

# Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum

## Forum Committee

### Plenary session 19 # 1

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 January 2019

*Venue:* PDT Meeting room, Great Western Studios, W2

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#### **Present**

Jack Gordon, Resident, *Chair*  
Lawrence Harrault, Resident, *Secretary*  
Geoff Biggs, Voluntary and Community  
Jason Swerling, Resident  
Toby Gale, Paddington Development Trust  
Fr. Henry Everett, Resident  
Nicole Charles, Voluntary and Community (*arrived 19:08*)  
David Boothroyd, Ward Councillor  
Keith Cookson, City West Homes

#### **Apologies**

Patience Owen, Resident  
Sophie Nguyen, Business community  
Shamsa Hersi, Voluntary and Community  
Adam Hug, Ward Councillor  
Mariam Hassan, Community Champions  
Papya Qureshi, Ward Councillor

#### **1 Opening and welcome**

Jack Gordon, as Chair of the Forum, opened the meeting at 18:42, welcomed all present and wished them a happy new year. He highlighted the fact that the Forum was due for designation renewal this year, which should also be marked by the launch of the new website, progress on the Neighbourhood Plan and two community events. In stark relief in that context, initiatives we set in train will have some bearing upon the profile of the Forum. Jack also expressed the wish that active members of the Forum receive support from all Committee members, so that we truly work together. He then thanked PDT for hosting this Committee meeting and Lawrence for preparing it.

## **2 Apologies for absence**

There were six apologies for absence as recorded above.

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

Minutes of the November meeting of the Forum Committee had been circulated by email. They were approved as true and accurate by all present, subject to a minor correction:

First page – Guest speaker – read Liz Thorpe-Tracey, PDT, Event Coordinator

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not covered by further items of the agenda. Jack thanks Lawrence for all the paperwork.

## **4a Events Working Group**

Geoff reported on the preparations for the International Day to take place on 26 January, now to be called “Westbourne Global Food Festival”. He circulated the new flyer showing local businesses that have come to support the event as sponsors.

The event’s organisation was coordinated by Liz Thorpe-Tracey, who explained that:

- Advertising will be gone by posters and social media campaigning
- WAES will provide art and craft, as well as healthy cup cakes
- Food will be in the form of a tasting menu – some yet to be confirmed
- Workshops: dance, percussion
- Music performance on stage; PA system to be provided by WPBC, MC to be decided
- Event on two periods: food, then performance.

Further details were:

- Forum stall (see below for Lawrence’s explanations)
- Filming to be arranged by Geoff and Liz
- Press release: no progress in contacting local journalists
- Keith: CWH event at the Stowe on 24 January, opportunity to plug in.

Jack expressed the appreciation of the Committee and thanked Geoff and Liz for their work.

## **4b Update on Forum finance**

Jack invited Geoff to update the Committee on the state of Forum finance.

- At present, WPBC is managing the finance on behalf of the Forum.
- £3500 has been received from the Ward budget, distributed between:
  - o £2500 for the Food festival (£1500 running costs, £1000 staff costs)
  - o £1000 for the Forum’s consultation process on neighbourhood planning.
- There is £2200 in the bank account at the time of this Committee meeting.

- On-line account management is now in place, and the Forum received £150 as compensation for delay in setting this up.

## **5 Neighbourhood Planning**

Jack invited Toby to report on progress on neighbourhood planning work.

- The first working document on the Green Spaces policy area has now been produced. A few copies were made available to the meeting.
- A meeting of the Working Group is pencilled for the first half of February, to discuss the Green Spaces document and the upcoming Community Assets document.
- Comments on the Green Spaces document are welcome, but detailed discussion should take place later, once the WG has met.

Lawrence briefly reminded the Committee of the drafting process and he expected the Community Assets document to be ready for the WG meeting just announced.

## **6 New Forum website**

The Task group was to meet in a week or two to put the last touch to the new website. The existing domain was to be transferred to the new host.

It was hoped that the Food festival could be advertised on the new website.

## **7 Renewal of Forum designation**

Lawrence and Cllr David took the Committee through the process resulting from the Forum's lifetime coming to an end in July 2019.

Based on the recent precedent of Mayfair Forum, it looks as though Westminster City Council have chosen an intermediate process between tacit renewal of designation and full application.

Westbourne Forum would therefore be expected to submit the following information:

- Vote of the Committee expressing the intent to continue as Forum;
- Confirmation of the boundaries of the Neighbourhood Area
- Text of the Forum Constitution, amended if appropriate.

There would then be a six-week consultation via the Council's website. If there are no objections, the Forum would be re-designated for a further five years.

Toby: we should take care that tasks involved should not be too time-consuming.

Geoff: the issue should be examined closely by the Standing Committee.

Jack: we should make sure that the whole Forum Committee is in sync with the Standing Committee, and that the views of all Committee members are considered.

In that respect, members shared the view that relations with the local community should be kept in mind, as the Forum's ongoing work is central for its profile in Westbourne. We should consider

acting in an even more professional way: having a survey would enable us to put questions to local people and be careful to keep good evidence of their response.

## **8a SMM Project**

Jack invited Fr Henry to report on the progress of the SNN Project.

The Big Give appeal met with great success, as it gathered £46k in total, thanks to much better organisation than last year. Fund raising is still going ahead.

John Lyon Foundation is supportive of the work toward young people.

Extension building: the highest point was reached at the end of November, and completion is expected mid April, then fitting out will take place, with gradual opening spread from May to the autumn.

Heating: the new boiler is still awaited. The primary school does not use the church as yet.

Christmas services will be held in the church.

There is “a trickle of events” coming up that can be accommodated.

Toby reported that work was continuing on marketing and communication. As for suggestions for the centre’s name, the shortlist is: The Spire, The Lantern, The Junction.

There will be a call for tenders for a Cafe operator.

## **8b WP Baptist Church**

Geoff reported that all flats are completed and ready for their tenants. However, builders expect to be able to hand over the site in February. A date around Easter seems more realistic.

## **8c Other updates**

- Royal Oak: TfL will have to vacate Victoria Coach Station in 3 years’ time, and they have named the space between the Underground line and the A40 as a possible site. The Forum should combine force with SEBRA to oppose this.
- Taxi House: there is a development project to build up on the site by the Collective. Jack and Lawrence met the developer and the architect, and there is prospect of joint action with Maida Hill Forum in this matter.
- Windsor Castle: planning permission has been granted by the Planning Committee of WCC. This project had been supported by the Forum.

Next meeting on Monday, 18 March 2019. Calendar of meetings is to be circulated.

Jack thanked all members present and closed the meeting at 19:50.