



Serpentine Court Steering Group

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Minutes

Residents: Danielle Slaymaker (Chair), Shannon McCaul (Deputy Chair), Sharon Jordan (Deputy Chair), Joan Forsyth, Robyn Goodwin, Pauline Wright, Sebastian Power, Stacey Coleburt, John Pearce (observer), Mariee Wymer (observer – Locals of the Lakes Residents Association), Steve Hallett (observer – Chair, Lakes Estate Regeneration Forum)

Staff/Councillors: Rahul Mundray (Milton Keynes Council), Kevin Farrell (Tpas), Cllr Ed Hume,

Apologies: Cassy Elliott (Deputy Chair), Jessica Gilsonan (Locals of the Lakes Residents Association), Cllr Emily Darlington, Samantha Goodwin (Tpas/MKC)

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Danielle opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. **Minutes of 3rd August 2021**

Agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising –Kevin Farrell to provide Steve Hallett with information on procurement. Completed.

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

Samantha provided the following written report:

The next quarterly newsletter is due out on Friday 5th November. The copy needs to be with the Comms Team for Wednesday 13th October. An email was sent out yesterday to Dani, Sharon and Kevin asking what they would like to see included in the newsletter and inviting them to submit an article on the SCSG if they would like to. The deadline for articles is Wednesday 6th October. Samantha will collate the articles and then send the draft copy to everyone for comment on Thursday 7th October. Comments will need to be with her by 12noon on Monday 11th October, so she can make the necessary changes and get the final copy to Comms Team on Wednesday 13th October.

Residents Charter: Apologies. No update on the Residents Charter.

Leaseholder consultation: Samantha is still trying to get hold of the 4 leaseholders that didn't respond to her original letter. She will continue to try to contact them. There should be options for leaseholders available in the Autumn.



Wider Lakes environmental works:

Courtyards A & B: Still waiting to hear from Serco about the costs of the works and a start date for the works.

Play Area Works Update: The design for the NE (Gramere Way) play area has been confirmed and the order placed with Serco. Construction is set to start in October and a display board will be installed onsite soon.

Proposals for the SW (Fern Grove) Forest Fantasy Park and NW (Tummel Way) Adventure Park are now with the manufacturers and in the final stages of planning. News on the final play area installation at SE (Laidon Close) Galaxy Park will be shared shortly. We'll be installing display boards and further information at each of the play area sites once each of their orders have been placed.

Community Engagement Officer post for the Lakes Estate: A Community Partnership Manager has been appointed but will not be starting until December as they must give 3 months' notice.

A Community Partnership Officer has been appointed and is due to start next week. However, they will not be working on the Lakes estate. For the time being Samantha will continue to cover the Lakes Estate two days a week.

LERF update (Steve Hallett): There wasn't a meeting in August. The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd September at 6.30pm and will be held face to face in Spotlight.

The LERF is currently focusing on tackling fly-tipping. A litter-pick will take place on Sunday 12 September with the LoLRA. Steve Young (Head of Asset Management and Investment, MKC) will be attending the next Repairs Action Group to discuss bathroom/kitchen replacements and the potential re-opening of The Warren. LERF has taken the view that residents will need a community space if demolition of Serpentine Court isn't to take place for another 3-4 years.

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

Ground investigations: MKC has agreed a management contract with WSP, and the contract for the site investigations went out to tender in July. Two bids have been received and WSP is currently analysing them for suitability and Value for Money. There are marked difference in the methodology and pricing and WSP are working to understand why that is so. MKC will be holding a meeting with WSP to progress the matter, next week. It was noted that there are currently difficulties sourcing the specialist equipment required for the investigations, due to shortages. Both bidders have the labour available.

HTA appointment: Talks with HTA are ongoing, and 95% complete, although they have been slowed by resourcing issues in the Council's Legal department and the August holidays. The Regeneration team has continued to emphasise to Legal the need to prioritise the matter and Rahul expects the contract to signed in the next 2 weeks,

Procurement: An internal MKC meeting is set for Wednesday 8th September to discuss the process and how to involve residents.



Memorandum of Understanding: Rahul previously reported that at a meeting in July, the MKDP board had agreed to enter into the option agreement with MKC. MKDP has now appointed lawyers to negotiate the sale. Two issues have emerged: 1) part of the land is unregistered and, 2) a small section of adopted public highway will need to be closed, and a 'closure agreement' put in place.

5. Questions

Q: Approximately how long will it take HTA to produce detailed drawings once the practice has been appointed?

A: We would expect the drawings to take 3-4 months to produce and they will form part of the tender pack for the building contractors. Remember that detailed planning permission has already been granted by the Council.

Q: Will MKC ask HTA to hold a public exhibition once the detailed drawings are ready? January would seem to be a good time.

A: I will raise that request, internally. **Action: RM**

Q: Is there any update on what's happening to the nursery?

A: Discussions are ongoing with the owners and the Property Team, MKC, is meeting to discuss the subject again, tomorrow. MKC is looking at options to help the nursery to make a smooth transition from one site to the other.

Q: Will the tenants in temporary housing be housed in the new homes?

A: This question was addressed, previously, and there has been no change. The tenants in temporary housing do not have a right to re-housing in the new homes, and MKC is working to find them suitable homes, in line with its legal obligations.

6. Any other business

Sharon Jordan informed the meeting that she will be stepping down as a deputy chair but will still be a member of SCSG. Danielle thanked Sharon for the sterling work she has carried out for the residents of Serpentine Court,

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th October, 6.30pm – 8.00pm at Spotlight