

Knighton Neighbourhood Forum

Update for Knighton Ward Community meeting on 6th August 2019

Since the last Ward Community meeting in February there have been a number of changes to the Knighton Forum Steering Group. Simon Bennett resigned the Chair in May and Ruth Cheney has taken over this role. Simon served as Chair since 2015 and had been the main driving force behind establishing the Forum. However he continues to be involved in two of the Forum's Working Groups. Dennis Foxon, Geoff Whittle and Matt Stevenson have continued in the Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer roles respectively.

Membership of the Steering Group has been expanded. In April Chris Willmott was co-opted and at the Annual General meeting on 29th May a further three new members joined the Steering Group; Andrew Oldershawe, Tim Hartshorne and Debbie Sawday.

Grant funding

A successful application for grant funding has been made to Locality, administrators of the Neighbourhood Planning Programme which is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. An award of up to £6,288 has been granted which will largely be spent on consultancy support for the development of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Public meetings

So far the Forum has held two public meetings this year with guest speakers. In February Flood Risk Manager Philip Thompson spoke about the City Council's flood risk management plan. At the AGM in May Hannah Wakley from Leicester Friends of the Earth introduced their Healthy Air Manifesto.

Working Groups

Four working groups are currently in progress, developing draft policies which are then discussed with the appropriate Council Officers. The Council has provided some helpful advice about further evidence and the documentation we will need to include in our Neighbourhood Plan.

Two pieces of work are planned for the **Housing and Planning** working group to provide evidence for our proposed policies. Firstly local estate agents will be consulted to ascertain the supply and demand for housing in Knighton. Secondly a face-to-face survey of local residents is planned through knocking on doors of randomly selected homes on each road within the Area.

The **Heritage and Conservation** working group was addressed in May by Paula Burbicka from the Council's Conservation Team. Paula is currently undertaking a character appraisal for the Knighton Village Conservation Area. This working group is considering whether the existing conservation areas within Knighton should be extended or whether it is more appropriate to seek 'Article 4' protection for some areas. A number of heritage walks have been held and more walks are planned. Work is also underway to create a photographic library of Knighton. The social media application 'Flickr' is being trialled as a potential online host for the library.

The **Open Spaces** and **Transport** Working Groups have both continued to meet and produce draft policies that were discussed with Council officers, now at the stage of gathering further evidence.

Consultations

The Steering group undertook a public consultation in Knighton Park on Sunday 26th May, a first use of our voting boxes using coloured balls. We intend to use this device to gather public views outside local schools, shops and other locations.