

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

25 March 2009

Attendance:

Councillors:

Nelmes (Chairman) (P)

Barratt (P)

Berry (P)

Fall (P)

Hicks (P)

Higgins (P)

Hiscock (P)

Love (P)

Mather (P)

Maynard (P)

Mitchell (P)

Pearce (P)

Pines (P)

Sanders (P)

Stephens

Tait (P)

Thompson

Worrall (P)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Beckett (Leader)

Councillor Cooper (Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety)

Councillors Bell and Jackson

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 March 2009, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr A Weeks commented on the number of rough sleepers in Winchester and recommended that a seminar be held with all the relevant agencies, to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the new Emmaus Centre and the new Trinity Day Centre.

The Chairman thanked Mr Weeks for his comments, which were noted.

3. **YOUTH OF WINCHESTER - PRESENTATION**

(Oral Report)

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Ms Malyha Ahmed and Ms Felicity Stonehill whose presentation is available electronically [here](#).

In summary, their presentation explained that Youth of Winchester was formerly known as the Winchester Youth Council, and they set out its aims and goals and its involvement in campaigns. These included improving access for young people to public transport and leisure facilities, installing a pedestrian crossing at Osborne School, and improving public perception of young people. With regard to bullying, Ms Ahmed explained that Youth of Winchester was in the process of forming a sub-group that would examine why the problem still persisted in schools, despite a proliferation of anti-bullying initiatives.

Ms Ahmed and Ms Stonehill also explained that the change of name was designed to make the new group more approachable for young people and that it drew its membership from eight local schools across the District.

During questions, the Forum noted the successes of events attended by the Youth of Winchester at the St Mary's Stadium in Southampton and at Abbey House, Winchester.

Ms Ahmed explained that pupils were able to join from Year 7 and served one-year terms. The Forum discussed the problems of achieving a degree of continuity from those who served on Youth of Winchester when their term of office was for one year only.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

4. **STREET REACH – PRESENTATION** (Oral Report)

Councillors Fall, Love and Tait declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in this item through their involvement in the Street Reach Management Committee. All three spoke and voted thereon.

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Ms Kezia Hoffman who gave a presentation.

In summary, this explained that Street Reach was formerly known as the Winchester Detached Youth Charity and received funding from a variety of sources, including the Forum, Hampshire County Council and Awards For All.

The Group consisted of a team of seven part-time workers and a management board of ten. Street Reach worked with approximately 450 young people, whose ages ranged from 11-25 year olds.

Street Reach delivered two detached youth nights per week and was considering establishing a third evening to be run from a local café. Ms Hoffman explained that detached youth nights were non-building based

youth work, which met on the streets. Street Reach offered young people, amongst other things, trips and courses, advice on drugs and bullying and monthly football matches against local PCSOs. She also highlighted the April 2008 WeekeFields music and arts event, which had been organised by Street Reach (with support from other groups) and had attracted approximately 1500 young people. More recently, Street Reach had been working to provide spaces for young entrepreneurs to provide them with an opportunity to showcase their talents.

Ms Hoffman underlined Street Reach's commitment to partnership working, which included its close links with the University of Winchester, who provided Street Reach with a number of volunteers.

In response to questions, Ms Hoffman explained that the Council could do more to encourage greater partnership working and increase funding to ensure the on-going success of the Group and to finance a full-time post. She also commented on Street Reach's proposals for a development by River Park Leisure Centre, Winchester.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

5. **NORTH WINCHESTER YOUTH ACTION - PRESENTATION**
(Oral Report)

Councillors Berry, Fall, Love and Worrall declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in this item due to their involvement in the Group. All four Councillors spoke and voted thereon.

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Ms Clara Sanjar and Ms Ali Ramsden who gave a presentation, which is available electronically [here](#).

In summary, this explained that the North Winchester Youth Action (NWYA) had been formed to fill the gap in facilities for 11-18 year olds in the areas of Weeke, Harestock and Teg Down. The Group was run by five committed volunteer adults, who were all parents from the area.

So far, NWYA had held two registration evenings, which had attracted 11 young people and the organisers were working towards a launch night to be held in April 2009.

Although Henry Beaufort School had been very supportive to NWYA in providing space hitherto for the group, NWYA were pursuing the development of a purpose built building. It was hoped that this would provide space for an after-school play group, enable more pre-school school provision, a community café, a function room and a conference room.

The Forum also noted that NWYA was affiliated with a number of local youth groups and had formed links with the Adult Education Centre in Weeke.

In response to Members' questions, NWYA explained that they would welcome any support the Council could give in attracting new volunteers to their group.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

6. **CONCLUSIONS FROM THE ABOVE PRESENTATIONS**

Following the above presentations, the Forum invited all of the representatives to answer questions and join a discussion about youth issues in Winchester.

From this it was noted that, whilst current support of the Council and its officers was appreciated, further funding support was required.

The Forum also noted the importance of reliable public transport to young people.

At the conclusion of debate, the Chairman invited the groups to participate in the Safer Neighbourhood Panel. The Forum also agreed that the Chairman should discuss with officers the best way to forward the issues and concerns that had been raised.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman and officers be asked to consider the best way to forward the issues and concerns raised by the Groups in their presentations above.

7. **FULFLOOD GREENING CAMPAIGN**

(Oral Report)

Councillors Barratt, Love and Worrall declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in this item as they had been involved in the establishment of the Campaign. All three Councillors spoke and voted thereon.

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Mr Phil Gagg and Ms Eleanor Waterhouse who gave a presentation, which is available electronically [here](#).

The Greening Campaigns were devised by a Petersfield resident, Ms Terena Ploughwright, who had devised a template to encourage residents to take simple steps to reduce their carbon footprint and generate debate about environmental issues.

Greening Campaigns were already underway in Alresford, Olivers Battery and Colden Common and the first meeting of the Fulflood group in February 2009 had been attended by 60 people. This meeting had asked residents to identify eight tasks (such as turning TVs off stand-by and reducing washing machine temperatures) and challenged residents to complete these tasks within six weeks. Residents would be provided with challenge cards which, when completed, they could display in their windows to encourage neighbours to reduce their carbon footprints.

During discussion, Mr Gagg explained that he would support the introduction of Greening Campaigns in other areas of Winchester.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

8. **WINCHESTER COLLEGE: CAMPUS CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**
(Oral Report)

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Mr Peter Wilson and Ms Debra Ivory (Adams Hendry Consulting Limited), Mr Kim Wilkie (Landscape Consultant), Mr John Wells (Winchester College Works Bursar) Mr Graham Roberts (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust) and Dr Rue Ekins (Natural England).

Mr Wilson gave the Forum a presentation, which is available electronically [here](#).

In summary, this explained that the College had publicised the document to its neighbours and wider community and welcomed comments before its deadline of 23 April 2009. Once all the comments had been received and analysed, the College would submit a revised document to Cabinet in the hope of it being informally endorsed and forming guidance for future planning applications.

He explained that it was a framework document, rather than a masterplan, reflecting the importance of flexibility in the timing and precise nature of any proposals.

Mr Wilson highlighted the significant opportunities regarding the possible redevelopment of land near the PE block, Kingsgate Road, New Hall and associated car parking, the Domum Road boathouse, new riverside footpaths and Blackbridge Yard.

In response to questions, Mr Wilson explained that the College did not anticipate a significant increase in the number of pupils attending the school over the 10-15 year lifetime of the document. Mr Wilson also noted concerns raised by a Member regarding the special character of Domum Road.

Mr Wilkie and Dr Ekins commented on the proposals to re-instate the water meadows. It was explained that this type of habitat was rare and important in terms of the number and variety of flora and invertebrates. The planting of alien species, such as American Wingnuts, had the effect of drying out the meadow and destroying the natural habitat. The College proposed removal of shrubs and undergrowth but the retention of the significant willows.

The Forum discussed public access to the water meadows and Mr Roberts commented that the College had links with Natural England and the Hants and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust who had already worked in partnership locally, in particular on the re-instatement of Winnall Moors.

Mr Wilson stated that, although some grant funding might be available, it was likely that there would be considerable costs associated to the works on the water meadows. Therefore it was probable that the College would look to other developments in the document to enable these works.

Mr Wilson also commented on the College's proposals for Wellington House, Kingsgate and the adjoining 1960s property. He explained that the demolition and re-development of the 1960s properties were likely only to be practical if it also included the redevelopment of Wellington House (a nineteenth century former hotel), the internal layout of which was unsuitable to the College. However, the College would be sensitive to public comments regarding the retention of Wellington House.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

9. **NOTES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER'S MASTERPLAN MEETING, HELD 24 FEBRUARY 2009**
[\(Report WTF128\)](#)

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the public meeting of the Forum, that discussed the University of Winchester's Masterplan held 24 February 2009, be approved.

10. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN**
[\(Report PS 362 refers\)](#)

The Forum noted that the issues raised by the youth groups above could be considered by the Youth Facilities Informal Scrutiny Group.

The Forum also noted the proposed major gas works to Bar End Road and requested that Members be informed of road works within their Wards and the importance of avoiding two major roadwork schemes being undertaken at the same time.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

11. **VOTE OF THANKS**

As this was the last meeting of the Forum in the current Municipal Year, Members passed a vote of thanks to its Chairman and Councillor Nelmes reciprocated accordingly, adding her thanks to both the Forum and officers' for their support throughout the year.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 9.00pm

Chairman