

Minutes of Cloud General Meeting March 20th 2018 Boot and Shoe, Scotforth

Chair : Stephen Constantine

Committee present: Mary Breakell, Tony Breakell, Tony Blendall, Peter Quick, Phil Ternouth, Rosie Morgan, Mark Salisbury

Also present : County Councillor for Lancaster Central, Gina Dowding, County Councillor for Lancaster South East, Erica Lewis, City Councillor for Bulk, Tim Hamilton-Cox.

Apologies: Abi Mills, City Councillor Scotforth West

1. Stephen welcomed and thanked a full room for attending.

Minutes of Cloud General meeting held 19th October 2017 (first Cloud AGM) were approved by a show of hands with no objections made.

2. Main item of meeting: How to respond to Local Plan by deadline of 6th April 2018. [See website for guidance handed out](#)

Some discussion of many issues of concern, including flooding, traffic congestion, scale, the disappearance of the area of separation, objective housing need estimates, including job projections.

People advised to write about what really matters to them and make their response personal. Reminder that **previous objections will not be taken into account** so concerns from previous letters etc should be incorporated into response now. Reminder to keep tone polite and respectful and that response is to planning inspector not the council.

Cloud will submit a response on behalf of the group and will state number of members so encouraged people to join. Our group response will count as ONE objection.

People told to contact Cloud committee if help needed in filling in form,

Council officers at Morecambe and Lancaster Town Hall can help but only if help really needed. Although electronic form preferred, paper forms can be completed and these were given out. Also letters can be written.

Advice to submit responses before deadline to check they are eligible to be submitted.

Much discussion as to issues to write about, many discussed in previous meeting.

Key point is that we are being asked to comment on the Plan as it is presented NOW and it is lacking in so much detail as to:

Affordable housing provision, transport, type of housing, infrastructure costs, flooding remediation measures etc.

Residents pointed out that the new Health Innovation Campus currently being built has drains going into the beck.

We still don't have revised Turley housing figures.

We still don't have revised Flood report.

Erica Lewis had just returned from Transport for the North meeting where it was stated that a grant application is going in for the reconfiguration of Junction 33, Bus rapid transit system and cycle super highway. All key parts of the BGV vision but no funding guaranteed as yet. Reminder that we are commenting on the Plan as it is. It is not our role to provide solutions.

Some useful questions asked:

Question: By other Local Plans' standards, is Lancaster particularly poor?

Answer: yes. They are variable across the country but this one is very poorly researched with no costings or details.

Question: Is Cloud's aim to stop BGV altogether?

Answer: Our aim is to reduce ' UNNECESSARY development' in unsuitable locations so we need to have accurate housing need figures as a starting point.

Question: Could building thousands of houses at BGV actually make housing situation worse?

Answer: Yes because building huge numbers in this out of town unsustainable location would mean some numerical targets for house building would be met so houses might not be built in more sustainable locations.

3. Preparation for the examination of Local Plan by inspector.

Some members of Cloud have privately funded an examination of the housing need figures provided by Turley and used by the council. Some detail of this will be put on the website.

See item below for funding for expert to speak at planning meeting.

4: CLOUD financial report.

Bank account opened at Cumberland Building Society as approved at last meeting.

Funds currently raised: £1060

This is enough to cover the £987 spent on flyers and their distribution before the AGM..

Next targets:

First: £300 to cover the cost of flyers for this meeting (£200) and for future flyers, publicity documents etc. APPROVED by show of hands with no objections.

Second: The raising of approx £2,000 for expert to speak at planning. APPROVED by show of hands. No objections.

Details were given of how people can contribute to CLOUD funds via bank and this information is now also available on the CLOUD website. A collection box at the meeting raised £360 which more than meets first target.

5. Recruiting more Cloud members (important to show strength of support for our cause amongst local people)

People can join online or sign the membership forms passed round.

6 . Recruiting more distributors for Cloud flyers

Many thanks to all those who distributed this time. If we can get more volunteers the task becomes easier.

REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

7. Update on Cloud presence on social media. Mary has worked hard on this. Twitter has been particularly useful to join with other campaign groups and share knowledge and experiences.

8. Lancaster floods Nov 2017: many people had dreadful experiences and should share these with Inspector to ensure the same must not happen again. Various flood groups set up.

Erica Lewis mentioned a meeting at St Paul's Centre, Hala on Tues 3rd April at 7.30pm to discuss flooding in the Scotforth and Bowerham area.

9. 20 Dec Lancaster City Council meeting: Disappointingly there was no 'debate' on BGV. Thanks to Tim Hamilton. - Cox and other Green councillors who spoke out and also Councillor Charlie Edwards.

10. Ellel Artisan Village: detailed plans for this available online. This is a cause for concern. There is detail as to where facilities and houses would be, what it would look like etc. This is one for CLOUD to follow but at the minute is not in Local Plan.

11. Ward Field Farm planning application for housing has not yet been discussed at planning meeting.

12. Ashton Rd. Discussion on traffic congestion.

13. Lancaster University developments.

Building work for the Health Innovation Campus started a few weeks ago.. Unlikely to provide the 2,000 new jobs it claims. Concern raised over drainage going straight into Burrow Beck.