

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 04 July 2022

Portfolio:	Planning and Development
Subject:	Welborne Community Forum
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priorities:	Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

Purpose:

To endorse the establishment of a Forum to engage neighbouring communities and other interested parties in the ongoing development of Welborne Garden Village.

Executive summary:

The establishment of the Welborne Community Forum will provide the opportunity for the local authorities, the master developer, residents, neighbouring communities and other interested parties to engage regularly on the delivery of Welborne Garden Village.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) approves the establishment of the Welborne Community Forum, as outlined in the Executive Briefing Paper;
- (b) agrees to delegate the completion of the final Terms of Reference and any other procedural documents which may be required to the Director of Planning and Regeneration; and
- (c) agrees to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and nominate three other members, and their deputies, to the Forum from Fareham Borough Council Members.

Reason:

To provide an opportunity for regular community engagement about the development of Welborne Garden Village.

Cost of proposals:

There are no direct financial implications. The administration costs of the Welborne Community Forum can be absorbed within existing resources.

Appendices: **A:** Welborne Community Forum Draft Terms of Reference
 B: Welborne Community Forum Draft Code of Conduct

Background papers: None

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	04 July 2022
Subject:	Welborne Community Forum
Briefing by:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Portfolio:	Planning and Development

INTRODUCTION

1. Following the dissolution of the Welborne Standing Conference in 2017, public engagement by the Council around Welborne has been largely limited to that around the outline planning application, with two rounds of Community Action Team meetings and various statutory planning consultation periods, as well as occasional media releases.
2. With Welborne moving into delivery, a greater emphasis needs to be placed on public information, particularly with a view to demystifying the planning process and making the important information easier to find. Consideration needs to be given to the various communications triggers, the channels available and the diverse audiences that will be interested in Welborne as it develops as a community over the next 25 years. The development of Welborne Garden Village will be a long-term endeavour and community engagement should continue for the whole of the build-out period.
3. Where large-scale new development is planned, it is good practice for the relevant local authorities to meet representatives of nearby existing communities and residents of the new community regularly to engage on the delivery of the development and any issues and opportunities that emerge as the development becomes a reality. Representatives from the existing communities close to the Welborne Garden Village site are keen to have an opportunity to engage with the Councils and the Master Developer.
4. As well as helping to raise awareness of the progress of the development in the wider community and build understanding, a community forum can provide an opportunity for key interested parties to have a regular collaborative dialogue, tapping into local knowledge with a focus on generating solutions. It helps to maintain trust between communities and the development process, so that the development is seen to be making a positive contribution with any issues actively tackled. It can also help to avoid existing communities taking an adversarial position against the new development and its new residents; and helps to enhance its reputation and manage expectations.
5. The proposed forum is not a vehicle for dispute resolution, nor will it have any executive or decision-making powers with respect to Welborne. It will not prevent residents from

raising concerns directly with the Councils or the Master Developer and nor will it replace the statutory public consultation processes required for the many planning applications still to be considered for development at Welborne.

PROPOSALS FOR THE WELBORNE COMMUNITY FORUM

6. The Council proposes to establish a Welborne Community Forum to:
 - Exchange information and ideas
 - Consider and comment upon Welborne's development and operation
 - Maintain an overview of trends, performance, perceptions, complaints and potential challenges
 - Make recommendations to the Master Developer, Councils or other parties where appropriate
7. The draft Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix A. Membership will comprise seven principal local authority representatives who will be appointed alongside representatives from the Master Developer. Three representatives will be invited from the business community and a further seven representatives invited from nearby communities. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be appointed by Fareham Borough Council.
8. Members will be representatives of wider organisations and not appointed in a personal capacity. Organisations seeking to represent their community's interest should have a written constitution and documented membership. Members will be required to adhere to the standards of behaviour expected of Forum members, as set out in the Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix B.
9. Meetings will be held up to four times a year, with the opportunity to have exceptional ad-hoc meetings at key milestones in the development of Welborne at the discretion of the Chairman. Fareham Borough Council will provide the secretariat for the Committee and meet any costs incurred by the provision of venue. Meetings will be open to the public. Information about the Forum, its role, its membership and how to contact its Secretariat will be available on the Council's website and members of the public will be able to bring issues to the attention of the Forum by contacting the Council.
10. The Forum will sit alongside the statutory public planning consultations that will be required throughout the whole period of the development of Welborne Garden Village.
11. The Welborne Garden Village Trust, which will manage and maintain the public realm and various community buildings at Welborne, will shortly be established and there will need to be communication and dialogue between the Trust and the Welborne Community Forum.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no direct financial implications. The administration costs of the Welborne Community Forum as proposed, including providing the secretariat, can be absorbed within existing resources.

CONCLUSION

13. The establishment of a Welborne Community Forum will enhance the development and its reputation by facilitating constructive discussion between interested parties and helping to resolve any issues that arise whilst maintaining an overview of trends.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Sarah Ward (Ext 4669).