1 2017.

MM noted that there had been critical comments on social media regarding the future of the land currently used by MIND. He confirmed that it is intended to retain these 3½ acres for the current community project.

- Future meetings of the Group.

It was agreed that future meetings of the Group would be called as required. This would include an opportunity to discuss the LLCF Policy Paper when it was closer to its final version.

DRG – January 2017