

Note for discussion at HSNF AGM July 8th 2021

Draft Neighbourhood Community Action Agenda 2021-25

The Forum's work through 2020 established a baseline for a transition from preparing the Neighbourhood Plan to implementing its policies and projects from 2021 onwards.

It created the platform from which the Forum will continue to work with its 300 members, other residents' groups and community stakeholders to maximize local influence on the city planning and property development processes which will transform our area over the next 5 years.

1. WHERE WE ARE NOW

The Forum originally intended to resume face to face engagement with local residents and community stakeholders in 2020, to fully share the final amendments to the Regulation 14 Draft Plan Part, following our 2019 consultations, before submitting it to the Council. This was envisaged as the starting point of the referendum campaign and would have centred on a 10th trademark Have Your Say Day, with associated leafleting of the whole Neighbourhood Area and the circulation of a Neighbourhood Plan Summary. But the amended Regulation 16 Draft Plan had not been agreed with the Council when COVID Lockdown in March 2020 prevented such engagement activities.

However, a Hove Station Community Hub Group meeting in December 2019 had been attended by 25 residents and 4 ward councillors and had taken forward the proposals for Hove Station Community Hub 1, which were then incorporated in the final Neighbourhood Plan Part 2. Moreover, the Forum submissions on the second MODA application in February 2020 and the Watkins Jones Hove Gardens Project in August 2020 were circulated by e-mail to all members and supporters.

Finally, at the end of 2020 all Forum members were invited to a Hove Station Master Plan virtual consultation meeting which the Forum organised with council officers and their consultants in January 2021. The final version of the Council Master Plan will be considered by the Council in September,

In the context of these activities, the Committee has been encouraged by the continued, albeit very gradual, net growth in Forum membership, which topped 300 earlier this year.

The AGM is the Forum's second virtual community engagement event of 2021,

The planning framework for the development of the Hove Station Quarter now comprises City Plan Part 1, Draft City Plan Part 2, Draft Hove Station Neighbourhood Plan Part 1, Part 2 and Consultation Statement, together with the Council's Draft Master Plan. The Forum will continue to engage with the Council in the processes which will lead to the approval of these draft Plans.

After six years voluntary effort since the designation of the Forum, the Draft Neighbourhood Plan will now move to an Independent Examination and a Referendum which, if successful will lead to it being adopted by the Council.

2. AN EVOLVING ACTION AGENDA FOR SUMMER 2021 ONWARDS

The 2021 AGM will initiate a marked shift of emphasis in the Forum's activities from planning to project development and delivering action on the ground.

This shift will involve the Forum working more closely with ward councillors to promote the interests of the local community as the transformation of our area gathers momentum. Working within its Constitution, the Forum will establish a new set of working groups which will be supported by an upgraded website, a more active Facebook page and a bi-monthly newsletter.

a. Monitoring and engaging with major developers

This project will focus on developing the working relationship with the major developers, The Forum will hold the developers to their commitments which they made when submitting their planning applications to be 'good neighbours' and positively support the emergence of a physically and socially integrated green Hove Station Quarter. Early priorities will be creating clear channels of communication when construction begins and establishing joint working to assist the Council's efforts to secure funding for the second footbridge.

b. Community Hub Action Projects

The Community Hub groups which produced the Neighbourhood Plan proposals will be reconstituted to develop and deliver Community Hub Action Projects. Their work will be to review the Neighbourhood Plan and Master Plan proposals in order to identify priorities for the 'early investment' proposed by the Master Plan and to secure public investment commitments from the Council and encourage investment by local businesses. This work will focus on developing the NP Community Hubs as key components of a '15 minute' Hove Station Quarter

c. Community Energy Project

The government is developing a post-Covid Green Deal which provides incentives for homeowners to reduce their energy consumption and install solar panels. The city is now prioritizing achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. In this context a working group will explore resuming the Forum's early partnership with BHESCO to re-establish the Community Energy Kickstart project to develop a Green Deal for the Neighbourhood Plan Area.

d. Campaign Projects

Since 2015 the Forum has developed its campaigning capacity. Much of what needs to be delivered to create the Hove Station Quarter will require some form of campaign, which may include further petitions,

- **Referendum campaign.** The Forum needs to convince several hundred residents that the NP is worth voting for, on the basis of the positive influence it has already exerted in the interests of the local community and the enhanced influence it will have when it is approved,

- **Traffic management and parking.** The cumulative impact of the major development in Hove Station DA6 and Toads Hole DA7 requires a new area-wide traffic management and parking scheme as proposed in Neighbourhood Plan Part 2. The threat of increasing congestion and air pollution is real and a campaign to voice local public opinion would find considerable support. This could include early action to demand the regulation of the Fonthill Road and Newtown Road 'rat-runs'.

- **Community Infrastructure Levy - the 'neighbourhood portion'.** A significant proportion of public funds for public realm improvements in the Neighbourhood Plan area should come from the major Hove

Station Quarter development projects, now underway. But the processes are not transparent. This is an issue for other groups in Hove and elsewhere in the city and will need public pressure to bring about change.

3. FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISION TO THE REALITY OF AN EMERGING GREEN HOVE STATION QUARTER 2021-2025

Overall, the process of preparing the Plan has enabled the local community to develop its capacity to much more fully engage in and influence the ongoing transformation of the Hove Station area which was set in train by the City Plan 2016

Thus the Neighbourhood Community Action Agenda 2021-2025 will focus on strengthening the prospects of realising the Neighbourhood Plan vision of a green Hove Station Quarter as a place:

- with a **varied built environment**, combining its high-density 19th century terraces and villas and 20th century Clarendon and Ellen tower blocks, with the high quality 21st century mixed use re-development of underused 'brownfield' sites;
- which will be home to a **diversity of social groups** and provide a range of **modern employment opportunities** for Brighton and Hove residents;
- with a **distinctive identity** which is enjoyed by both long-standing residents and newcomers in owner-occupied dwellings, alongside tenants in both private and social rented housing;
- where the development of Community Hubs provides the basis for a '**15 minute**' quarter which provide residents access to a large proportion of their of their day-to-day needs within a short walk, scooter or bike ride from their homes;
- with movement focused on the **sustainable public transport hub** of Hove Station, improved, **accessible routes for pedestrians and cyclists** and **minimal 'rat-running'** by through traffic;

Mike Gibson

July 6th 2021