

Knighton Neighbourhood Forum
Conservation and Heritage Working Group

Minutes of Meeting 11th April 2019

7.30pm. College Court Knighton

Names of attendees have been redacted for reasons of privacy.

Minutes and Actions: The minutes of the meeting on 28th February were agreed as an accurate record. Members reported on activities since previous meeting:

- Located a potential photographer who is happy to be involved.
- Identified a number of green spaces, and transposed the same photographs as if the green spaces had been removed (See A.O.B.)
Postv. Green spaces and peoples' front gardens.
Negtv. Number of cars parked on pavements.
- No further developments noted on property on Portland Towers.

Heritage Walk:

The Chair presented the findings of the heritage walk undertaken by the working group on Sunday 7th April.

The circular walk covered the Morland Avenue / Grenfell Road areas on the East side of London Road (including the Portland Road enclave) and part of London Road and Shirley Road

The group held a general discussion about these findings, and the following issues were raised for future discussion / action by the working group:

Issues:

Much attractive housing and landscaping of houses built between the wars and early 1950s. However...

- Many have already had UPVC windows fitted.
- Some have had their brickwork painted over.
- Portland Towers is already split into flats.
- One of Portland Cottages is subject to current planning application.
- Buildings proposed for The Paddock and the side of Knighton Cottages.

It was suggested that we create a library of pictures which will represent the characteristics of the area, identifying special features. This was considered to be a very good idea, and it was suggested that we should the Knighton public to submit photographs for inclusion.

This too was considered as a good idea, and one which will include the residents of Knighton in the overall process. (Methodology to be decided at a later date)

It was agreed that the next 2 Heritage Walks would be on:

1. Sunday May 12th at 2.30pm, and would cover the West Knighton area (West of Welford Road), meeting at the corner of Cairnsford Road and Aberdale Road.
2. Sunday June 2nd at 2.30pm, covering the potential South Knighton Conservation area, meeting at the Knighton Corner Store and Post Office.

Design Codes:

The chair explained the concept of 'Design Codes' and advised that other neighbourhood forums had used this concept to identify, and help preserve the character of their neighbourhoods. He illustrated this with photos from other neighbourhood forums.

He had also identified that public funding was available to undertake such an exercise as an addition to the Locality Funding for Neighbourhood Plans.

It was generally felt that it would be a good exercise to undertake, but care would have to be taken to ensure that Knighton residents took part in this exercise, and felt some sense of 'ownership of the recommendation at the end of the process.

It was agreed that the chair would invite a local urban planner with whom KNF has worked previously to the next committee meeting, in order to explain the concept, and the potential difficulties in greater detail.

A.O.B.

A member put his 'with' and 'without' green space slides on the screen...

The effect of the lack of green spaces, trees etc. was instantly shown to be extremely detrimental to the character of the area, and the group acknowledged that such activity usually happens over a long period of time, such that the erosion of green spaces is hardly noticed until it has almost disappeared!

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 30th May, 7.30pm. College Court Knighton.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.