

Community Board Meeting
13th July 2023, 5:30–7:05 pm

Attendance:

Community Board Members: Lesley Charlton (Chair), Councillor Olly Wehring, Keith Thomas, Poorvi Mehta, Ayshwarya Madhureshan, Elaine Taylor, Malcolm Wood & Iman Abdulle (minutes)

Guests: Kelly Shirley

Apologies: Councillor Davey, Councillor Skipwith, Khalid Ramany

1.

Minutes and Actions.

The minutes of the previous Community Board meeting were reviewed and agreed upon as a true record.

The action log was reviewed with the following matters discussed.

- Themes for the road/blocks had been received from Community Board members. The themes to be progressed with RBK's naming team are: nature, industry, Cambridgeshire villages, field names, endangered species, countries/capital cities
- Summary report: This will be made available once reviewed.

2.

VSCE: recommissioning of the Independent advice service for CRE residents

RBK Strategic Rehousing Lead (KS) was welcomed to the meeting to introduce this item and led a discussion on the scope/brief that will be used in the procurement process. KS informed the Board that the contract with PPCR, the Independent housing advisory service for CRE, ends in February 2024.

The service they currently provide to residents who are being rehoused is:

- advice and support
- providing a second opinion
- act as a mediator between the council and residents.

The contract is coming to an end and evidence from monitoring reports indicates that the services required by the residents have now changed. For example, the demand for the service as scoped was very low and when residents were contacting PPCR in many cases it was for information which is easily accessible.

	<p>It is expected that the procurement of the new service will start in September/October time.</p> <p>KS presented a draft specification of services that the new provider will provide for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will only provide support to residents who have been given notice of rehousing and to leaseholders in current buyback phases. 2. This is proposed to be a referral-only service. 3. An independent appeal panel member will join the appeals panel as and when appeals are submitted. <p>Board members had several questions on this:</p> <p>One member asked who decides the referral basis, KS informed that the regeneration team would decide and no one would be rejected. This is only to weed out the non-regeneration queries and only make it available to residents in the relevant phases.</p> <p>Some Board members had some concerns about this as it appeared to be “gatekeeping”. One board member said that residents should be able to contact the advisory group without going through the council. Kelly advised that residents may use other advocacy routes such as councillors, friends and family.</p> <p>Another board member suggested that they may use a triage telephone service instead, For example, press 1 for the regeneration question and press 2 for advice.</p> <p>Board members also questioned the costs involved with the independent advisory service. Kelly informed the Board that they were paid hourly, but in the new proposal there is a retainer which the council will pay and if their demand is greater than that then their costs will increase.</p> <p>There was a discussion around value for money for RBK. The previous commission had been tightly managed to ensure transparency and value for money. It was noted that the new proposal may be more expensive than the previous commission because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it may be accessed by residents when information could be readily available from the CRE team. - the retainer is paid whether or not anyone accesses the service. <p>KS advised that the draft specification needed to be submitted by the end of August. ET to seek the capture feedback/lessons learned from the Phase 1 review, if possible before the specification is finalised. ACTION</p> <p>KS confirmed that she will use all the feedback to update the specification and will circulate the revised version.</p>
3.	Presentation: The Planning Process

	<p>MW gave a presentation to the Board on the planning process. This covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-material amendments ● Minor material amendments ● Standalone applications ● Reserved Matters applications ● Parameter plans ● S106 Obligations ● CIL/MCIL <p>Essentially, not all things require planning permission but pretty much everything on the CRE requires planning permission and goes through a very thorough and detailed process.</p> <p>A member requested that the presentation be circulated. ACTION.</p>
4.	<p>Update on Community Chest</p> <p>ET gave an update on the Community Chest in the absence of SN.</p> <p>SN is meeting with all the successful Community Chest applicants to date and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Both application forms for the Community Chest have been reviewed and updated following feedback and were presented for discussion.</p> <p>In particular, it was noted that the smaller grants application has been simplified to make it more accessible to the community.</p> <p>The changes to the large grant were to remove duplication/overlap of questions.</p> <p>A board member asked whether there is an online version of the application and if there needs to be a review on whether £300 is enough. ET confirmed that both forms are available online on the CRE website.</p> <p>After discussion, the board concluded that the proposed streamlined forms should be agreed upon but keep the value limit for the smaller grant applications and reconsider the value limit at a future meeting. ACTION</p>
5.	<p>Regeneration Update</p> <p>Two questions were raised in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Bull & Bush: The Council is currently in negotiations with the owner of the Bull & Bush and options with regards to its temporary use, post buyback, will be explored once negotiations have progressed further.</p>

	<p>Garages: RBK is reaching out to all garage users but not all garage occupiers live on the estate and the circumstances of every garage occupier is not known. The Council is supporting all garage occupiers in seeking alternative garage space if this is required.</p>
6.	<p>Newsletter suggestions (15 mins)</p> <p>Board members wanted to know when the next newsletter will be distributed.</p> <p>MW also informed the Board that two large cranes are due on site in the second week of August. Residents will be notified.</p>
7.	<p>AOB (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LC will be on sabbatical for 3 months from September to December. A Chair would be needed whilst she is away. - KT and PM will alternate. - The date of the next meeting is September.

Action	Item	By	Update
1.	Put the Wi-Fi password on the Next Agenda	Next board meeting	
2.	Community Board requested the planning process slide show	Next board meeting	
3.	Capture feedback/lessons learned from the Phase 1 review, if possible, before the ITHA specification is finalised.	31 August	
4.	Review the £300 value limit for the small grant programme	At the end of year 1 of community chest	
5.	Board members wanted to know when the next newsletter is	Next board meeting	