

**Minutes of Launch Meeting Queen's Park Neighbourhood Forum**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 6:15pm – 7:45pm**  
**Woodpecker Café (Queen's Park Pavilion)**

Welcome

Julie Currin, local resident, welcomed everyone to the Launch Meeting of the Queen's Park Ward Area Neighbourhood Forum.

34 people were present at this Launch Meeting.

31 of those present were members of the Neighbourhood Forum

*(people meeting the qualifying requirements of living in, working in, or being an elected Councillor for the designated area; and having submitted their contact details agreeing to be signatories to the Neighbourhood Forum.)*

Overview of Neighbourhood Planning / Neighbourhood Forum's Development to Date

Julie Currin, local resident, gave a presentation explaining the history of the Neighbourhood Forum's development to date, including a brief overview of Neighbourhood Planning.

*This Powerpoint presentation is available to review on our website – [www.queenspark.org.uk](http://www.queenspark.org.uk)*

Discussion Groups

The Launch Meeting then divided into four groups, each with a theme for open discussion.

One person from each group then fed back key themes to the meeting.

These discussion topics were:

Access to Outdoor Space	<i>Feedback from Sarah Middleton</i>
Heritage & the Public Realm	<i>Feedback from Sandy Morris</i>
High Street / Charminster District Centre	<i>Feedback from Sarah Newell</i>
Housing	<i>Feedback from Tony Still</i>

*Bullet point notes from these discussions are captured at Appendix One.*

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Neighbourhood Forum Launch Meeting was also its Inaugural AGM. The principal business of this AGM was to elect people to the four officer roles identified with the Neighbourhood Forum's Constitution, namely:

- Chairperson
- Vice-Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer

*(\* FYI - The Neighbourhood Forum Constitution is published at [www.queensparkforum.org.uk](http://www.queensparkforum.org.uk))*

Tony Still chaired this part of the meeting and invited nominations for the Chairperson role, which was elected as follows:

Chairperson: Julie Currin

Proposed by Sandra Morris  
Seconded by Sarah Newell  
Elected unopposed

Julie Currin took over the chairing of the meeting and invited nominations for the roles of Vice Chairperson; Secretary and Treasurer, which were elected as follows:

Vice Chairperson: Tony Still

Proposed by Julie Currin  
Seconded by Mark Anderson  
Elected unopposed

Secretary: Roger Tomlinson

Proposed by Sarah Middleton  
Seconded by Julie Currin  
Elected unopposed

Treasurer: Sarah Newell

Proposed by Tony Still  
Seconded by Heather Currin  
Elected unopposed

### Thank You and Next Steps

Julie Currin closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their active participation – given that the meeting conflicted with the England v Belgium match in the football World Cup, the turn-out had been impressive.

It was an encouraging indication of the support which exists locally for the production of a community-led Neighbourhood Plan.

She reminded people that, whilst it was great to have the four elected officers in place, this work needed the efforts of a much wider group of people.

She suggested that there were many ways in which people could involve themselves in the work of the Neighbourhood Forum and stressed her hope that people would take the opportunity to do so.

These include:

- Being a member of the Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group
- Chairing a Working Group to lead discussion / work on a particular topic
- Being a member of a Working Group to contribute to discussion / work on a particular topic
- Joining in ad-hoc activities (eg a Heritage Walk / Place-Check activity to walk round our area and identify its strengths & weaknesses)

- Undertaking ad hoc tasks (eg delivering leaflets, taking photographs of our area, manning a Neighbourhood Forum stall at local events)
- Anything else – all ideas / willing volunteer effort welcomed!

Julie Currin requested that anyone who felt that they were able to give some time to support the Neighbourhood Forum (no matter how great or how sustained) should please contact [queensparkforum@hotmail.com](mailto:queensparkforum@hotmail.com) to indicate their willingness to help.

#### Date of Next Meeting

A date has not yet been set for the next meeting of the Queen's Park Ward Area Neighbourhood Forum, but this is likely to be in Autumn 2018.

#### Keeping In Touch

- Complete Survey (Positive Consent – GDPR) -[www.queenspark.org.uk/survey](http://www.queenspark.org.uk/survey) (join us)
- [www.facebook.com/queensparkforum](http://www.facebook.com/queensparkforum)
- Email – [queensparkforum@hotmail.com](mailto:queensparkforum@hotmail.com)

*The meeting closed at 7:35pm*

## **Appendix One – Bullet Point Notes from Discussion Groups**

### Access to Outdoor Space

The need to keep wildlife corridors was the first point discussed. These are being threatened by development which fails to include green space.

The main discussion took place around the open space between the pavilion and Queen's Park West Drive. This is a valuable community resource, used as informal playing fields and as a picnic area. This area does not have the same status as the golf course (which is covered by the Five Packs Act).

Playing fields have some protection from Sport England who want to keep space for exercise but this may not be sufficient to prevent development, as the council are under pressure to use open space to provide homes. It has in the past been mooted that part of this land could be built upon, using developers' money to improve other areas. The group felt that this would not be acceptable to residents who see this land as a valuable community asset.

There is a well-documented history of Queens Park which could be better spread and should be taken into account going forward.

Some of the main users are dog walkers and this area could be made more dog friendly in the style of Talbot Woods provision. There can be a tension between dog walkers and the other Park users but they provide a very useful function as eyes and ears which helps to keep the park safe. Queen's Park is perceived safer than Kings Park according to the residents' survey of two years ago.

### Heritage & the Public Realm

Residents value the historical nature of the area and want to preserve the characteristics which attracted them to buy within the ward.

- There was a keen desire to preserve heritage and period property, in particular the facades of the larger Edwardian properties, which give the streets and avenues their character.
- Destruction of period property for new build small flats should be discouraged to avoid all avenues becoming more like Richmond Park Road.
- Discussion also centred around ideas for maintaining the characteristics of the roads in upper Charminster (i.e. Nortoft Road etc). Ideas included making family homes a priority and introducing guidelines or standards for the exterior of homes.
- It was thought that Boscombe and Pokesdown NP was a good example of how keynote and valued properties could be identified and preserved from development. Maybe walkabouts could contribute to this activity, also consultation with residents about identifying properties near them or school projects.

The Public Realm; this area cuts across most of our key themes:

- Charminster shopping area is an area which could be identified as needing improvement. It was suggested that the village vibe could be re-created through community activities.
- Traffic and parking was the main issue of concern within the public realm.
- Minimum national space requirements for housing should be enforced it was thought some properties have become rabbit warrens housing numerous people particularly in upper Charminster near to the shopping area. Council should engage in identifying any unlawful or unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

## High Street / Charminster District Centre

### Ideas:

1. Parking
  - a. Better road marking for parking in side streets including diagonal bays on wider roads – Cllr Anderson advised that creating diagonal parking bays alongside the cemetery (Iddesleigh Rd) had previously been discussed with Talbot & Branksome Woods Councillors, but despite all agreeing this was a good idea, this had not been taken forward at the time.
  - b. One way streets with limited time parking near shops – Cllr Anderson advised that one-way streets have been discussed, but the general view from police and traffic officers is that they create as many problems as they solve (eg encouraging 'boy-racers')
  - c. Better enforcement of parking restrictions (traders have habit of pulling up outside their shops and blocking buses etc.)
  - d. Creation of a car park – Cllr Anderson advised that enquiries had been made about forming a car park where Tyreland now is when that property was up for sale, but council officers did not think the costs versus potential income made it a justifiable business case.
2. Retain current public transport and look at expanding into side roads e.g. Bennett Road service.
3. Business Mix
  - a. Limit on same type of businesses e.g. hairdressers/barbers
  - b. Limit late night opening to midnight
4. Understand needs of students in the local area
5. Create a more family friendly environment
  - a. Once a year festival
  - b. Monthly Markets
  - c. Pedestrian only areas including side roads

## Housing

The question of how we felt about any increase in housing numbers/density (as a principle) was discussed.

This led to discussion around issues that are already an issue and that would be exacerbated by such an increase.

The problems include parking, already felt to be saturated in parts of the neighbourhood.

Traffic is a related issue and is already heavy bordering on dangerous around schools at arrival/departure times due to parents' vehicles and parking attempts.

There was also concern around some HMOs and the behaviour of their residents.