

**Minutes of the Moorpool Regeneration (working) Group General Meeting
Dated Thursday 19th July 2007 at 7.30pm in the Moorpool Hall**

Present

Andrew Hackett (Chair)
Diana Dunn
Mike Frost
Louise Griffiths
Michael Parkes
Rob Sutton

59 residents of the Moorpool estate as signed in

Apologies

From the working group
Alastair Moyes

From the residents
Jenny Buchan
Emma Gray
Tina Hackett
Dennis & Pat Worsey

At 7.40pm Andrew Hackett opened the 4th meeting of the Moorpool Regeneration (working) Group and the 1st general meeting open to residents of the Moorpool estate only. Michael Parkes and Rob Sutton were on hand to help field questions from the floor and Diana Dunn took the minutes and logged attendance.

- 1** Andrew Hackett introduced the Moorpool Regeneration (working) Group and its remaining members.
- 2** Andrew Hackett outlined what had been achieved by the working group during the five weeks since its inception: group name proposed; constitution drafted; website and email address in place; survey conducted. He emphasised that the survey was by resident not per household and made the point that communication with residents unable to access the internet (currently via the Moorpool Residents' Association notice board and word of mouth) needed improvement.
- 4** Andrew Hackett highlighted focus groups as a priority for the future.
- 3** Andrew Hackett summarised the survey results to date and noted that trends were already in evidence.
- 5** The draft constitution was discussed and it was agreed to add a new item covering annual accounts (the point having been raised that these create a credible system for receiving funds from grants and interested parties) and to add to item 11 that the Moorpool Regeneration Group shall actively seek as appropriate the views of nearby residents. A show of hands carried the motion to accept the amended constitution. It was later agreed that the group would elect its own officers annually and that wording to that effect should be added to item 4.

6 Andrew Hackett stressed the importance of a good geographical spread of members to ensure all concerns and interests were fully appreciated and represented. Commitment and enthusiasm were identified as being key attributes for nominees. Andrew Hackett proposed that the existing six-member working group stand for election and asked for six new members to come forward to make up the requisite 15 (three places being held in reserve for representatives from the Moorpool Residents' Association, the Moorpool Allotment Association, and all clubs on the estate). Mike Frost stated that the Moorpool Residents' Association hopes to choose its representative in a fortnight's time. He then nominated Jim Tucker and, on behalf of Emma Gray, Rosella Fox. Andrew Berry nominated himself. Andrew Hackett nominated Igor Cusack. Lastly Selwyn Blyth also nominated himself. Rob Sutton and Michael Parkes urged the creation of a pool of talent to draw upon – specific fields of expertise called for included architecture, planning, accountancy, law. The 14 nominees were then voted onto the group by a show of hands. Andrew Hackett later accepted Tom Huddleston as a group member after he was put forward by Andrew Berry and briefly attended the meeting to declare his interest.

7 A list of subjects for focus groups was elicited: environmental issues including wildlife, tree preservation; garages; allotments; recreational area; traffic / parking; clubs. It was also agreed that the Moorpool Regeneration Group and Moorpool Residents' Association should clarify the complexities of a residents' trust to enable informed dialogue with Grainger and others.

Andrew Hackett confirmed that he had received notice from Tim Nicholson and Gisela Stuart that Grainger's public meeting originally scheduled for 8th August had been moved to early September. Michael Parkes confirmed that Grainger had revised their plans. The possibility of Grainger putting in an application for planning soon after this meeting was considered and Andrew Hackett proposed that the Moorpool Regeneration Group take the initiative and gain access to details. Andrew Hackett committed to continue conferring with Tim Nicholson (who has intimated that comments have been taken on board) and to open a new channel of communication with Simon Hoare (Grainger community liaison). Andrew Hackett also brought up the immediate need for funding to cover venues for general meetings and the point was raised that within reason supporters might be willing to help.

In answer to a call for better publicity for Grainger's next meeting Andrew Hackett argued that Grainger have to do this. He reiterated that the previous meeting on 20th May was a consultative exercise only and that a public meeting is a legal requirement before any planning application can be considered. He also reminded everyone that the survey was based on the plans presented on 20th May.

Concern was voiced that Grainger were already heavily involved in major city centre development projects with Birmingham City Council and that some assurance that the council will fight for our interests should be sought. Andrew Hackett confirmed that as a first move he had been given 15 minutes to put the residents' case at the Ward Committee meeting on 6th August.

The points were raised that town-cramming was now Labour government policy and therefore posed a real threat and that every resource available would be needed to prevent this.

Andrew Hackett agreed with the suggestion that there be a single point of contact within the group for each focus group.

Michael Parkes prompted that everything had now been covered and Andrew Hackett duly closed the meeting at 8.30pm.