

<b>Minutes of:</b>	<b>RAMSBOTTOM, TOTTINGTON AND NORTH MANOR TOWNSHIP FORUM</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11 July 2013
<b>Venue:</b>	Christ Church Walmersley
<b>Councillors:</b>	Councillor I Bevan (Chair); Councillors S Carter, J Columbine, J Daly, L Fitzwalter, I Gartside, D Gunther and K Hussain
<b>Advisory Group Representatives:</b>	Dr Falmai Binns - BRIF/Hawkshaw Residents' Association Emily Kay – Youth Representative
<b>Public attendance:</b>	16 members of the public were in attendance
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Councillor Y Wright and Gina Ball (Ramsbottom Traders Association)

---

#### **RTNM.200 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### **RTNM.201 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

##### **It was agreed:**

That the last Meeting of the Township Forum held on 5 June 2013 be approved as a correct record.

#### **RTNM.202 MATTERS ARISING**

- (i) Further to Minute RTNM.65, "Nomination of Chair and Vice –Chair", the Forum passed a Vote of Thanks to Councillor Gunther who had been Chair during 2012/13.
- (ii) Further to Minute RTNM.64, "Vintage Markets at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Councillor Columbine provided an update following a meeting involving key personnel. There would be an increase in the number of permitted markets from one to two, but requests for further such markets had met with resistance from Bury Market.

Local Councillors would pursue the matter and a Freedom of Information Request had been made in order to obtain sight of the Market Charter.

**It was agreed:**

That a Council representative be requested to attend the next meeting of the Forum to discuss the matter further.

**RTNM.203 BURY PUBLICATION CORE STRATEGY**

David Wiggins, Principal Officer for Development Planning, gave a presentation to the Forum on the forthcoming consultation on Bury's Core Strategy. Following approval of the document for consultation at Council on 3 July 2013, the consultation period would now run from 2 August to 13 September 2013. Any comments made at this stage would be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2013 and considered at an Examination which was anticipated to be March 2014, with adoption in September 2014.

In response to questions invited from those present the following issues were raised:-

- A question was raised as to whether a petition being organised in Hawkshaw against wind turbines could be submitted as part of consultation on the Publication Core Strategy. David Wiggins stated that this could be done.
- That previous comments made by Walmersley residents had not been responded to by the Council. David Wiggins stated that previous submissions made by the Walmersley Residents Action Group have been specifically responded to in various Responses Reports and comments made at the Second Draft Stage will also be responded to in a similar Responses Report that will be available when consultation on the Publication Core Strategy commences.
- It was felt essential to integrate the Core Strategy with policies being developed by AGMA regarding the siting of wind turbines. David Wiggins responded that he had investigated the existence of an AGMA policy on wind turbines but was informed that no such policy existed. However, he would be happy to receive any information on any such policy and would investigate the matter further.

**RTNM.204 CONSERVATION AREAS**

David Marno, the Council's Development Manager, informed the Forum as to the Conservation Areas which existed within the Borough and how planning applications within such areas may require additional consents over and above planning permission due to such areas being safeguarded under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act.

In response to an invitation to ask questions the following issues were raised:-

- A draft list existed of buildings of local interest but this held no statutory weight.
- Officers within the Planning Division are qualified and are capable of

dealing sensitively with applications within Conservation areas such as Holcombe.

- In March 2012, the Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework, replacing all previous planning guidance issued in PPG's and PPS's. The effect of this is that national guidance is far less prescriptive than previously, leaving the level of requirements in terms of depth and detail to be locally determined. Decisions are based on Planning Law, national and local policy.
- Statutory consultations are provided on reasonable request but were not available for the public to see on-line.
- Applications in respect of shop frontages in a Conservation Areas were dealt with on their own merits.

#### **RTNM.205 TOWNSHIP PLAN – FEEDBACK FROM THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

David Thomas, Township Forum Manager, gave a presentation on the outcome of June Discussion Groups in shaping the Township Plan. The following key themes had emerged and the development of these was considered:-

- Employment / Worklessness / Training
- Crime & Perceptions of Crime
- Health & Wellbeing
- Rural Issues / Promoting Outlying Areas
- Community Cohesion & Integration
- New Priorities

The next steps would now be to meet with Advisory Group representatives, elected members and key partners; to identify 4 or 5 key priorities for inclusion in the refreshed plan; and to present a new plan at the September Township Forum.

It was reported that Inspector Williams had been unable to attend tonight's meeting but would be present at some future meetings.

Keith Conley of Ramsbottom Rotary explained projects undertaken with local schools which would complement the aim of the Township Plan.

#### **RTNM.206 OPEN FORUM**

- Kevin Winch of Care for Elderly informed the Forum as to the aims of his organisation in tackling dementia in the elderly.
- A meeting was being held in Ramsbottom Library on 20 August 2013 to discuss the launch of a credit union.

**RTNM.207 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next meeting of the Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor Township Forum would be held on 12 September 2013 at Ramsbottom Civic Hall.

**COUNCILLOR I Bevan**

**Chair**

**(Note: The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.40pm)**