



AGM January 31st 2023 7.30 Ralli Hall

Attendees

A total of 42 persons signed at registration, including 4 guest speakers

Apologies – Roz Scott and James Blakey

Committee Membership 2023 -2024

Committee officers elected

Chair	Mike Gibson – nominated by Neil Stevenson, seconded by Helmut Lusser
Vice-Chair	Carmen Appich - nominated by Helmut Lusser, seconded by Sue Gibson
Secretary	Neil Stevenson - nominated Sue Gibson, seconded by Helmut Lusser
Membership Secretary	Robert Glick - nominated by Mike Gibson, seconded by Neil Stevenson
Treasurer	Sue Gibson –nominated by Neil Stevenson, seconded by Helmut Lusser
Committee Members	Helmut Lusser, Chrissie Sloane, Jon Turner. Lessia Mulka. Natasha Silsby. Cllrs. Jacqui O’Quinn (Goldsmid Ward), Marianna Ebel (Goldsmid Ward)

Minutes of the AGM 8 July 2021 had been previously circulated and were agreed.

Chairs’ Report Mike Gibson

This was presented in the form of a power-point presentation – attached to these minutes and the Chair thanked the Committee for their support. He reviewed how the Neighbourhood Plan had evolved through the 10 years since the formation of the Neighbourhood Forum. He explained that the Examination of the Plan had been paused with a request for further information but was due to be

resumed in March, with a Referendum expected in the Autumn and final adoption by the City Council before the end of the year.

The report also emphasised that now the major housing projects were under construction the balance of the Forum's work would shift to promoting and supporting community-led projects that contribute to the development of an integrated Hove Station Quarter which straddles the railway line. These include the continuing campaign for improvement of the footbridge and working with the MODA Community Liaison Group to secure S106 developer funds for pocket parks.

Treasurers' Report Sue Gibson

Income

Locality Neighbourhood Planning Grant

Grant allocated	£3,600.00
-----------------	-----------

Expenditure

Public liability insurance	£148.00
----------------------------	---------

Zoom subscription	£100.72
-------------------	---------

Corner Site Computing web-site host	£180.00
-------------------------------------	---------

M Whelan consultancy services	£1,600.00
-------------------------------	-----------

Total expenditure	£2,028.72
--------------------------	------------------

Unspent balance returned	£1,571.28
---------------------------------	------------------

Current balance	£15.49
------------------------	---------------

It was explained that the funds returned had been applied for to be used before March 31st 2023. But that this would be the last government grant from Locality as we will have completed the Neighbourhood Plan.

Discussion

Having completed the formal AGM business the chair introduced the guest speakers

David Scane and Craig Mackenzie from the Watkins Jones **Hove Gardens** development gave an update on the progress of the project which would be starting to welcome its first tenants in the autumn. He stressed that visitors would be welcome to look around and that the improved Conway Street and steps would be open within few weeks. He expressed appreciation of the excellent work of the Forum and their engagement in the project through the Community Liaison Group, and took questions from the floor.

The Chair read out the following letter from James Blakey the MODA Planning Director who had contributed to Forum Have Your Say Days but was unable to attend

Good Evening All – apologies that I am unable to attend the AGM today given the rail strikes which are taking place nationally. The regeneration of the former Sackville Road Trading Estate and Coal Yard as a new neighbourhood within the Hove community and Hove Station Quarter is progressing well, and we hope to welcome our first residents into their new homes at Christmas this year. As hopefully many of you will know the regeneration plans also include the provision of new streets, a central boulevard and squares, together with senior living homes, cafes and restaurants, offices and a day-to-day convenience store. As part of the planning permission, a Section 106 legal agreement identified significant sums of money to be given by us to the City Council and for these to be spent on a range of items including education, transport, and recreation.

We formed the Community Liaison Group, which includes the Hove Neighbourhood Forum, about 18 months ago and we have all worked hard to secure a list of truly local projects amounting to over £1M which the City Council has now agreed to fund from these Section 106 monies. This has not been an easy process. Nevertheless, this work continues so hopefully further funding can be secured with the Forum, your ward councillors, Peter Kyle MP, the Hove Civic Society, and various other community voices playing a key role. On behalf of Moda and our newly appointed Hove Central General Manager, Katja, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Mike and the Forum team for their continuing support and enthusiasm which is hugely appreciated. We hope you enjoy the evening. Thank you.

Geri Silverstone, a MODA consultant who organizes the Community Liaison Group then took questions from the floor

Liz Hobden, BHCC Head of Planning set out the Council's position in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan and the City Plan policies and took questions from the floor

The discussion was lively and initially focused on the scale and height of the housing projects under construction and the Forum's relationship with the developers. Two or three vociferous critics argued that 'Hove has been ruined' and that the Forum had 'been in league with the developers'. The Chairman explained that the area had been designated by the City Council for further high rise development and that the Forum could not change that, However it could and did press for Hove Station Quarter approach which both the developers and the Council had eventually bought into. On a show of hands the meeting agreed that whilst the extremely high blocks were unwelcome high rise development was acceptable.^{pm}

The Chair thanked the guests and the attendees for their contributions closed the meeting at 9.15