

Knighton Neighbourhood Forum
Conservation and Heritage Working Group

Minutes of Meeting 30th May 2019

7.30pm. College Court Knighton

Names of attendees are redacted from minutes made public for privacy reasons.

[In order that PB would not have to sit through the business of the group, SB invited her to deliver her presentation to the group at the start of the meeting.]

Presentation by PB (LCC Conservation Officer):

PB outlined her role within the LCC Conservation team, and what she was doing regarding the Knighton neighbourhood.

She is currently undertaking a Character Appraisal (CA) of the Knighton Village Conservation Area.

(A Draft Character Appraisal had been undertaken at the time of creating the conservation area in 1975, but this was never completed, so PB is completing and updating the original draft, and identifying any specific features or items of special interest)

She presented the group with a map, and a copy of the original CA , which is a small area of Knighton, bounded by Knighton Road, Carisbrooke Road and Church Lane.

PB presented photos of a number of features, that give the area its unique 'character'. The group asked a number of questions about the work she was doing; perhaps the most pertinent being "would it be possible to extend the exiting boundaries of the Conservation Area?"

PB felt this would be very difficult at this stage, due to the processes that have to be adhered to, in order to have an area designated as a Conservation Area.

She suggested that it might be more appropriate to seek an 'Article 4' designation, which gives limited protection to existing properties and areas. (Note: The Group needs to seek further clarification on Article 4 status and determine if it is appropriate in our case)

When asked if there were any grants or public monies available to help with this process, PB was unsure, but pointed to a possible grant of £5000 pa might be available to help with restoration of St Mary's Church.

She hoped to have the CA available by September / October this year, but no formal deadlines have been set. (PB is undertaking a number of CAs this year as well as the Knighton Village CA.)

She gave the group some headings under which to list specific issues, if we are considering putting together our own CA of Knighton.

SB thanked PB for her time, presentation and helpful suggestions, and the business of the meeting continued.

Minutes and Actions: The minutes of the meeting on 11th April were agreed as an accurate record. SB and others reported on activities since previous meeting:

- AA was asked to approach MR re. creating a photo library of the area. (this was modified later in the meeting in view of photographs from AO and other suggestions from the group)
- SB explained that following discussions with his contact, PT, it would seem that 'Design Codes' are only really used where there is a large scale development, and not appropriate for groups such as ours. He felt that we would be better to try and devise a set of 'Design Guidelines' for residents and developers. Unfortunately there would not appear to be any public funding for this activity.

Heritage Walk: The Chair presented the findings of the heritage walk undertaken by the working group on Thursday 11th April in West Knighton.

All the participants agreed with RG that the area was much greener than they had anticipated, and they were surprised by the care and work being undertaken on the allotments near Pendlebury Drive. Also helping to 'Green' the area were the playing fields.

AO commented that the West Knighton bus service had been reduced recently, and that Pendlebury Drive was no longer a terminus for the 44 Bus.

Observations:

- It was noted that this boundaries in this area tended to be walls or fences rather than hedges.
- There were very few street trees.
- Many of the roads were of concrete construction, rather than tarmac.
- Many of the houses were of a 'Linked Detached' design

RC suggested that we could perhaps create 'zones' within the Knighton area.

SB said that he had not had time to put together a 'Powerpoint' presentation of the West Knighton area due to pressure of work, but hoped to do so for the next meeting. This would aid the group with identifying special characteristics of this are of Knighton,

Next Steps:

RC presented a couple of slide presentations that he had compiled:

1. Various 'significant structures' within the area
2. The 'Essence of Knighton', which featured a diverse range of features in the area;
 - a. Different types and uses of tiles
 - b. Flemish and English wall bonds (brickwork)
 - c. Road signs through the ages
 - d. Post Boxes
 - e. Bollards
 - f. Kerb stones
 - g. Fences and boundaries

The meeting was very impressed by the presentation, and particularly the various categories of 'features'.

SB thanked RC for the work he had put into the presentation.

Everyone agreed that it would be a good idea to create a photographic library of Knighton, but it was felt that rather than ask a single person to take photographs of the area (See Actions), it would be much better to involve as many people as possible to contribute to the Library.

It was suggested that a social media network such as Flickr? might be used, although none of us has a great deal of expertise in using this media. Despite this, RC offered to collate the photos.

Ruth C felt that we should collate and display photos at the future meetings, and looked forward to seeing the library take shape.

A.O.B.

The dates of further walks were set as Sunday 2nd June @ 2.30pm. - South Knighton; and Friday 28th June @ 7.00pm - Knighton Village Conservation Area

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st August. 7.30pm. College Court, Knighton (To be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.