

Minutes of the Mercia Park Community Liaison Group

18.30, 16 January 2020, Appleby Best Western Hotel

Attendees

Rick Moore	Chair
Calvin Bent	Clifton Campville Parish Council
Nigel Eaton	Netherseal Parish Council
Darren Gelder	Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council
Colin Manifold	Measham Parish Council
Lucy Morton	Chilcote Parish Council
Neil Parker	Stretton en le Field Parish Council
Mike Ruston	Newton Regis, Seckington & No Man's Heath Parish Council
Peter Snelson	Residents Against Project Mercia
Lindsay Swinfield	Appleby Magna Parish Council
Sue Ward	Overseal Parish Council
Daphne Robinson	North West Leicestershire District Council
Kevin Ashfield	IM Properties
Tony Byrne	Jaguar Land Rover
Tony Gurney	Jaguar Land Rover
Nick Ellis	Jaguar Land Rover
Nick Lakin	Winvic
Heidi Salmons	Winvic
Rebecca Schwarz	Winvic
Katy Green	Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
Louise Cotton	Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation
Matt Sutton	Camargue

Apologies

David Smith	IM Properties
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1. Welcome and introduction

- The Chair, Rick Moore (RM) welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Mercia Park Community Liaison Group (CLG). He provided an introduction to the meeting as a meaningful discussion group where both positive and negative issues can be raised by CLG members for open and honest discussion. The Chair outlined his independent role and career history.
- The Chair noted that David Smith, IM Properties' planning director could not attend the meeting due to a family bereavement. The chair asked Kevin Ashfield (KA) from IM Properties (IMP) and Tony Byrne (TB) from Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) to introduce themselves.
- KA provided a short introduction to his role and thanked those present for their attendance at the meeting. He outlined IMP's vision that the CLG would be a constructive forum to discuss and resolve issues with the local community.
- TB from JLR gave a short introduction. He reiterated that the company wanted to have a long term relationship with the local community and that its attendance at CLG meetings would continue when the site is operational; he said that in addition to JLR they would be joined when appropriate by their third party logistics operators who will work on behalf of the company.

2. Terms of reference – discussion

- The Chair introduced the terms of reference for the CLG and confirmed that all attendees had been sent a copy prior to the meeting. He asked the group for any comments regarding the document.
- Lucy Morton (LM) from Chilcote Parish Council asked whether members would be expected to report back to their local communities. The Chair said that there was an expectation of this but there would be additional communications from IMP to keep local communities informed about the development.
- Matt Sutton (MS) from Camargue, the CLG's secretariat, added that IMP would like attendees to communicate with their residents but that IMP was aware that not all parishes meet regularly and that members had busy lives. He said that IMP would provide a range of communications which will include newsletters and media relations at key project milestones. In addition CLG agendas and minutes will be uploaded to the project website (www.merciaparkconstruction.co.uk) so that there is transparency about the meetings.
- The Chair reiterated that he wanted the forum to get things done and that it would not be a talking shop. He said that he was not an employee of IMP or involved with any of the two occupiers on the site.
- Peter Snelson (PS) from Residents Against Project Mercia (RAPM) said that he wanted it to be noted that his group had fought hard against the proposal and in their eyes IMP will never be seen as a good neighbour. He said that while he accepted that the local authority had made its decision, that RAPM and local residents will have to make the best of what it has and will put the past behind us to help ensure the development is as beneficial as possible to local communities, he wanted it to be noted to IMP and its team that the Residents Against Project Mercia group are not to be considered your friends. The Chair and KA both said that this was noted and thanked PS for attending.
- There were no further questions and the Terms of Reference will be adopted following the meeting.

3. Mercia Park overview

- KA delivered a short overview presentation to outline IMP's vision to create a high-quality employment park and home for the two occupiers, JLR and DSV. He said that IMP wanted the site to deliver long-lasting economic benefits for North West Leicestershire and the wider area and support social, environmental and economic objectives.
- KA gave an update on IMP's current activity which includes progressing work to respond to planning conditions; liaising with its main contractor Winvic to prepare for construction on the site; undertaking utility works to provide new water, electricity and gas connections to the site; and working with the Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation to shape the scope for a Community Fund.
- KA asked MS to provide an update on the utility infrastructure works that IMP's contractor, Matrix Networks is undertaking. MS said that this involves installing a new gas main from the site along the A444 and Acresford Road into Ashby de la Zouch, and a new foul water pipe along the B4593 to Ashby Road Bridge and an electricity cable to Bolebridge Street in Tamworth. He said that electricity, water and gas connections were being delivered at the same time in order to minimise disruption. MS said that IMP had written to CLG members but the extent of the works towards Ashby and Tamworth meant that it would need to communicate with parish councils outside of the CLG. He said that the project website would be continually updated with details of the works.

- KA presented the site masterplan and highlighted the access as well as buildings which will be occupied by JLR and DSV. He asked Tony Gurney (TG) from Jaguar Land Rover to explain the role of each of the five Jaguar Land Rover buildings on site.
- KA gave an overview of the plans and strategies that IMP is developing in order to meet its planning requirements including: Construction Environment Management; Construction Ecological Management Plan; Site Waste Management Plan; tree removal/protection; Construction Traffic Management; drainage during construction phases; Energy and Carbon Strategy; Employment scheme – construction phase and sustainable access & transport scheme.

Questions and discussion

- Lindsay Swinfield (LS) from Appleby Magna Parish Council asked whether IM Properties is going to work with HS2. KA said that IMP is currently not working with them and the construction timetables would not align. Lindsay said that Appleby now has contacts at HS2. Colin Manifold from Measham reported that there is a meeting with HS2 and Measham Parish taking place on January 30th.
- LS said that JLR has a good reputation and residents wanted to know what sort of funding or community facilities would IMP and / or JLR be able to fund. KA said that there was a Community Foundation which was being set up by IMP which could provide support and Katy Green would speak about this later in the meeting.
- LS said that there are existing problems with HGV and drivers using local roads creating rubbish and staying in laybys. She said that the new site would only exacerbate this.
- Neil Parker (NP) from Stretton en le Field Parish Council said that he felt that when drivers come off at M42 and use the A444 they are still driving as if they are on the motorway. He asked whether there would be funding for more signage. KA said that IMP would be operating a Local Transport Impact fund and would be adopting a 'monitor and manage' approach.
- NP said that there have been instances in Stretton en le Field where HGVs having taken the wrong turn onto Rectory Road and have been unable to turn around.
- TB said that JLR would closely manage the performance of its carriers and take action if necessary. He said that he has previously terminated supplier contracts due to carriers persistently taking incorrect routes.
- TG said that IMP / JLR will develop a travel plan which considers these points and that also takes shifts into consideration. He said that JLR will listen and share views from the CLG back to JLR's third party logistics partners. He added that its operators are willing to come to this forum.
- PS said that he would like to see the agreement for traffic management on the network. He asked whether it would be possible for the Group to see the 278 agreements. KA said that he would be happy to share the section 278 agreement.
- PS said that the sustainable travel plan would also be good to see. KA said that the plan would be developed together with both operators JLR and DSV and when completed could be shared.
- Darren Gelder (DG) from Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council said that transport problems should not just be seen as close to the Mercia Park site. He reported a recent traffic survey which had highlighted the volume of existing traffic in Acresford and his concerns regarding current issues of traffic and speed.

- Colin Manifold (CM) from Measham Parish Council asked IMP / Winvic whether it would use local suppliers for construction. KA said that IMP will always look to deliver opportunities for local people and companies where practically possible but the scale of construction on the site means that for materials such as steel there will be a need for suppliers to have significant capacity.
- LM asked whether all the plans required to meet IMP's planning commitment would be made available to the CLG. KA asked what specific plans that the group is interested in. LM said that where the plans are published there is an expectation that the group can hold IMP and Winvic to account. She said that she would specifically like to review the service water management plan, ecological plan and construction management plan. She asked that the documents when ready are available on the website. It was agreed that the documents would be shared with the CLG.

4. Construction overview

- Nick Lakin (NL) senior project manager from IMP's contractor, Winvic gave an introduction to Winvic business and its core values.
- He delivered a presentation which included phasing plans and said that the project to deliver the JLR facility would take 104 weeks.
- NL said that a key priority for Winvic will be to drive the construction programme quickly so that it can construct the service yards early on as this will create a clear safe environment which also helps to minimise dirt on roads.
- NL gave an overview of Winvic's role as a partner of the Considerate Construction scheme. He explained the scheme's five point code of practice which prioritises: care about appearance; respect the community; protect the environment; secure everyone's safety; value their workforce.
- NL said that Winvic is committed to giving long term and sustainable value in terms of economic, environmental and social wellbeing to the communities in which it operates. The Chair asked NL for an example of how this works in reality. NL said that this could be anything from schools visits, sponsorships or support with a community project.
- NL said that during construction there will be dedicated direct phone number to site that local people can call if they spot a problem. He reiterated that Winvic would be considerate and always responsive to the local community throughout the project.
- KA said that he was happy to organise site visits when appropriate.

Questions and discussion

- Nigel Eaton (NE) from Netherseal Parish Council asked whether construction would be 24/7 over the 104-week project. NL said that working hours would be 7.30am until 5.00pm Monday -Friday and until 1.00pm on Saturday.
- PS asked whether Winvic had planned routes for construction traffic. NL confirmed that routes are currently being planned and the aim would be to maximise the use of the M42 as much as practically possible. He said that Winvic would share the plan with the CLG when it is ready.
- CM asked Winvic about the use of local suppliers. NL said that Winvic has a tight supply chain but that concrete and aggregates will be bought relatively locally.
- LM asked when Winvic will be starting earthworks. NL confirmed that they are aiming for quarter two, 2020. KA said that timing is linked to finalising the Section 278 agreement.

- LM said that drainage during construction is concern. She said that phasing was important and that she had seen plenty of construction sites where attenuation ponds were under construction during periods of the year with heavy rainfall. She asked how Winvic would mitigate flood risk.
- NL said that water would be contained to the north east quarter of the site and it will be using bunds around the perimeter of the site. He added that the overall strategy is to contain surface water on site and use a flocculation system on site
- LM said that the main business in Chilcote is Busby's Strawberry Farm and at the time Winvic will be doing earthworks is when they are in harvest. She said that last June there was flooding. NL said that a plan will be defined to ensure that there are management measures in place.
- NL said that the team would welcome a meeting with Busby Farms. KA said that a meeting is currently being arranged and that IMP / Winvic will ensure it takes place.
- PS said that the site is on an aquifer and local people drink this water. He asked whether Winvic is liaising with South Staffs Water. NL said that Winvic will liaise with the water utility.
- LM said that it will be important to communicate key project milestones to residents about the project as well as providing a direct phone number to call. MS said that key milestones would be included in a community newsletter and updated on the website when the programme is agreed.

5. Community Foundation

- Katy Green (KG) and Louise Cotton (LC) from the Leicestershire & Rutland Community Fund (L&RCF), the organisation that it will be administering the Mercia Park Community Fund, gave an overview of their organisation, the way they operate and the types of projects which been supported in North West Leicestershire.
- KG provided an overview of the Community Fund which will total £350,000 over a three-year period. She said that the ambition would be to launch the fund in March 2020 and the scope is currently being developed with IMP.
- Potential themes of the type of project may include: the environment, especially projects involving local communities, young people and social isolation.
- KG said that the next steps are to finalise the scope of the fund and agree geographical eligibility, thematic eligibility, grant sizes and the delivery panel, which would likely include North West Leicestershire District Council, community representatives, L&RCF and IMP.

Questions and discussion

- PS asked whether it would be up to each community to submit a proposal to LC. KG said that they will operate surgeries to offer advice on applications and identify need. KA from IMP said that he is keen to get the fund supporting community projects as soon as possible.
- LM noted that the potential themes that are currently considered will not work in Chilcote because it is a small community of 80 homes. She said that the fund should not be constrained around the themes.
- KA said that the last thing IMP wants to do is set something rigidly so that the community does miss out.

- The group discussed the role of continuation funding to support projects for three years. CM noted that they were able to provide dementia support classes in Measham because of the support that three years of funding provided.
- KG asked members whether they would like to sit on the Community Fund panel which will agree projects. LM said that communities would welcome to be central to discussions of where funding is provided and geographical eligibility is key.
- LM said that IMP has talked about 'legacy'; she said that broadband for Chilcote could be a project that is delivered to support this ambition. PS noted that broadband speeds are also very poor in No Man's Heath.

6. Any other business

- The Chair asked members when they would next like to meet. It was agreed that the next forum should be in around 8 weeks' time and look for suitable dates in March. LM said that moving forward it would be important to agree meetings around key milestones. Camargue will circulate potential meeting dates in March. LS noted that both March and April are busy at this time.
 - LS asked whether IMP / Winvic will liaise with the police prior to construction. NL confirmed that Winvic would do this.
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