



NEWPORT PAGNELL NORTH & HANSLOPE CONSULTATIVE AREA FORUM

Wednesday 2nd July 2014

7.30pm

**Hanslope Village Hall
Hanslope**

MINUTES

Attendees:

Cllr Andrew Geary	Ward Councillor Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope
Cllr Jeannette Green	Ward Councillor Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope
Cllr Lynn Patey-Smith	Ward Councillor Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope
Cllr Phil Ayles	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Cllr Geraldine Sweetland	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Cllr Gavin Lancaster	Hanslope Parish Council
Cllr Carol Hayward	Hanslope Parish Council
Julian Vischer	Haversham Parish Council / Stoke Goldington Parish Council
Cllr Phil Winsor	Newport Pagnell Town Council

Also in Attendance:

Rob Ward	MKC Business & Liaison Manager
Heather Baker	MKC Business & Liaison Officer
Patrick Connolly	Ringway

1. Election of Chair for this Meeting

Cllr GL welcomed everyone to Hanslope to the new Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Area Forum.
He proposed that Cllr PA took the chair for this meeting seconded by Cllr PW.

2. Apologies

Cllr Don Cook	Hanslope Parish Council
Cllr John Keane	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Jonathon Beverly	Gayhurst Parish Meeting

3. Minutes of the last Meeting (previously Circulated)

Minutes for Hanslope Area Forum were agreed and minutes from MKNE Area Forum were available for all to see.

4. Matters Arising & review of Actions

PA asked how the Sustrans path could get funding as there is no identified budget. RW said that it was a Right of Way and the vegetation would be cut back 2-3 times a year other than that there is no available funding.

The failure of planning not sending out notifications to residents was raised again. RW to check with D Hackforth. R Caddock has been asked to notify parishes when any work was to be carried out on play areas. Marked vans should help to identify that the work is being carried out by MKC.

Hanslope Pond – conditions have been signed off by planning when they should not have been Cllr JG has spoken to planning and is waiting for them to check this out. Hanslope Parish wish to take over the pond but need it to be restored before this can happen. Keep as an open item on the agenda. PW stated that something similar had happened at Newport Pagnell. Representation needs to be made to planning.

Public Access – nothing has come back regarding a user forum. RW is having regular monthly meetings and is pressing for a user's forum. Representatives of the forum did not think that it had improved in the last few months. RW told them to feed information back, the mapping will be improved shortly. Streetlight reports seem to be working.

The forum thought that the front page of the Councils website was very poor and not

Actions

RW

RW

HB

user friendly. Keyword searching is problematic. The planning pages are not clear, have small print and are in no logical order. If there are specific issues please let RW/HB know.

ALL

The forum requested that Patsy Mellor attend the next meeting

The helpdesk do not seem to be very helpful. You get a reference number but never get anything else any feedback.

Programme of highways works has never been received by Parishes.

RW

There was praise for highways who came out 2 hours after an accident at Forrest Road Hanslope.

5. Introduction to the New Highway Contractor

Patrick Connolly from the Ringway Contractor introduced himself and gave a presentation on how the new contractors work – see attached

The Hub is based at Synergy Park, Bleak Hall where the focal point is co-ordination of work, risk management efficiency and effectiveness.

He explained how an enquiry is dealt with. The crew's use PDA's and when the enquiry has been completed on site this will generate and email to the customer.

The contractor works to defect intervention levels but if they pick up multiple repairs where not all are at intervention level. They have to check with the client (MKC) that these can be done all at once. More efficient than having to go back and close the road again later.

It was asked how realistically is it that works are being delivered after being reported. PC replied that defects above intervention are repaired within 28 days. There are also 24 hour and 2 hour repair times depending on the nature of the defect.

It was asked why roads are being closed without any notice. GS was on a bus when it came to a road closure and the driver did not know where to go without missing out some of the route. Are bus companies notified?

RW

If there is an emergency will Ringway be able to do what is required i.e. lorries to block roads etc. PC replied that if the police contact us we would not people at risk.

The forum asked if there were any special arrangements for parishes and councillors to report issues. MKC provides a single service to the community. Parish Councils can set up an account so that any councillor can report issues.

7. Public Realm Service Group

It was decided to take all agenda items prior to discussing the new forum.

RW informed the forum that the landscape contract was awarded to Serco and the new contract will commence 3rd November. This is to allow MKC to complete the grass cutting schedule. Serco can start with the winter pruning.

Andy Hudson will attend the next forum in October; the forum asked if someone from Serco could also attend.

It was asked if everything will be put to standard before Serco take over i.e. weed spraying of hard surfaces.

Operatives have been working on Saturdays trying to catch up. The weather we have had has made the grass grow vigorously and this year has been more challenging even more so than a couple of years ago.

The forum reported that many signs are being covered by vegetation and obstruction speed signs. Important signs such as speed signs should be kept clear.

Many in the forum believe that the landscaping was not very good this year.

RW thanked JG for her kind words at the last Parishes Forum about John Pryor. The

new Service Director will be Mike Hainge who will start on 4th August.

8. Updates

Tathall End Flood Alleviation Works

Kate Davison has sent updates to the 3 affected parishes.

Cllr AG expressed concern that the critical bund (across the bridleway) seemed to be slipping. This is the one that captures water from the M1 and It needs to be in before the winter. The alleviation will not work unless all bunds are done together.

9. Any Other Business

None

6. Proposal for New Area Forum

The name of forum at the moment is the same as the Ward, there was discussion on what name it could have but it was decided on keeping it as the same as the Ward. PW asked what the purpose of the forum was and was it fir for purpose and what the core business of the forums is. NP meet up with Ward Councilor's on an ad hoc basis to deal with issues.

It was pointed out that the rural Parishes value the Area Forums; they believe the Parishes Forum is very regimented and not as relevant to the rurals. The purpose is to tailor discussions around local issues where smaller parishes can work together.

After lively discussions it was decided to continue with the Area Forum and adopt the practice of the hosting parish would chair as in the former Hanslope Parish Forum. PA and HB to come up with a draft proposal for Terms of Reference to be distributed to members to be approved at the next forum meeting – see attached (page 5).

PA/HB

10. Date Venue and Topics of next meeting

The forum noted the suggested dates of future meetings as follows:

Weds 22 nd October 2014	7.30pm	Haversham Social & Community Centre
Thurs 22 nd January 2015	7.30pm	Castlethorpe

Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Park Consultative Area Forum

Terms of Reference

1. To meet as a group comprising of Ward Councillors for the area and representatives from the Parish Councils to respond to consultations and to comment upon local issues relating to council services and other related matters.
2. To receive comments from the general public on these issues.
3. To raise and feedback comments or concerns on local services.
4. To comment upon matters raised for consultation by Milton Keynes Council and other bodies relating to the Forum area.
5. To make recommendations to Milton Keynes Council and other bodies.
6. The Forum will meet four times a year and Parish Councils will ensure that dates of the Forum meetings are advertised widely to members of the public.
7. The chair will be taken by the hosting parish.
8. All members of the Consultative Area Forum to have equal speaking rights and in the event of a vote, each parish will have one vote.
9. All meetings will be open to the public.
10. Meetings will be administered by Milton Keynes Council.
11. Items for the agenda must be with Business & Liaison at least 4 weeks prior to a meeting.
12. Terms of reference may be amended or developed with agreement of the Forum.

Reporting arrangements:

Recommendations from the Consultative Area Forum will be fed into the Milton Keynes Council via regular reports to Cabinet, Ward Councillors, Local Councils and Officers, and other bodies as appropriate.