

Minutes of the Rackheath Parish Planning Committee meeting

On Monday 21st October 2019 at 6.00 p.m, at

The Pavilion, Green Lane West, Rackheath

Anne Tandy

Anne Tandy, Parish Clerk

1. **Present:** Pippa Nurse (Chair), Rebekah Hughes

Also in attendance: Anne Tandy Parish Clerk, Annie Sommazzi BDC Green Infrastructure and Woodlands Officer, Paul Thorogood Assistant Project Officer NCC, NCC, Ed Stocker Ecologist NCC, Ivan Barnard, Representative of the 467th Bombardment Division.

2. **Public:** 0

3. **Apologies for absence:** Stephen Oakley, Joel Whymark

4. **Declarations of Interest:** None

5. **Attendance by Paul Thorogood, Assistant Project Officer from Norfolk County Council, Ed Stocker, Ecologist, NCC and Annie Sommazzi, Broadland District Council** who presented on the delivery of the next stage of footpath improvements and tree management within Newman woods. Annie explained that there has been a delay with the project due to obtaining a planning licence but this has now been resolved. The Project remains the same as laid out 2 years ago. It has been established that the Bluebell area at the top of the wood is privately owned but attempts to contact the owner have been unsuccessful so BDC are unable to purchase. Concrete bollards currently mark the boundary. NCC have taken the lead on this now as they have a bigger resource. Topics to be covered are:
 - a. *footpath routes and signage, including tree felling required for site safety.* Figure of '8' pathway to be created in a circular walk with a shortened route. Plans to open up a walkway into phase 1 of the Green Lane West development. Consideration given to thickening up the boundary hedge with the development to encourage wildlife and create a barrier to the development. Footpath surface to be minimal due to possible disturbance of contaminant materials beneath.
 - b. *location of interpretation boards,* BDC have been looking into the interpretation panels, and are asking the PC to provide any additional information to be included alongside the historical context. Boards to be set at the points of historical interest with the existing huts, in a chronological order.
 - c. *provision and locations of dog foul and litter bins* how many dog/litter bins will be installed. Is a matter for the PC as their will be a cost implication when the site is signed over. It was generally accepted that there would need to be at least one.
 - d. *ecological management plan* – A felling licence has been secured and work to make the area safe will start early in 2020. This work will take place to avoid the nesting season. Felled trees will be logged and kept on site to encourage a diverse range of wildlife. Ed Stocker is working on a bio-diversity program

to encourage wildlife. Tree felling will also add light to improve the ground condition and encourage plant growth.

Site Safety – fencing to blend into the environment and protect the blast shelters. Fencing to be installed behind the garage to protect the premises. Colonel Showers building is currently fenced off. This needs to be continued to preserve the building along with the blast shelters. The PC would like to see this done sympathetically with the surroundings. An area next to the garage workshop has been assessed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust revealing a hedge planted during the war which now has trees growing out of it. This can be thinned and managed to encourage appropriate growth.

- e. The Bure Valley Conservation group are to be approached with a view completing some of the work. There will eventually be a Wildlife Management Plan but in place to cover 5 years and this will be agreed with PC. This will contain a schedule which after 5 years can restart at year 2 and 3 and be repeated. Access to the woods would need to stop while work is undertaken. Pippa asked if they could keep the PC informed of developments and when the closure will happen so the local community can be made aware.
- f. There will be 3 car parking spaces on the edge of the woods in a designated area possibly lined with felled timber.
- g. Ivan Barnard reported that the 467th division would like to see a link between the 467th room at Trinity Church, Newman woods, the memorial and the museum. This would increase the footfall through the village.

Information sheets produced BDC with historical context can be licenced so the PC obtain the rights and can print them off for display at appropriate points in the village.

6. Public Participation 0

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 30th September 2019

- a. The Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting on 30th September were agreed as an accurate representation. Proposed by Rebekah, seconded by Pippa.

8. Recommendations of the following planning applications:

- a. **20191513** Erection of 4 x Two Storey Dwellings. Location : Old School Playing Field, Green Lane West, Rackheath, NR13 6LU Application Type: Full Planning
Concerns have been raised by local residents about the lack of resident parking associated with this development. However, there is large gravel area at the front of the development which would allow parking for several vehicles. The Committee would make no objection to this application.

9. Information about decisions, appeals & any other planning matters:

a. Pippa and Rebekah feedback on their attendance at The Plumsteads Parish Council meeting on 14/10/2019 in relation to planning application 20191421.
Pippa and Rebekah attended Plumstead PC meeting. Plumstead were in largely in agreement with the view of Rackheath PC and have also submitted their objection. Plumstead were unaware of the community ground at the front of the development being used to build a health centre.

b. Clerk updated on the discussions with NCC Highways in relation to the previous agenda item regarding parking issues on Rackheath Industrial Estate.

NCC Highways have indicated that they can address the issues directly with the Car Sales business but would need registration plate, make and model of each car before doing so. An application can be made by the PC if this approach does not work.

All business being addressed the Meeting was concluded at 7.04pm.