



Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum – Committee Meeting, 14 May 2018

Minutes

Present – John Gillett (Chair), Jonathon Cummings, Caroline Oliver, Paul Edwards, Gordon Banks, Bonnie Overlander, Zoe Samuelson, Val Duschinsky, Roger Tichborne, Elliott Simberg, Laithe Jajeh, Lachyya Gurung, Golnar Bokaei, Mike Barker (minutes).

Apologies – Christina Wong, Peter Neil, Richard Logue, Susan Connolly, Suzanne Brett

Welcome – John welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first for a couple of months due to the council elections. John welcomed, in particular, the new councillors and wished them well with their new responsibilities.

New Pentavia Retail Park proposals –JG said that following the GLA review of the December application a further set of submissions was expected soon which addressed the criticisms made by the GLA. As ever we would need to review a large amount of documentation when it became available. It was however not clear when the application would finally be reviewed by the Barnet Council Planning committee.

Whatever the timetable the Forum would object yet again given the scale and mass of the proposed development and its detrimental impact on the suburban landscape of Mill Hill.

Hasmonean School – Since the Mayor had blocked the planning application to build a new school on Green Belt it was known the school were considering next steps. JG noted that, formally, Barnet Council had not yet refused the original application.

IBSA and Watchtower sites – JG said that under permitted development rights the IBSA building was to be turned into a block of 221 dwellings and this development did not need to go through a formal planning application. The Forum looked at some of the plan drawings. These indicated that many of the flats looked small. Also, it was not clear how easy it would be to evacuate the building in the event of an emergency. It was hoped Barnet Council, through its use of building regulations, would ensure these and other questions would be properly addressed. The future of Watchtower House meanwhile remained unclear. We would need to factor proposals once they became clear into our neighbourhood plan, especially if the proposals had a “knock on” effect on the Mill Hill Golf Club/Courtlands school area.

Planning applications - Both the Sweetree Farm and St Vincent’s school applications would be going to the Planning Committee soon and we would need to consider the implications of the decisions made by the Committee.

Neighbourhood Plan and London Plan – Mike summarised the position on the Neighbourhood Plan and also the London Plan. There was a lot of material to digest and Mike agreed to circulate documents and drafts to the new Councillors.

80 Daws Lane/Community Hub – JG summarised the current position with the proposed new community Hub. A building design had been agreed and work continued with a “community right to build” local referendum pencilled in for the Autumn. With a fixed price build likely to be around £3 to £3.5m and £1m to be granted by the Council, there was still some significant work to be done to get other grants and loans to cover the rest of the cost. The Hub team would also need to consider the new Copthall masterplan and its proposals for Mill Hill park.

Mill Hill Broadway shops – JG reviewed the current position. A number of premises remained vacant including all the ex-banks. Whilst there were possible new users for some of the vacant shops nothing had yet been confirmed and in at least one case – Dominos taking over the old Lloyds bank building, this was thought to a bad proposal as we already had too many fast food outlets.

Town Square and Salcombe Gardens - JG noted that the town square was almost finished and that Salcombe Gardens now had its new trees and seating. Both were tangible examples of what the Forum had done for the Mill Hill area.

Next meetings

1. 25 June
2. 23 July
3. 20 August
4. 24 September

Mike Barker – 25 June 2018