



Serpentine Court Steering Group

Tuesday 6th April 2021

Minutes

Residents: Danielle Slaymaker (Chair), Cassy Elliott (Deputy Chair), Sharon Jordan (Deputy Chair), Pauline Wright, Joan Forsyth, Mohamed Rohim, Ronke Oludapo, Mariee Wymer (observer – Locals of the Lakes), Steve Hallett (observer – Chair, Lakes Estate Renewal Forum) John Pearce (observer), Halima Saeed (observer), Shaznan Muzammil (observer)

Staff/Councillors: Will Rysdale (Milton Keynes Council), Kevin Farrell (Tpas), Samantha Goodwin (Tpas/MKC), Cllr Emily Darlington

Apologies: Rahul Munday (Milton Keynes Council), Sebastian Power, Robyn Goodwin

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Danielle opened the meeting (via Teams) and reported that she had been on a tour of the estate with Steve Hallett, the Chair of the newly formed Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF). Steve and Danielle had a productive discussion about how they can work together for the benefit of all residents of the Lakes Estate, moving forward.

2. **Minutes of 2nd March 2021**

Agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising – Samantha to send Sonal Mehta's contact details to Mohamed Rohim.

Matters Arising – Danielle had written to Will Rysdale seeking his agreement to retaining Sharon Jordan on SCSG as a co-optee. Completed.

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

The monthly Lakes Estate e-Upd8 was issued on time in March and a quarterly Serpentine Court newsletter will be issued by the end of April. The communication plan will be a standing item at the monthly Project Board meeting. Samantha is waiting to speak with Kamran about the communications plan and she will provide a further update at the May SCSG meeting.

All consultation has ended with residents whose front doors open onto the courtyards A's. Sue Brown (MKC architect) is assessing the responses and will circulate further plans which will include the residents' ideas, after the elections have ended in May.

Residents of Gary Close have raised objections to the plan for a tree to be planted. The residents' views will be considered, and Samantha will be talking to the landscape architects about the issue. She will keep Danielle informed. **Action: SG**

The Courtyard B consultations have ended, and 16 responses were received. While some residents liked the ideas, others felt it was a waste of money and the improvements would be vandalised. The responses will be considered by LERF as its April meeting.



Consultation has ended on the plans for 4 small play areas, with local families via Drayton Park and Water Hall primary schools. There was a good response from Water Hall and Samantha thanked Mariee for helping to boost the responses from Drayton Park. Once the submissions have been collated by Sue Brown, the next set of drawings, demonstrating how the children's ideas have been incorporated, will be displayed in the play areas. Samantha will provide an update for Danielle in the next couple of weeks. **Action: SG**

The Lakes Estate Regeneration Forum (LERF) has met twice, and 14 residents attended the March meeting. There are still 3 places available for resident representatives and 1 for a representative of local businesses. Steve Hallett, Chair of LERF, commented that at the second meeting on 25 March, the members began to look at the positives and negatives of the estate. He was pleased with the attendance and the sense of community spirit that everyone felt, especially over Easter. A list of issues was identified at the meeting that need to be addressed, including the repairs service and dog waste bins. At the next meeting on 29 April, LERF will refine the priorities and set up sub-groups to examine the issues in detail. The meeting will also look at the Courtyard B responses. Steve is keen to hear from residents and he and Mariee are happy to have a chat with anyone who is interested in getting involved.

4. **Project update – Will Rysdale, Head of Housing Delivery, MKC**

Samantha continues to work two days a week as the Interim Community Engagement Officer (CEO) for the Lakes estate. Will Rysdale was due to meet with his Director two days after the SCSG meeting to discuss his proposals for a permanent CEO for the Lakes, and Will is to provide an update to the May SCSG meeting. **Action: WR**

The Regeneration & Renewal Scrutiny Committee took place in March, and Will provided a high-level summary of the main discussion areas, including his presentation about the ERF's and the update from Local Partnerships on the energy strategy for the Lakes. Further details can be found on the MKC CMIS system.

Ground investigations have taken a step forward with the waiver being agreed. The Procurement team was due to issue an appointment letter to WSP that week.

Work is ongoing with the procurement process and Will has been exploring ways to speed up the process. He confirmed that MKC will involve residents in the procurement process where possible (not the scoring). The Procurement team is well aware of the need to involve residents in questioning the contractors about their proposals and track records.

Memorandum of Understanding.

5. **Questions**

Q: Will The Gables and Mellish Court be demolished before Serpentine Court?

A: (Will Rysdale & Cllr Darlington) Yes, the plan to demolish the two Bletchley blocks in November has been made public. The blocks are being demolished for fire safety reasons and the tenants and leaseholders have to be decanted as soon as possible. Serpentine Court will only be demolished once the residents have been re-housed in the new-build homes, and there will be a wait while the homes are built.



Q: How is MKC currently dealing with issues raised by the leaseholders of Serpentine Court, and what communications have they been receiving during the last year?

A: (Will Rysdale) I met with Chris Gaunt of MKC's legal department last week to discuss the Council's latest position, and further meetings are planned. MKC has not produced any specific communications for leaseholders in the last year, but they have been included in general communications.

Q: Regarding the level of school education on the Lakes Estate, what further plans does MKC have to raise expectations and grades?

A: (Will Rysdale) The purpose of LERF is to bring the community together and the Education sector is represented on the Forum. The question would be best addressed at the LERF and Steve Hallett has noted the question and it will be raised at the next meeting on 29 April.

Q: There is a parking issue where I live, with abandoned vehicles and vehicles are blocking fire exits. What can be done about this?

A: (Cllr Darlington) If you contact one of your local councillors, we will make sure the vehicles are reported and dealt with by MKC.

Q: Following on from the question about the demolition of Serpentine Court, do you know when the new-build will start?

A: (Will Rysdale) I can't give an exact date at this stage. The instructions to begin the ground investigations is about to be issued and we are working on procurement of the contractor.

Q: Do the new homes at Woburn Downs include any new council homes?

A: (Cllr Darlington) No, they are purely private for sale and there are around 100 housing association homes, to which MKC has nomination rights from May 2022.

6. **Any other business**

None.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4th May - 6.30pm – 8.00pm via Teams