



Serpentine Court Steering Group

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Minutes

Residents: Danielle Slaymaker (Chair), Cassy Elliott (Deputy Chair), Shannon McCaul (Deputy Chair), Pauline Wright, Joan Forsyth, Stacey Coleburt, Sebastian Power, Robyn Goodwin, Mohamed Rohim, Clive Wallace, Jean Wallace, Mariee Wymer (observer – Locals of the Lakes), John Pearce (observer), Cllr Mohammed Khan

Staff: Rahul Mundray (Milton Keynes Council), Kevin Farrell (Tpas), Samantha Goodwin (Tpas/MKC)

Apologies: Ronke Oludapo, Sharon Jordan (Deputy Chair), Cllr Emily Darlington

1. Welcome and introductions

Danielle opened the meeting (via Teams) and reported that the day after the last SCSG meeting she was contacted by Councillor Darlington and Will Rysdale (Head of Housing Delivery).

Councillor Darlington assured Danielle that SCSG's frustration about communications and information on the progression to the build of the new council homes was well heard. She met with officers on 10th February about the timeline and confirmed that Sharon will be invited to the monthly project meetings. Will had already spoken to Kamran Hussein (Communications Officer) about restarting the monthly e-updates as well as getting a newsletter to Serpentine Court residents as soon as possible. Will sent information about mental health support and is raising with the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee why Danielle has not been invited to meetings.

Councillor Darlington appreciated that there was a lot of concern about the Estate Renewal Forum, and how that body would work with the SCSG. She acknowledged that SCSG and LOL were not mentioned in the invitation letter. Councillor Darlington has spoken to Councillor Baume who reiterated that she is keen to see the SCSG continue to lead the housing workstream. Finally, Councillor Darlington said that she is fully committed to making the project happen for the residents of Serpentine Court, as their ward councillor and cabinet member. She appreciated that this period of internal checks ahead of procurement has meant that it seems quiet, but she wanted to reassure us that she and the council officers are working hard to progress this stage as quickly as they can.

Will also wanted to take the opportunity to reassure us that the Lakes project is a priority and both he and his wider team are working to progress the project on a daily basis. In order to progress the project, the steps that he will be undertaking over the next few months include:

- Undertake consultation process for the Estate Improvements
- Tendering the Estate Improvement Works
- Ensuring the Estate Improvements are on site as soon as possible
- Appointing consultants and scoping the Ground Investigations/surveys
- Undertaking the Ground Investigations & finalising the report
- Producing documentation for tender alongside reappointment of professional team
- Undertaking procurement of contractors
- Seek delegated decision to appoint contractors



- Completing acquisitions needed / completing the MOU with Planning department

Danielle thanked Councillor Darlington and Will for their quick responses to the issues that were raised by SCSG. Danielle expects to see a reset in the ways in which MKC and SCSG work together after a difficult year living through a pandemic.

Cassy, Sharon and Shannon were thanked for the support they had given Danielle over the last month.

2. **Minutes of 9th February 2021**

Agreed as a true record with one correction: Page 4, paragraph 4 – The final sentence should read: The tender will be broken down into lots to provide smaller local developers *with the opportunity* to bid.

Matters Arising – Rahul confirmed that the invitation to contractors to express an interest had been posted on the Council's website for a couple of months and had now been removed. Completed.

Matters Arising – Samantha confirmed that the information about mental health services had been circulated. Completed.

3. **Project update – Samantha Goodwin, Interim Community Engagement Officer, MKC**

Will Rysdale has promised to produce a monthly Lakes Estate e-Upd8 and a quarterly newsletter. The communication plan will be a standing item at the monthly Project Board meeting. Samantha is due to speak with Kamran about the communications plan and she will provide a further update at the April SCSG meeting.

Consultation has ended with residents whose front doors open onto the courtyards, based on a draft plan. Sue Brown (MKC architect) is assessing the responses and working on a further plan which will include the residents' ideas.

Consultation has begun on the plans for 4 small play areas, with local families via Drayton Park and Water Hall primary schools. Children have been invited to provide drawings and ideas. Design packs have been made available to the children since 22 February 2021, and the closing date for submissions is 15 March 2021. Samantha has arranged for parents of those children who are currently not attending school, to be pick up a hard copy from Spotlight. Once the submissions have been collated, Sue Brown will produce a set of drawings that demonstrate how the children's' ideas have been reflected in the next set of designs.

A letter has been sent to all the residents on the Lakes estate regarding 4 grassed areas off Warren Park. The letter includes details of the plans for those areas and asks the residents to submit their views and preferences. The deadline is Friday 19 March and results will be considered by the Estate Regeneration Forum.

The first Estate Regeneration Forum (ERF) took place on 25 February 2021 and was well attended. Councillor Baume welcomed everyone and said she was excited that it was finally up and running. Steve Hallett was elected as the Chair and Mariee Wymer is the Deputy Chair. The second meeting is due to take place on 25 March and the main agenda item will be the terms of reference. Sharon Jordan is representing SCSG. Mariee reiterated that the ERF does want SCSG to lead the housing stream.



Samantha confirmed that Sonal Mehta attended the first ERF to represent Health, but the meeting was a start-up that discussed context and the purpose of the Forum as well as electing of the Chair and Deputy. Health centres and other health issues will be discussed at future meetings and there will be a sub-group on Health. Samantha will send Sonal's contact details to Councillor Rohim.

Action SG

Samantha continues to work two days a week as the Interim Community Engagement Officer (CEO) for the Lakes estate. Will is having a fresh look at the structure of his department before proceeding with the recruitment of a new CEO for the Lakes estate.

4. **Project update – Rahul Mundray, Development Manager, MKC**

Ground investigations are expected to commence in the 6 – 8 weeks. The budget has now been agreed and a consultant needs to be brought on board. There have been issues with appointing the WSP, the existing consultant because the previous contract entered into between YourMK and WSP. MKC must enter into a new contract with WSP. Rahul was not at this time able to provide any fresh updates on commissioning HTA to prepare the detailed drawings as a new contract also has to be drawn up between MKC and HTA. There were no further updates on procurement or the Memorandum of Understanding.

5. **Questions**

None.

6. **Any other business**

In relation to Sharon Jordan's ongoing membership of SCSG, Kevin Farrell (Tpas) had pointed out that SCSG's terms of reference state that members must be residents of Serpentine Court or from one of the local businesses. Danielle had discussed the rule with her deputies and Kevin, and everyone was of the opinion that Sharon should be invited to remain on SCSG as a co-optee. Sharon lived on Serpentine Court for decades and has made a considerable contribution to the regeneration project through her many hours of volunteering. It was acknowledged that she has built up a great deal of knowledge about the project which would continue to be useful. The SCSG members present supported the proposal. As the terms of reference were originally agreed with MKC, Danielle to write to Will seeking his agreement to the arrangement. **Action: DS**

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th April - 6.30pm – 8.00pm via Teams – to be confirmed.