

# Notes from Hyde Park Interim Forum 'Vision' Meeting Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015 7pm, Cardigan Centre

**Present:** Cllr Walshaw, Jenna Riley (Community Planner LCC), Lauren Gittins, Howard Eaglestone, Amanda Jackson, Dawn Carey Jones, Sue Buckle, Lydia Blundell, Bill McKinnon, Mohammed Hafeez Yaqub, Michael Gyi, Nick Brighouse, Rev Joanna Seabourne, Barbara Mitchell, Jane Westwood, Adele Beeson, Ying Ho, Jill Settingington, Mick Jolley, George Bradley. **Apologies:** Ian Mackay (Neighbourhood Planning Manager LCC), Cllr Walker, Cllr Pryor, Mary Osborne, Pravin Dayalji, Nathan Clarke, Peter Rider, Amit Roy, Janet Bailey, Jen Carlberg, Marian Charlton, Pav Akhtar, Ibrahim Omar, Cath Nelson, Cath Adams.

Note: A lot of people want to be involved who have evening commitments. We should have some daytime and weekend meetings. It's OK for people to come to meetings as little or often as they can.

Minutes from January 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 Meeting were circulated.

## Discussion About Vision for Hyde Park

There was a long discussion about what the Vision for Hyde Park should be. JR provided samples of visions from other areas and HE provided a draft about our area as a starting point. Cllr W and JR let us know that the vision needs to be quite short, though the consensus throughout the meeting was that we need to make sure our vision is clear and rooted in specifics. During the meeting it became clear that Hyde Park needs a far reaching plan. JR suggested we have a vision followed by 3 or 4 objectives and that the Vision for Hyde Park might need to be bolder than in some other areas.

There was a lot of discussion about the massive amount of difference that would be made to our area if noise and cleanliness were dealt with properly as they are two crucial factors which have driven people away.

There was discussion about how it was important to preserve our built and green environment because people already living in Hyde Park live here because they like the built and green environment. Cllr W said that Woodhouse Moor is the jewel in the crown and that some of our Victorian villas are unique. There was talk of regeneration and the consensus of the meeting was that our built environment should not be knocked down and replaced with something new. Some of our old houses will last far longer than the new ones. There was talk of the Royal Park School being knocked down and replaced with nothing and the fact that our area has a dearth of community accessible sports facilities - indoor and outdoor. Children are playing sports in the street and a lot of time it's raining.

We have two landlords involved at the moment - Steve Rowley and Peter Rider. It was suggested that 2View also be asked

It was suggested that another strand of the plan could be variety of businesses. Hyde Park currently has a lot of fast food outlets and letting agencies.

It was suggested that we have opportunities for a skills centre and the way streets are laid out and that we had to accept that there would be development of our area but we needed to have input.

Also suggested was the need to think about what children and teenagers need, including sports facilities, but other things as well. We don't have much for children or teenagers in Hyde Park. The Brownie and Guide Packs at St Augustine's are full. When there are opportunities they are used.

It was suggested that getting the university involved with community sports for children and teenagers in the area would help but only if there was somewhere for sports activities to take place. As Cllr W said and the meeting agreed with, we have a very built up environment with very little open space that isn't already being taken up being something already good.

Another idea was a module for university students about community living.

There was a suggestion that the plan should include something about the university and innovation and about the jobs bringing students who want to stay in the area.

There was talk about the vision needing to balance ideas and possibilities with things that already exist, for example the conservation area and culture; for it to be tied to reality, not just a set of adjectives underpinned by nothing; for it to be short but to also include practicalities; to be tied to reality rather than a vague hope. Detail could be covered in the content of the plan but the vision needed to be real.

Cllr W agreed that the vision could begin by saying what we wanted Hyde Park to be but then underneath saying how. The plan can contain the technical planning content such as conservation and allocation of areas for business, for example, the area from the Ashvilles to the bottom of the plan, between Cardigan Rd and the train line could all be allocated to employment to prevent it potentially being bought by property developers in the future when we already have a lot of housing. The plan can build up a physical mosaic of land use that ties in with the vision.

There was a question about process: When do we start saying at such and such a time we're going to start looking at such and such a thing? It was agreed that Jenna would draft a rough vision, then it would be circulated and commented on, and then there would be a vision writing only meeting (open to anyone) where whoever wanted to work on the writing of it could hopefully produce a final draft.

JR is going to check whether the vision needs to be finalised for the Forum Designation application form. Once the vision is finalised topics can be planned and there can be as many sessions as are needed about each topic.

The point was raised that one of the key words talked about but not defined was sustainability: It's very important to define what we mean by sustainability, and other words, in the vision. We need to define what a fit place to live is. It doesn't have to do with whether a building is old and the feeling of the meeting was that the need to knock down old buildings in the name of sustainability should be challenged, especially when what usually replaces old buildings is inferior. The feeling again was that precision was needed – we need to be precise about what is fit for purpose.

It was said that we need to learn from past mistakes in Hyde Park such as the knocking down of the old Brudenell School, the Royal Park School and the former LGHS sports facilities, none of which have been replaced by something better.

It was also mentioned that a community is not sustainable if 90% of its population is transient. Linked to this, if housing standards are defined and maintained, then even people living in the area for six months might want to stay longer or take more of an active part in the community.

A national study from a few years ago was mentioned. This study had found the Headingley area to have the biggest anomie (feeling of not belonging) of anywhere in the country, largely down to not having a balanced spread of age groups in the area.

Also about use of the word sustainability: It was mentioned that planners have in the past said that the PBSA tower blocks in Little Woodhouse are sustainable because students could walk to university from them, and the planning application to build houses and a supermarket on the site of the indoor sports facilities and hockey pitch in Hyde Park also said this was sustainable – if we use that word we need to be clear what we mean by it.

It was suggested that the vision from Marmsbury could be a good starting point for ours: "We wish to make our neighbourhood an even better place to live, work and visit. We wish to sustain or enhance the beauty and vitality of our neighbourhood and make sure our infrastructure is capable of supporting us" but there was acknowledgement that our area is not as rich as Marmsbury.

It was also suggested that Nottingham The Meadow's vision might be a good place to start: "To make The Meadows a sustainable neighbourhood, providing housing of quality and choice in a prime location. To create strong connections to the City Centre and surrounding areas with well laid out, safe and attractive routes through the neighbourhood. To make the most of its natural assets, creating a pleasant environment with good quality, well maintained, open and green spaces. With well run public services that meet local needs and a range of excellent facilities for the community, The Meadows will be a place where people choose to live and work. To ensure that regeneration delivers real local benefit to residents in terms of education, training and employment, and attracts new residents. To help build a vibrant economy and community, where residents are engaged in decisions that affect their quality of life."

Words that the meeting wanted to include in the vision were:

- health
- sport
- culture (entertainment, religion etc)
- residential
- preservation
- unique
- inclusivity
- diversity
- future
- sustainability (with no rogue uses!)
- gateway
- innovation

Cllr W and JR were asked if the council had a strategic vision for our area. If they do, we need to know what it is. We need to get demographic data and know what policies relate to our area. JR said that she could provide data about what sites in our area had been designated for retail, housing, employment etc.

DCJ let the meeting know that we had received a grant of £2900 to spend on setting up a web site, meeting rooms, letter sending etc, but mainly to be able to employ planning consultant Ying Ho who was going to be looking at planning policy.

YH said she would be focusing on how to tie the vision into existing policies.

DCJ gave an update on the 11<sup>th</sup> February meeting which was held specifically to move the forum application process forward and had been attended by nine people: there had been agreement about adopting the constitution prepared by Little Woodhouse Interim Forum for their group and Jenna and Neil had agreed to get the application filled in - in draft form - for Ian Mackay to look at before it is finally submitted. This was subject to agreement by this larger meeting, which there was.

YH, LG and SB arranged to go for a walk around Hyde Park next week.

## Things To Do

JR	to look into whether we can use a draft vision for the forum designation application, to speed things up
JR	write draft vision
NW	find population statistics for the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Area
JR	find out what different places in our area have been designated as

## Next Meeting

For anybody who wants to help write the draft Vision: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm til 9pm, Cardigan Centre. Date for larger meeting not set.