



Medworth Local Liaison Group – initial/exploratory meeting

Notes of meeting (8th January 2025)

Date and time of meeting: 8th January 2025, 6-8pm

Venue: The Oasis Community Centre, Wisbech

Item:	Notes:	Action(s):
1. Welcome and introductions	<p>MVV representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Carey (PC) – Managing Director (UK)• Jane Ford (JF) – Communications and Community Relations Manager (UK)• Sarah Cartmill (SC) – Community Liaison Manager (Baldovie, Dundee)• Jade Beavan (JB) – Community Liaison Manager (Devonport, Plymouth)• Scott McKie (SM) – Shift Team Leader (Devonport, Plymouth)• Sam Coates (SCo) – Operations Apprentice (Devonport, Plymouth) <p>PC introduced the MVV team, who gave a brief overview of their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Statutory Body representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deborah Jeakins (DJ) – Manager, County Planning, Minerals and Waste (Cambridgeshire County Council)• Hannah Wood-Handy (HWH) – Planning Control Manager, Environment & Planning (Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk)• David Patrick (DP) – Councillor (Fenland District and Wisbech Town Councils)• Mayor Dr Nik Johnson (NJ) – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority <p>Representatives introduced themselves and their role in the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D. Roy (DR) – Councillor (Fenland District Council) was also in attendance [added at the request of VB] <p>Community representatives:</p> <p>Whilst a number of attendees had registered their interest and confirmed attendance, many more than expected were present and participants introduced themselves when they addressed the meeting.</p>	
2. Confirm/update agenda and timings	Councillor David Patrick asked whether a formal committee would be formed and what the frequency of meetings would be.	



	<p>PC confirmed that this was included in the agenda at point 3.</p> <p>Resident and WisWIN co-ordinator, Virginia Bucknor (VB), stated that promotion and advertising had been inadequate. Keith Gilbey (KG), of Premier Choice on Algores Way, stated that letters had not been delivered to businesses on Algores Way; that MVV's website was not up to date and a letter drop should have been organised along Weasenham Lane.</p> <p>JF confirmed the process for registering interest in the Liaison group, via consultation feedback and/or MVV's website (where an option to do so remains active).</p> <p>Helen Pentelow (HP), of WEP Fabrications Ltd on Algores Way, noted that the consultation exercise was a number of years ago and it was five years since residents were invited to be part of this group.</p> <p>DJ suggested that no formal decisions be made at this meeting and the local community state what they would like to happen.</p> <p>A resident stated that 6pm is not a good time and no one wants the development.</p> <p>PC confirmed that MVV have all of the necessary and legal consents and would not be making compensation payments for any temporary or perceived loss of value to listed properties.</p> <p>Another resident stated that they had only heard about the meeting by word-of-mouth.</p> <p>Saxongate Residents Group (Whittlesey), suggested that a community meeting could be held to allow the local community to vent their frustration and decide how they want to be represented at this Liaison Group.</p> <p>A resident proposed that VB should Chair the group.</p> <p>HWH explained that she runs liaison/stakeholder groups for other projects and these are made up of nominated parties who represent their respective groups.</p> <p>Andrew Callaghan (AC), from the Fenland Orchard Project, stated that he had registered interest on the website and received an email invitation to this meeting; he further stated that he would not be happy to vote for a Chair at this stage without knowing those in the room.</p> <p>Andy Houghton (AH), from the College of West Anglia, stated that it is too soon to nominate or vote on a Chair and</p>	
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	<p>encouraged other attendees to say how they would like to receive information.</p> <p>NJ asked who would hold the resource and control/drive the group if it is to be a formal, Chaired forum. He stated that, in order to have meaningful consultation, residents need to have clear budget transparency – who was responsible for funds and exactly what it involved.</p> <p>PC suggested that this meeting should be re-badged as an exploratory meeting. He explained that MVV are looking to employ a dedicated Community Liaison Manager as soon as possible and that PC and JF would fulfil that role in the interim.</p> <p>Saxongate Residents Group (Whittlesey) asked to be kept involved as they have concerns about IBA processing.</p> <p>PC clarified that no discussions have been held regarding the processing of IBA and it should not be assumed that this will be at the Johnsons Aggregates site.</p> <p>SB and JB explained how the local liaison groups at their respective sites had evolved over time as each project progressed.</p> <p>VB expressed concern that surrounding villages were being left out and email addresses should be collected.</p> <p>Garry Monger (GM) suggested a variety of communication channels are needed and offered contact details for the Fenland magazines: Discovering Wisbech and The Fens.</p> <p>PC clarified that this meeting would not be the only forum for the local community to have their say.</p> <p>An interim committee was suggested for the purpose of moving the meeting forward. DP proposed an interim Chair be nominated and Marcus Aspden (MA) proposed VB, seconded by DP and carried by a majority vote.</p> <p><i>The proposed agenda was dropped and VB took the Chair.</i></p>	
3. Community discussion	<p>VB proposed a further meeting in 4 weeks' time; she will collect email addresses from everyone in the room and everyone can email questions to JF in advance of that meeting.</p> <p>The meeting will be promoted by VB on Facebook.</p> <p>HWH suggested that VB use the Councils' Statement of Community Involvement.</p>	



	<p>A resident requested they use 'Indeed' as well.</p> <p>NJ stated that the Eastern European community were being excluded and information should be produced in other languages.</p> <p>AH stated that Queen Katherine Academy, Peterborough, offer a National Lottery funded translation service, including voice recordings for those with poor reading skills.</p> <p>A resident asked why MVV can't build the access from the A47 first as lampposts will need to be removed.</p> <p>PC stated that he is not aware of a need to remove lampposts; Algores Way is part private road in the ownership of FDC and part public/adopted highway, maintained by Cambridgeshire's Highways team. New Bridge Lane will be widened to create the new site access but a small amount of construction traffic will need to use the Algores Way entrance in order to achieve this.</p> <p>VB pointed out that these are things that the community can raise at the liaison group.</p> <p>NJ asked whether there were any Grampian Conditions and DJ stated that the County Council Highways department had argued for as much financial contribution as possible through the Examination process.</p> <p>A resident expressed concerns about traffic.</p> <p>Mervyn Sergeant (MS) of Hair World on Algores Way, asked how much traffic there would be, including how many vehicles and staff.</p> <p>PC explained that construction has been broken down into packages and MVV will provide more detail for each one; documents confirming this will need to be approved by Cambridgeshire County Council.</p> <p>DJ confirmed that she would be happy to help categorise queries and signpost to the right person for a response.</p> <p>HWH suggested updating the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on MVV's website in layman's terms.</p> <p><i>Action: JF to update the FAQs.</i></p>	JF
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	<p>English as an additional language so the newsletter should be produced in Russian, Lithuanian and Latvian.</p> <p>DP stated that FDC have information on the different languages spoken and can raise this.</p> <p>Chris Stevens (CS), Oasis Centre Manager, suggested that the newsletter could go out via FDC with the council tax notification, so that it reaches every property.</p> <p>James Mackle (JM), of Mackles Apples on Algores Way, raised concerns about the existing issues with parking along Algores Way and suggested a further group be formed of businesses.</p> <p>HP asked about parking for construction and PC explained that MVV had a similar situation in Plymouth. This was resolved by placing a condition on sub-contractors that they mustn't park on the local streets and by providing a separate car park. PC further confirmed that the temporary construction compound will include a car park for construction workers.</p> <p>HP stated that the Algores Way businesses will make it difficult for MVV's workers if they impact local businesses.</p> <p>PC pointed out that MVV can't the build the construction compound without using Algores Way.</p> <p>CS suggested that MVV go to the businesses if that would be easier.</p>	
4. Community meeting	<p>It was agreed that the separate community meeting would take place at the Oasis Centre, at 6pm on Wednesday 5th February.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the difference between a community meeting and a liaison meeting.</p> <p>VB requested council officer attendance at the community meeting.</p> <p>Saxongate Residents Group (Whittlesey) and DJ confirmed that they would not attend the community meeting but will attend the Liaison Group (once properly established), which is a more technical forum.</p> <p>SC suggested that the community group(s) send a representative to the liaison group meetings.</p> <p>CS stated that she thought this was a meeting for representatives.</p>	



	<p>MA asked what MVV's experience of such groups was and PC confirmed that MVV have established liaison groups at their other facilities, which include a small group of residents, an EA officer and local authority representatives (officers and councillors).</p> <p>VB repeated the request for County and District representatives to set up and attend Liaison meetings.</p> <p>HWB stated that is not something the council would do as it is MVV's role; DJ confirmed she would not attend the February Community meeting but officers will attend a more technical meeting (the Liaison meeting) in due course.</p> <p>DP suggested that a member of the liaison group (once nominated) should report back to the community group.</p> <p>PC confirmed that MVV will attend both the community and liaison group meetings.</p> <p>JF asked VB exactly what she wants MVV to do and VB stated that MVV should advertise the community meeting on their website.</p> <p><i>Action: JF to place an advert for the community meeting on MVV's website (news page).</i></p> <p>Other methods of advertising were discussed, including leaflet drops and direct emails.</p> <p>Other attendees were discussed, including EA officers and Highways officers.</p> <p>AC suggested we identify anyone in the room now who would like to sit on the more formal liaison committee.</p> <p>DJ pointed out that Highways had already responded to the project via the planning process.</p>	JF
5. Questions	<p>Community questions are recorded above.</p> <p>JF asked VB to confirm that MVV are to advertise the community meeting on their website.</p> <p>VB requested that JF also provide her direct email address so that the community can email questions to MVV in advance.</p> <p><i>Action: JF to provide email address when advertising the community meeting.</i></p>	JF



6. Any other business	VB collected email addresses and stated that she would pass them on to MVV so that notes from this meeting can be circulated.	
7. Date, time and location for next meeting	Community meeting: 5 th Feb at 6pm (Oasis Centre) Liaison Group: TBC	