



MAIDENHEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM MEETING RECORD – JUNE 7TH 2022

The meeting was held at Desborough Bowling Club, Maidenhead at 7pm. Thirty people attended, mainly those Members who had signed up at the level “I would like to take part”, plus some Supporters who had selected “Keep me informed”. Three Councillors from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead also attended.

In addition, approximately six people joined the meeting remotely on Zoom and both a video and audio recording of the meeting are available, as are the slides shown on the night.

Introduction – Andrew Ingram, co-Chair, MNF

This focused on RBWM’s improving engagement with MNF, the “democratic deficit” faced by the town, and the ways in which MNF had sought to keep interest in the project going during the pandemic and the lack of progress with RBWM. MNF has about 450 supporters on database, plus Facebook followers have risen from 200 to 800 in two years.

A Neighbourhood Plan for Maidenhead – Ian Rose, co-Chair, MNF

This talk outlined where NPs fit within national and local planning policy, the boundaries within which NPs must work and the way ideas for policies must be filtered. NPs can focus as many or as few policy areas as are deemed important and where the Forum has enough resource – active mainly people and money - to do the development work. Myths about NPs were discussed.

The original Maidenhead and Cox Green forum developed some policies, but there will need to be new consultations once the MNF group has achieved designation.

Windsor NP – Claire Milne, Alison Logan, Susy Shearer

Windsor NP explained the hurdles they had to negotiate on the way to Designation and then a “made” Neighbourhood Plan. These covered people, data analysis, mapping, politics and grant funding – all of these have a vital role in developing successful NP.

More successful areas for the Windsor NP have been in the natural environment, appearance/heritage, transport, housing/community and working/shopping.

Benefits of an NP included greater clarity on requirements for planning consent, better decisions by officers, and also upskilling residents in planning issues. Windsor NP has had

some successes and some disappointments. Neighbourhood Forums are supposed to have a say in the way CIL is spent, but a mechanism for this has not been agreed by RBWM.

Questions from attendees included mapping, influencing SPDs, representation of diversity on the Forum, improving decisions about appearance of proposed new buildings, and recent proposals for enhancing the role of Neighbourhood Plans in planning decisions.

The formal meeting closed at 8.40pm, and informal discussions continued.