**Notes & Actions**

**The LERF meeting**

**Thursday 17 March 2022 – 1830**

**In Spotlight**

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| **In Attendance:**  Rev. Steve Hallett – SH (Chair) LERF  Mariee Wymer – MW (Vice Chair) LERF  Craig Boult – CB LERF  Paul Burton – PB  Cllr Ed Hume – EH (BFSTC) LERF  Halima Saeed - HS LERF  Margaret Preston – MP  Oliver Mytton – OM (Health & Wellbeing)  Stephen Bryant – SB (Community Engagement Officer MKC)  **Apologies were received from:**  Lauren Jeffrey - LJ LERF  Jessie Gilsenan – JG LERF  Nina Sweetland - NS (Education Rep & Health/Wellbeing Group) LERF  Samantha Goodwin - SG (Interim Community Partnership Officer for the Lakes Estate, MKC)  Rahul Mundray - RH (Development Manager, MKC)  Will Rysdale – WR (Head of Housing Delivery, MKC) |
| 1. **Welcome, Introductions and Meeting Conduct**   Steve (SH) welcomed everyone to the meeting asked people to quickly introduce themselves for the benefit of SB, who was taking the minutes in SG’s absence.  Introductions– New people names to Steve for minute taking  SH then introduced Oliver Mytton (OM), Deputy Director of Public Health for MKC who would be speaking later in the meeting about Health on the Lakes. |
| 1. **Chairs Reflections**   SH reminded everyone that the purpose of the group is have a stronger community, have a clear voice on renewal and regeneration and this involved working with MKC and that everyone living and working on the estate was welcome at the meetings.  SH went on to say that the last time they met was in February when members reviewed what had happened over the last 12 months and began looking at the priorities for the coming year, which included Parking, Repairs and Street signs, Health & wellbeing and fly tipping.  SH explained that they were planning to have a ‘Community Day’ to tidy and clean signage in the area. This would include noting down signage that is missing/broken to pass onto MKC. He said there was no date in the diary yet, but they were looking at May/June time.  MP commented about signage in her street, and it needs to be replaced.  SH said there were increased activities in areas and mentioned the Lakes Club funding. He reminded attendees about Bingo on Friday and Saturday.  SH went onto mention the new Grasmere Play Area which was now open and asked for feedback.  MW said it has been rammed everyday with residents from all over the estate using it.  CB asked about the old play areas and said that young people have been using it, setting it on fire and teenagers using it for intimate reasons.  CB referred to the Tenancy Agreement about young people making undue and loud noises and said he sas made complaints to MKC  ?? mentioned that young people using the park may be from families of homeowners.  SH concluded his reflections by saying that he was still waiting for the fly tipping plan from Nick Hannon. |
| 1. **Minutes & Actions from the last meeting – January 2022** |
| **3a. Play Spaces and Courtyard Update**  SH read update from SB  **Play area update**  Grasmere play area is now open and being monitored by the Council’s play team. They will be resurfacing the access footpath to the play area next week to complete their works. The Serco Team will also be overseeding areas of bare earth to get the grass re-established. We hope the children are enjoying the new play space!    The next Play area to be constructed will be Bala Way and works are due to start on site at the end of the March / first week in April. This is the pirate / treasure island themed play space and will take approximately 1 month to complete. The supply issues have been resolved and all the Bala Way play equipment has now been delivered to Milton Keynes. However, as we have said previously the works continue to be impacted by a shortage of skilled labour. We need to wait a week or so for the contractor to finish their current works before moving back on to Bala Way.    Skene Close will be constructed in May followed by Gorman in June at the latest. All equipment has been ordered; however we are still impacted by the shortage of labour, but will get all play areas constructed as soon as we possibly can. We hope the weather stays dry to assist with the construction phase.    **Courtyards:**  The new planters have now been delivered and will be installed in the courtyard A’s in the coming weeks. There will be a delay between the planters being installed / filled with topsoil and the plants going in. This is to ensure when the plants are delivered, we are ready to plant them straight way to ensure they stay healthy. Repairs are being carried out to the damaged brickwork, which will continue throughout March into April.  The new seats for the Courtyard A’s will also arrive at the end of March and will be installed early April. We hope to have all works in the Courtyard As completed by the end of April.  The clearance works within the Courtyard B’s continues and once the Courtyard A works are completed we will review the Courtyard B areas and plan the next stage of improvement works.    We are moving forward in the right direction; it is just unfortunate we don’t have the man power to get the improvements on the ground as quickly as we would like.    CB asked whether there would be any repair work for the other areas. SH said there is a work plan for the walls.  HS asked a question about the court yards  PB mentioned about the trees having low hanging branches and how they obscure the light when outside.  CB asked what is happening with the landscaping plans.  EH said they are pushing for changes on HRA. |
| 1. **Regeneration and Public Realm Update**   SH read out the regeneration update received from RM. Pre-Tender Design Following the completion of the ground investigations, the pre-tender design work for Phase A, of the Lakes regen project is also nearing completion.  The pre-tender design work has involved the production of detailed design drawings for the 202 new homes, community space and nursery, to be constructed in Phase A and it will form the basis of the information that will be used for going out to tender.  As part of the tender design process, Milton Keynes Council has been reviewing the proposals to ensure the contractor can deliver the new homes as efficiently as possible.  The latest updated architectural plans are currently on display at the Spotlight Community Centre. Tender Process & TimescalesMKC is expecting to go out to tender during the second half of March through a two-staged process.In the first stage, MKC will seek to select a preferred contractor through a competitive process. Once a contractor has been chosen, during the summer, the second stage will commence.The second stage will involve the selected contractor producing a fully comprehensive set of proposals for the 202 units in Phase A, together with detailed costs.Subject to the final approval of the total cost figure by the council in the Autumn, it is expected that the contractor will be appointed and will start-on-site as soon as possible after that.Acquisitions Updates MK Council has approved, as a precaution, a legal decision which will give it powers to compulsorily purchase any non-residential properties, or land, it needs to as part of the project.  The Council needs to obtain these powers on legal grounds - but hopes not that it will not need to use them; as the aim is that the council will be able to purchase any land needed, by negotiated agreement. As such, this would purely be a fallback measure.  **Planning Update**  Discussions with the planners on the MoU are progressing well and we expect to have a final agreed document in place by the end of March 22.  There was a conversation about price rises and delivering material and whether this would effect what is going to happen.  MW asked about the new Community Hub and whether there would still be one. She went onto say that it would be nice to see ZA at the LERF meetings.  **Action**   * SG to ask RM whether price increase would affect the regeneration programme * RM to provide details about the new community hub * ZA to attend next LERF meeting |
| 1. **Better Health, Better Lives – Oliver Mytton (OM)**   OM introduced himself and explained why he was at the meeting. He went on to say that they have looked at figures and spoke to GPs in area. to identify issues which include smoking, weight loss, sexual health, drug and alcohol addiction. Have decided that smoking & weight loss are first place to start. Working on plans for services in the area and would like feedback, this would involve working with professionals, residents and GPs but needs to be a tailored approach.  PB said he was an ex-smoker and had found it hard to quit.  CB said he had medical issues that had made him quit.  OM explained about the ‘Cease Smoking’ initiative to help people quit smoking. It is a 10-week programme but where should it be held? Would people prefer 1-2- 1sessions or groups? What is the best way to promote the programme? Do people think it would make a difference?  MP asked what the programme would offer and said she would prefer it to be held at spotlight.  OM explained that they can offer E cigs, Champix, other meds, patches, support to find triggers & help build strategies to quit.  EH asked of it could be linked with other services.  OM said he was keen to link in with others on this project.  MW asked about support for depression & anxiety first, needs linkage to Wellbeing.  OM said that they can link in with others and signpost to other professionals.  SH stated that there are lots of wellbeing issues in this estate and can’t do all of them at once but seems a good start. He asked when the programme would start.  OM said he was looking to start in April and asked best ways to communicate with residents  People said using leaflets, social media, text messaging from doctors surgery, word of mouth, SGs monthly E-Upd8s and the BFSTC newsletter and website are the best ways.  MW said she was happy for them to use the Lakes club logo to help with engagement, and that that they should keep the NHS logo small.  OM spoke about different ways to engage groups i.e man vs weight football club, and asked if there were there gaps.  SH mentioned the over 60s  There was a conversation about to chi, chair aerobics, yoga, how long the project would run, the cost to residents and whether the programme was open to children  OM explained that they had funding for 3 years and would like to make it sustainable. The cease smoking programme is free, the 10-week programmes were £28 but can be paid £5 per month. He would go away and investigate programmes with young people.  MW said would like details on combating anxiety and depression and asked SH to let OM have her email address. |
| 1. **Summary, Actions and Next Steps**   SH thanked everyone for attending. He mentioned that the next LERF members meeting would be in April and the next LERF Open meeting would take place on Thursday 19th May at 6.30pm in Spotlight. |
| **Date of Next LERF meeting:**  **Thursday 19 May 2022 at 1830 in Spotlight**  **Meeting concluded – 8pm** |