



Report of the Co-Chairs, June 2026

Introduction

This time we have decided to hold the AGM online, and it looks likely that this will be the Forum's final meeting. The Neighbourhood Plan has now passed the last hurdle and been adopted by RBWM.

The Forum was designated for 5 years, which expires in December 2027. Having delivered the plan, the majority of the officers and committee members intend to stand down. Unless there are enough offers to form a new management committee compliant with the constitution, we believe that the most appropriate action now is to wind up the Forum.

In the time left before expiry, one role for the Forum could be to monitor the application of the now-agreed policies if people were willing to take on the role. However, monitoring planning applications is already done by Maidenhead Civic society, and the effectiveness of MNF's policies can be done as part of this without needing the Forum itself to exist.

Summary

The key points are given here as bullets, with further explanation in later sections.

- The Referendum result was a resounding 90% Yes, in favour of the plan
- The Maidenhead Neighbourhood Plan has now been formally adopted by RBWM
- It is now time to wind up the Forum

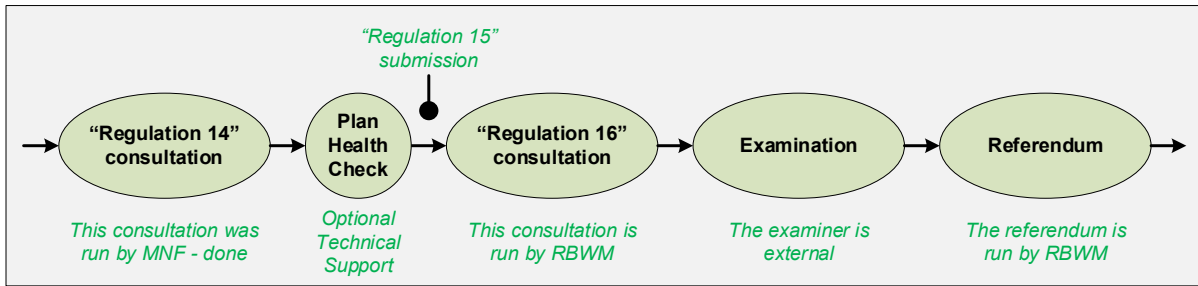
Running of the Forum in 2025-2026

To take the plan from a mature draft to an adopted version, in practice almost all of the work fell to the Management Committee, with help when requested from the Topic Groups. We kept our Forum members updated via the website, and there was no clear need to hold whole Forum meetings.

We have maintained a good working relationship with the RBWM Planning policy team, and later on with the electoral team for the Referendum – a wholly new area for us.

Refining the plan, being examined and the Referendum

At the last AGM in 2025 we were working through the changes recommended by the optional "Plan Health Check", where our plan was subjected to a trial examination. This was useful, and identified among other points that the maps needed improvement. We should record here a special vote of thanks to Gill Evans, who put in sterling work of very high quality to provide the maps we now have.



The formal “Regulation 16 consultation” run by RBWM generated some feedback and resulted in a few updates, but no major changes. With that behind us, we submitted the plan for Examination and waited anxiously for the outcome. The first stage of this was a set of questions from the Examiner, both to ourselves and to RBWM, which give an initial indication of things that may get changed.

The responses from MNF and RBWM differed on some topics, and it was agreed that we should address this by submitting a joint MNF/RBWM position statement. Agreement makes it likely that the Examiner will accept the proposal, whereas disagreement means the examiner will make his own choice, which is binding and non-negotiable.

We were pleased to find that the final list of modifications was fairly short, and no policies were deleted. The key modifications were:

- For the 80% 3 bed and above dwellings outside the Town centre, flats are allowed
- Default retention of Non-Designated Heritage Assets was not allowed
- Encouragement of Biodiversity Net gain >10% removed

We were pleased to keep the Net Zero policy, Biodiversity Net Gain being local, the Waterways policy, all the Green Spaces, and our Town Centre/Out-of-Town zoning.

And so to Referendum, a wholly new experience for MNF and one we had to address without any funding grant. We made good use of both social media and the Maidenhead Advertiser, who were very supportive, and used a simple “postcard” summary to get our message out:

There was also a steady stream of questions about the plan and its policies, as many people were seeing them for the first time. Some queries were framed as “why didn’t you..”, but most questioners were appreciative of a proper response.

It was interesting to find afterwards that we had unknown ambassadors for the plan in various informal and friendship groups across the town, which had clearly helped the positive outcome.

Ongoing community engagement

Our main line of communication with our members and supporters continues to be our email database which comprises about 450 people, and we have sent nearly 100 items since 2019. MailChimp analytics show the "Open Rate" for our emails is around 50-55% against an average in the sector of 38%.

Our Facebook Page has over 1000 Followers (was 200 in 2020), mainly driven by the posts we share on the Maidenhead Future discussion group, which we administer. The overlap between MailChimp and Facebook is unknown.

We were pleased to have continuing editorial coverage in the Maidenhead Advertiser, which helped our campaign to reach far more local people. The editor took the project very seriously and included detailed reporting during the development period, especially in the weeks leading up to the referendum (see picture).



Funding & support

We did not apply for any funding in 2025-2026 because we had cumulatively spent the majority of the maximum available under the Government scheme.

The timing of conducting the Maidenhead Neighbourhood Plan process has indeed been fortunate as the Government has now ceased providing funding.

Management Committee

Over the year 2025-2026 the Management Committee, whom we warmly thank for all their hard work, has been:

- Andrew Ingram and Ian Rose (Co-Chairs)
- Sue Ingram (Secretary)
- Nicola Stingelin (Treasurer)
- Mark Fessey
- Andy Woodcock
- Richard Davenport
- Donna Stimson
- Judith Littlewood

Winding up the Forum

Given that almost all the current officers and committee members intend to stand down, we put out a request on 4-May-2026 asking if any Forum members wanted to stand for officer or committee member positions, and explaining that our constitution requires a minimum of 5 committee members including all 3 officer roles. By the deadline of 14-May we had an offer from Mick Jarvis to stand as Chair, and an offer from Nicola Stingelin to stand as Treasurer. There were however no other offers. We sent out another e-mail extending the deadline to 25-May, but again there were no other offers.

As it will not be possible to form a Management committee compliant with the constitution, and there is clearly insufficient interest to do so, we propose to wind up Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum as per the constitution paragraph 12.2 *“The Forum may be dissolved if deemed necessary by its members in a majority vote at the AGM, an EGM or SGM”*.

A motion to dissolve the Forum is therefore included at the 2026 AGM.

Ian Rose and Andrew Ingram

Co-Chairs

Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum