

Minutes of the Arden Neighbourhood Forum Meeting

Monday 17th November 2025 – 7pm – The Red Cow, High Street, Market Harborough.

Present:

John Fannon (JF), Don West (DW), Lynn Thacker (LT), Bruce Durham (BD), Sarah Nimmo (SN), Anna Tyndale-Biscoe (ATB) and partner.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Steve Jones (SJ).

1.1. Minutes of last meeting

Any outstanding actions from the previous meeting minutes have been carried over into these minutes.

1.2. General NHP progress summary

- a) Progress on NHP has slowed since funding was withdrawn by the Government earlier this year. The 4 NHF chairs met recently to discuss moving the NHPs forward and collaborating more on policies. Following those discussions, it was concluded that we should share our policies and recommendations in spreadsheet so that we can compare them. We will continue to collaborate and at the present time don't require funding to progress, though some funding may be required later to pay for consultants (e.g. Your Locale) to review and potentially other things, such as an event to present the draft plan(s).
- b) JF is yet to incorporate feedback/comments from the discussions with Your Locale in May 2025 into the draft NHP. JF will also update the green space audit that forms the evidence for green/open space designations. These are both dependent on having the time to do so.
- c) HDC are very keen for the NHPs to be completed because they offer some protection against speculative development in Market Harborough, especially as the new Local Plan is not yet in place.

Actions:

- JF to update draft NHP.
- NHF chairs continue to meet and collaborate on NHPs.

1.3. NHP sub-group updates

a. Water and Green Spaces (Environment)

JF will update environment section of NHP following feedback from the meeting with Your Locale. JF will also update the green spaces audit and produce some of the maps required.

Actions:

- JF to update environment section of NHP.

b. Transport

No specific update was provided for this meeting by SJ (transport lead), but the following information was provided by SJ recently:

The County Council has been developing a phased transport improvement programme for Market Harborough. Through external funding secured through Section 106 contributions and the Active Travel England Grant (Consolidated Active Travel Fund), proposals will aim to support active travel options and ease congestion. Phase 1 of the programme will focus on the Rockingham Road corridor. To raise awareness of this work and seek early feedback, the County Council arranged two initial public engagement events in Market Harborough on 6th & 8th November.

More information can be found here - <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-projects/market-harborough-transport-programme>

It's worth noting that SJ and other HTH transport group members have raised several of the issues that these proposals seek to address, including the change to make Clarence Street one-way.

The Arden transport group has not met since the last forum meeting, so previous actions remain.

Actions:

- Transport group to meet and conduct audit of paths, cycle routes etc.
- Transport group members to suggest ideas for green wheel route(s).

c. Built Environment

JF will update the built environment section following feedback from the meeting with Your Locale. JF has now shared Arden built environment policies, along with other policies, with the other forums.

Actions:

- JF to update Built Environment section of NHP following meeting with YL.

d. Social & Community

JF will update the social & community section following feedback from the meeting with Your Locale.

Actions:

- JF to update Social & Community section of NHP following meeting with YL.

1.4. NHP Stakeholder Engagement

The new website is now bedded in and despite some teething issues, is being used, though some forums are more active than others.

We have used marketing materials provide by Lauren Hulbert for various things, including the recent CGR petition leaflets/posters.

We still need to investigate the best way to set up social media accounts for Arden and possibly change from using a facebook group, to a facebook page, but this is considered low priority.

There are no further events currently planned for NHP engagement.

Actions:

- JF to investigate social media accounts for Arden NHF (low priority).

1.5. Other Updates

a. Review of planning applications

JF has been keeping an eye on planning applications from HDC. There have been no new significant applications that warrant further discussion.

If anyone is interested in local planning applications, then these can be viewed at <https://pa2.harborough.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=advanced>. For Arden specifically, enter Ward as “Market Harborough Great Bowden and Arden” and Parish as “Market Harborough”.

Actions:

- All to continue reviewing planning applications in Arden and identify any that warrant further discussion.

b. Forum Funding & Finances

Locality grant funding is no longer available since the recent Government spending review. Further funding may be required later in the NHP process, but this is to be reviewed.

c. Town Council Update

The chairs of the 4 NHFs met on 17th October with the HDCs council leader and other members of the coalition, following the decision by the council not to pursue a Community Governance Review (CGR) into options for forming a Town Council (or other similar body) for Market Harborough.

The decision was made during that meeting that the 4 NHFs would take forward the option of a petition, requiring 7.5% of the population of Market Harborough (approx. 1600 residents) to sign in order to compel HDC to undertake a review.

A petition was created and the 4 NHFs and HTH have since been promoting this and gathering signatures. The current total stands at approximately 1750, though there are

known to be some duplicates and signatures from outside the town that will not count. We are targeting around 2000 signatures by 25th November, to ensure that we are well over the minimum required and to demonstrate the strength of support there is from residents.

Full details are available here - <https://harbourhoughtownhub.org/2025/10/26/local-democracy-have-your-say/>

And a direct link to sign the petition is <https://tinyurl.com/mh-cgr-petition>

Actions:

- The 4 NHFs will continue to promote the CGR petition and will pass this to HDC after the 25th Nov.

1.6. AOB

Next forum meeting will be arranged as required, depending on progress and need for update/discussion. Any issues in the meantime can be raised by emailing forum@arden-neighbourhood.org.

BD discussed flooding issues in Market Harborough and ongoing projects to help mitigate flood risk. The following summary was provided by BD after the meeting:

Flooding.

Harborough's Flood Action Groups (HFLAG as part of HTHUB CIC) has 4 FLOODHUBS on WhatsApp in MH. MH North covers ANHF area. FLOODHUBS collect evidence and build local self-help groups as most flooding is not reported so the Risk Management Authorities are not aware.

Our NHFs are leading four flooding solution projects. Symington Park water logging will be added to the projects where NHFs are investigate solutions.

Please encourage ANHF residents to adopt road drains (as blocked road drains flood houses) and recruit Flood Wardens as our flood risk is increasing with 2300 properties at risk in MH including about 6 properties that have internal flooding in ANHF. A total of 60 internal property floods MH with about 80 problem areas. EA say 1 in 4 houses in the UK are at risk of flooding.

Further information available from bruce.durham@hotmail.co.uk