**Minutes of Our Frenchay “The End of the Beginning” Village Meeting**

**Held at Frenchay Village Hall**

**On Friday 2nd May 2014 at 7.30 pm**

**Alan Jocelyn** welcomed all to the meeting and said how delighted he was with the turnout.

He then talked us through the first part of a power point presentation.

The main purpose for tonight’s meeting was to discuss whether RUG should continue or disband.

Alan feels strongly that we should continue. We need to preserve Frenchay, and ensure that any new development respects the historic content of the village. The main problem we face is the scale of the development. Frenchay will more than double in size over the next 4 – 6 years.

We will also face many challenges:

what will happen to the land ear-marked for a Community Hospital if that is not built,

who will maintain the Village Green and Lime Tree Avenue,

how will we welcome and integrate the new residents,

can we fight for a GP Practice and Chemist,

should there be a new campaign for a Community Hospital,

how do we make sure that the new houses are appropriate

etc, etc.

Since RUG was founded in May 2012 we have a membership of over 1000, we have secured Lime Tree Avenue, obtained Village Green status for the hospital grounds, and are now in a sensible dialogue with the NHS.

Alan then read out some sample messages of thanks that he and the committee had received.

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**Mike Pick** then took the floor and said that some people/groups are against RUG, and feel that we should just let things run their course. Of course if we do that then there will be no way to change things in the future. He said that we are now being accepted by the majority of other groups in and around Frenchay and that we can work with these people, but that we can’t do everything ourselves. We need to share the workload.

Our biggest asset is our database. We can send out information to over a 1000 people, and we could do this for other groups as well such as S Glos Councillors: Residents Liaison Group: Village/Parish Planning Group: Winterbourne Parish Council: School Governors: New Community Hospital: Frenchay Preservation Society: and of course, RUG.

A vote was then taken as to whether we should share our database by sending out information for other groups. Carried, all in favour, none against.

Mike suggested that we should meet with these other groups and talk about who is taking responsibility for what. We should encourage everyone to be visible and open. We then voted on Frenchay’s Best Interest – all groups working together. Carried, none against, 4 abstained.

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**Richard Hill** then stood and said that the committee was unelected and that at the moment we do not have a formal constitution, although one is the process of being prepared. He proposed that the committee should be elected at the Village Meeting to be held on Sunday July 20th and that in the meantime the current committee should be voted in for the next 8 weeks. Carried, 0 against.

Richard then moved on to Income and Expenditure. Our income so far has been £3778 in donations, and Richard thanked all who had kindly given. Our expenditure so far amounts to £3475 (printing £568 and consultant fees £2907) leaving us with a balance of £303. However we have outstanding liabilities of £2000 with more costs to be incurred. He will therefore be asking for a voluntary subscription of £5 minimum per head. Details will be given in our next RUG update, and Richard will accept either bank transfers or cheques.

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**Bob Woodward** then took the floor and talked about the Village Green application in detail, and thanked Ken Thorne for all his help and research. He then went on to thank Alan Jocelyn for taking the leadership of RUG, Richard Hill for being Treasurer and Mike Pick for being Campaign Director.

Bob Woodward is to head up the group for the Village Green Development and Hugh Whately has agreed to lead the Design Code group.

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**Questions and Answers**

Q: Who will own and manage the Village Green?

A: The intention is Winterbourne Parish Council. NBT will pay for maintenance of the land for the first few years. After that the occupants of the new development will have the cost covered within their council tax.

Q: Will there be any social and sports facilities?

A: The originally requested ‘Community Hub’ is not part of the current, and accepted by SGC, Panning Application. However, the cricket pitch is to be restored and the tennis courts relocated near to the Village Museum.

Q: Where will the school be?

A: Gerald Rosenberg is in talks with SGC and its Children, Adults and Health Committee. There is currently planned to be a new single form entry school (210 pupils) and this could be used in conjunction with the existing school as a split form entry arrangement. He wants a two form entry school (410 pupils) on the Hospital site, therefore land needs to be bought for it by SGC. He will be coming to RUG to request our help in the near future. The new school is currently shown on the plan on an existing car park as a single form entry structure. It cannot be built on any part of the Village Green.

Q: Future of the Community Hospital?

A: Barbara Harris has worked so hard to try to get this hospital, to continue the fight, she needs some help.

Q: Is there a liaison group set up to help integrate the new residents?

A: No, but RUG hopes to start one.

Q: New members for the committee. What attributes do they need?

A: Richard Hill replied that they must live in Frenchay, be prepared to give up time to come to meetings, and support projects.

Q: Our children – when demolition of the hospital starts what safety procedures will be put in place when dealing with asbestos?

A: AJ replied that he was sure that all possible Health & Safety care will be taken, but perhaps we can suggest that asbestos removal takes place when the children are on holiday as the school is quite close to the site.

Q: There are 2 large and valuable pieces of land – the walled garden and a large strip of land running behind it – will this be built on?

A: AJ said that as the only access is across the Village Green then is cannot be sold for housing.

Q: What will happen to the 2 acres of land on Malmains Drive which was previously suggested as a site for a school?

A: That will be up to the owners, SGC. It will probably be sold.

Q: When will building start?

A: NBT have not yet started a business plan which must be approved by the Government, so land cannot even be marketed yet. It is likely that building could start next year and take until 2020. NBHT may, or may not, decide to clear the site.

Q: What is happening re the Community Hospital?

A: At the moment it is unclear but with the passage of time it is looking less likely that there will be one.

Q: Traffic Management – it is claimed that when the development is complete traffic will reduce by 42% in the morning and 43% in the evenings. This just doesn’t make sense. Is RUG going to fight this?

A: Yes.

Q: A suggestion was made that the junction at Frenchay Village Hall should be returned to a T junction with Beckspool Road having the right of way. What about putting traffic lights on Frenchay Bridge?

A: RUG will look into all aspects of traffic issues to try and improve Frenchay.

Q: Is there, over the next 18 months, to be a park and ride service to Southmead from Frenchay?

A: Yes, there are to be 35 extra buses used to get staff to Southmead, and some of those will be from Frenchay.

Q: When the hospital is vacated what arrangements will be made for security of the site?

A: £78K is to be spent on hoardings, but bear in mind that 14 departments will still be working on the site.

Q: What will the site security be like during development? A:

A: That will be up to the developers.

After the questioning we had the final vote:

Do we have your support for RUG to carry on?

All were in favour.

DoNM: 20th July 2014 in marquee on common.

Signed:

Proposed:

Seconded:

Date: