

MINUTES

KRLG Group Meeting

Wednesday 7th February 2018

In Attendance

Mark Hood, Lucy Athey, Fran Long, April Clark, Steve Coulstock, Emma Hood, Jane Hood, Paul Gurney, Frani Hoskins, Jan Lacey, Carl Marten

Formal Organisation

We are now a formal organisation with a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and committee members, with a constitution that specifies that members will not profit from the funds raised by the group. AC outlined her research into possible bank accounts and it was agreed by all that we will open an account with Metro Bank (who have a branch in Tunbridge Wells). The four officers (Mark Hood, April Clark, Lucy Athey and Steve Jackson) will be signatories on the account, with April Clark solely responsible for our online banking account.

Action: April Clark to start the application process.

Legal Challenges

Following TMBC's response to our letter sent via our solicitors in December we have been advised not to go further down the route of a judicial review. A possible challenge to development could be that River Lawn is adjacent to the High St which is an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA); in November the case of Gladman Developments vs SSCLG & KPRE (Kent) ruled against a development of 300 homes because of the adverse effects this would have had on air quality. Although not directly on the High St it could be argued that the developments nearby (the former SOS nightclub conversion, the medical centre, the flats on Avebury Avenue and a potential development on River Lawn among others) would have a similar effect. FH queried whether this challenge would be possible with us leaving the EU in 2019, however it was agreed we should investigate this further as it is unknown what will happen after we do leave.

MH has sent a letter on behalf of Barden Residents Association asking them to consider the Gladman case when considering planning applications and has also asked TMBC environmental officers for relevant policies.

<https://cornerstonebarristers.com/news/important-air-quality-judgment-handed-down-ndash-gladman-developments-ltd-v-ssclg-cpre-kent-2017-ewhc-2768-admin./>

Registering Footpaths on River Lawn & Village Green Application

Jane Lloyd has submitted the application to KCC; we are still awaiting a response. Village Green application has not yet been submitted. Our researchers have not yet dug up any pertinent information in their trips to Maidstone, the Tonbridge Free Press is on microfiche at Tonbridge Library unfortunately this is now closed for three months. CM recently read some Labour Party minutes from the early 1960s which stated that RL should be set aside for rallies and gatherings.

Medical Centre Planning Application

MH pointed out that Assura seem keen to push through development on the medical centre, with lots of new planning documents on TMBC's website and that TMBC are likely to want to resolve this before the 2019 council elections. MH has asked again about the tree survey that should be done on River Lawn. The latest planning documents on TMBC website do now acknowledge that River Lawn flooded in 2013. MH met with a local flood warden who confirmed that in addition to water from the Medway, River Lawn also receives water via drainage systems from the Meadow Lawn area.

Tactics & Campaigning

Steve Coulstock has drawn up some thoughts on the route ahead (previously circulated) which were considered by all. The planning application idea is a key point as it would force councillors to take a position (and say why they were rejecting it) on River Lawn and give us a platform to say something positive about it. It was agreed a next step would be to put together a vision document on it including artist's impressions to capture our supporter's imaginations. Funds of approximately £400 would be needed for the planning application. Also discussed were fundraising and family days on RL, plus "Local Organisation" days which could involve the Council, support and help groups, local amenities and activities for young people.

Fundraising & Events

The planned benefit gig by Fallen Leaves may not be possible as the band can only play Saturdays and our proposed venue (The Telegraph Club) can only be hired on a Friday. It was agreed we should instead organise a fundraising disco (along the lines of the recent Tonbridge Calling Winter Warmer) at the start of April.

Action: MH to research the availability of the venue.

Our next event is the weekend before Easter on **Sunday 25th March**, provisionally named "Spring into Action" or "Easter Egg-stravaganza!". This fundraising event will involve a children's colouring competition (they will be asked to draw their visions of what could be at RL), Easter/Spring crafts, Easter egg hunt/trail. It was also agreed to hold a music themed event in the early summer.

Action: Sub-committee to meet Monday 12th March to plan the Easter event further, hopefully this can be in The Nelson Arms if open by then.

Action: Paul Gurney to create a poster for us when provided with information.

AOB

- The Area 1 planning committee are meeting on 22nd February, the agenda for this is only published a week before so we are unsure what will be discussed as yet.