



CLOUD AGM 2024 Chair's Report 24 October 2024, Cobblers' Suite Boot and Shoe

Welcome and Introduction

Check that the meeting is quorate - 10 members minimum and ask the Secretary to count number of members attending.

Trust all members have a copy of the agenda which was circulated recently by CLOUD Newbrief - if not we have spare copies available to hand out.

Explain that the CLOUD constitution requires us to hold an annual meeting each October at which we :

- receive reports from the Chair and Treasurer
- elect a new Management Committee
- decide on CLOUD's future course of action and
- address all questions and issues raised by CLOUD members.

Apologies for absence have been received from : Helena Todd, Abi Mills

If members have questions they want to ask as the meeting proceeds, please raise your hand and we'll do our best to respond.

Agenda Item 1 : Approval of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 19th October 2023.

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were posted on the CLOUD website shortly after the meeting. We have not received notification of any proposed amendments. Can I ask members present if you are content to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting? Assuming no objections, I will now sign the minutes as a true record. We will cover matters arising from the minutes under agenda item 2.

Agenda Item 2 : Report by the Chair on CLOUD's activities over the year from October 2022 to date.

I am going to keep my report fairly short and not attempt to cover all the activities and actions of the last 12 months - these have been reported in the CLOUD newsbriefs which Mary has issued over the year, all of which are available on the CLOUD website.

Tom - these are our suggestions for your report:

- *I have to begin with the saddest event of the last year which was the death of Tony Blendall in January 2024. He had been a stalwart member of the CLOUD management committee from the outset and contributed immensely to our campaigning with his professional knowledge of the planning process. He died after a long period of ill health. His contributions to CLOUD and his sense of humour will be much missed.*
- *2 major planning appeals involved a lot of work by CLOUD.*
 - (i) *Wain Homes. In February and March this year, the Planning Inspector conducted the appeal by Wain Homes against Lancaster City Council's refusal of planning permission. Wain Homes wanted to build 108 houses above Meadow Park in Galgate. Working with the Friends of Meadow Park, CLOUD spoke at the hearings on the waste water flooding risk. The Planning Inspector was sufficiently impressed to ask for a copy of the address and the flooding issue was one of the major factors cited by the Inspector in her decision to refuse the appeal. I would like to express my particular thanks to CLOUD committee member Babs Walker who delivered the address so effectively.*
 - (ii) *Gladmans. Like Wain Homes, Gladmans appealed against the City Council's refusal of planning permission - in this case for the development of 644 houses between Bailrigg Lane and Hala. The appeal began on 15 October and ends this week, and the outcome is awaited. Again, CLOUD spoke against the development, concentrating on the important issue of biodiversity and the failure of Gladman's scheme to comply with the City Council's Climate Emergency Declaration and the statutory obligation to achieve biodiversity net gain. Preparing this address was a team effort by the Management Committee but I would like to thank in particular Belinda Nixie for drafting it and Babs Walker for delivering it. Apparently her address received a round of applause. The Planning Inspector's decision is awaited.*
- *Local Plan Revision. CLOUD members who have attended the City Council's drop-in sessions will have seen the initial work by the City Planners to revise the Local Plan. As we reported at last year's AGM, this revision is being made after the decision to suspend work on Bailrigg Garden Village and the associated South Lancaster Area Action Plan. The revision aims to produce Local Plan not based around a new town the size of Kendal. Work is at an early stage and important details such as which areas are to be designated for housing development will only emerge in the New Year.*

That concludes my report. Do members have any questions? If not or once queries dealt with propose acceptance of the report.

Agenda Item 3 : Report by the Treasurer on CLOUD's finances.

I now invite Tony Breakell as CLOUD Treasurer to present his report on CLOUD's financial position.
[Treasurer's report to follow - very short as we've spent very little.]

Are there any questions on the Treasurer's report? If not, or once queries dealt with, propose acceptance of the report.

Agenda Item 4 : Election of the new Management Committee for the year to October 2025.

The CLOUD constitution states that the Management Committee should comprise 3 Officers and up to 6 committee members. We have received just one nomination for each of the officer posts and 4 nominations for committee members. These nominations all come from members of the present committee. We have not been notified of any other nominations for the Management Committee. 2 members of the outgoing committee are not seeking re-election. Rosemary Hindley has been our very efficient Secretary since 2020, but has now moved away from Lancaster. Heather Willes, a more recent but valuable recruit to the committee is standing down for personal reasons. I would like to thank Rosemary and Heather for their work over the years in support of CLOUD.

This means that we have up to 2 vacancies on the committee - and it's not too late this evening to volunteer. If anyone in tonight's audience is willing to seek nomination, please shout now! We are always open to any offers of assistance with CLOUD's campaigning.

I can therefore advise the AGM that the Management Committee nominations for the next year are : Chair - Tom Wilkinson; Secretary - Belinda Nixie; Treasurer - Tony Breakell; Communications - Mary Breakell; Committee Members - Mark Salisbury; Sally Salisbury and Barbara Walker. (plus any nominations from the meeting!)

May I invite the meeting to approve the election of the CLOUD management committee for the year to October 2025? And if anyone decides after this meeting that they would like to join the committee, we are able to co-opt them into vacant posts.

Agenda Item 5 :Objectives for the year to October 2025

Our main objective for the coming year is clearly going to be the revision of the Lancaster Local Plan. We can expect specific proposals and further public consultations as work on the plan proceeds. As in the past we will stick to our aim of opposing **unnecessary** developments and will keep members informed through CLOUD Newsbriefs. More than that is difficult to say at this stage. We're all aware I'm sure of the new Government's housing targets and their intention to impose developments on local authorities deemed to standing in the way of essential house building. How this is going to impact on Lancaster is impossible for us to forecast at this stage when the Government's scheme is still out for consultation. There are some indications that central and southern England may be the priority area but nothing is really clear.

Beyond the Local Plan, we can expect further house building applications and possibly appeals - as well as the outcome of the Gladman's appeal I mentioned earlier. These we will have to judge on their merits or otherwise as they come forward.

And that concludes what we see as CLOUD's objectives for the next year. May I invite any comments from members and suggestions as to any other aims we might consider.

Agenda Item 6 : Any Other Business

Chair to invite members to raise any issues not already covered in the meeting.

Agenda Item 7 :Date of Next Meeting.

Our next AGM will be held in October 2025, with the precise date to be notified nearer the time. If there is no other business to discuss, I declare the 2024 AGM closed and thank everyone for attending and participating.
