

Minutes of the Arden Neighbourhood Forum Meeting

Monday 11th May 2026 - 7pm – The Red Cow, Market Harborough.

Present:

John Fannon (JF), Lynn Thacker (LT), Don West (DW), Steve Jones (SJ), Penny Fannon (PF)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Phil Knowles, Pippa Underwood

2. AGM

The AGM did not take place as there were not enough forum members present for voting to be valid. JF proposed that a short re-arranged AGM would be organised as an online meeting.

Actions:

- JF to organise AGM as a short online meeting
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3. Forum Meeting

3.1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting have been reviewed and were accepted. Any outstanding actions have been carried forward into these minutes.

3.2. NHP progress update

JF has made some progress with the draft NHP since the last meeting, including on revising and reformatting the environment section. Other sections now require reformatting to meet the style and layout agreed with the other NHF chairs. Once this is completed, the draft can be shared with forum members for comment and will be sent to Your Locale for review.

Actions:

- JF to continue work on other sections of draft NHP.
- JF to circulate draft NHP to members and Your Locale once ready.

3.3. Other non-NHP updates

a. Town Council CGR Update

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is currently underway into whether a Town Council should be formed for Market Harborough. The responses received to the initial consultation were overwhelmingly positive and 86% of voters were in favour in the recent resident's poll.

There will be further consultation through June/August 2026. See the following for more information on the CGR, timeline and results:

<https://tinyurl.com/mh-cgr-consultation>

<https://www.harborough.gov.uk/cgr25>

b. Future of Harborough Town Hub

At the last AGM of Harborough Town Hub, it was proposed and agreed that the CIC (Community Interest Company) should be wound up as it is technically not trading. Its primary role was to help form the NHFs and hold grant funds for on their behalf, which is no longer required.

Currently it is considered that Harborough Town Hub's role as a community organisation should continue, especially given the large following on social media and that the website is also designed to promote the work of the NHFs.

c. Change in HDC leadership

There has been a recent change in leadership of HDC, with the conservatives taking control of the council by 1 vote. Having had positive discussions with the previous coalition leadership, there is some uncertainty as to whether this will continue. The NHF chairs have agreed that a meeting with the new leadership would be beneficial.

Actions:

- NHF chairs to arrange meeting with new HDC leadership.

3.4. AOB

- SJ mentioned that a generally positive response was received to the feedback provided to LCC on behalf of Arden NHF regarding the proposed improvements along Rockingham Road.