

# Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum

## Forum Committee

### Plenary session 19 # 2

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 March 2019

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

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#### **Present**

Jack Gordon, Resident, *Chair*  
Lawrence Harrault, *Secretary*  
Geoff Biggs, Voluntary and Community  
Jason Swerling, Resident  
Toby Gale, Paddington Development Trust  
Fr. Henry Everett, Resident  
Nicole Charles, Voluntary and Community  
David Boothroyd, Ward Councillor  
Sophie Nguyen, Business community  
Shamsa Hersi, Voluntary and Community

#### **Apologies**

Patience Owen, Resident  
Keith Cookson, City West Homes  
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 18:39 and welcomed all present.

He then thanked Toby for hosting the meeting and Lawrence for preparing it. He also extended hearty thanks to Geoff for his hard work with the January event (see section 4 below).

## **2 Apologies for absence**

There were five apologies for absence as recorded above.

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

Minutes of the January meeting of the Forum Committee had been circulated by email. They were approved as true and accurate by all present.

The only matter arising related to item 8c of the minutes related to the Coach Station. Lawrence informed the Committee that TfL had decided to abandon the idea of moving the Coach Station to Royal Oak.

## **4 Feedback from the Westbourne International Food Day**

The Westbourne International Food Day took place at the Stowe Centre on 26 January.

Jack expressed the chair's profuse congratulations to the organising team for a highly successful event that was "tremendous and extremely entertaining". With so many involved and doing different things, this was a superb example of "a team at work".

A good set of photos was taken, and a sample was distributed to members.

Thanks were given to Nicole for her role as MC.

Geoff reported that the main problem encountered was the size of the venue, as a number of people could not be let in at some point in the afternoon. However, this showed that many people knew about the event thanks to an extensive display of posters and distribution of leaflets.

One strong point of the event was the food provided, although a small number of people felt that it was "not good enough", despite the wide variety on offer. The food could have been better laid out and origin of dishes should have been indicated.

The event's organisation was coordinated by Liz Thorpe-Tracey, with the help of her partner Shame. Both of them received a unanimous vote of thanks for their outstanding work. The work done by Community Champions was also noted with appreciation.

There was a great "community feel" throughout the event.

For future events:

- More people would be needed to clean up all along the event.
- It would be desirable to obtain people's feedback on the day.

## **5 Preparation of the Summer Festival**

Jack invited Geoff to update the Committee on the work of the Events Working Group.

Geoff circulated a summary sheet stating the point reached by the Working Group.

- Once again, the Group is benefiting from having Liz as coordinator.
- The issue of event insurance still needs sorting.
- Presence of the floating classroom is not sure as yet.
- Youngsters should be involved (as volunteers from WA have been for years).
- Good neighbour art competition is to involve primary schools.
- Dream Act is to be contacted.

## **6 Update on Forum finance**

There was about £200 in the bank account at the time of this Committee meeting.

All financial operations have been conducted through the bank account.

Geoff circulated a sheet summarising the accounts as at mid-March.

On-line account management was hoped to be set up within weeks.

## **5 Neighbourhood Planning**

Toby had nothing to report on progress from the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group, as the working document on Community Assets required further work, partially caused by the need to distinguish between commercial and non-commercial assets.

Lawrence and Sophie reported on The Collective's forthcoming application for a C1 hotel development on the site of Taxi House (Woodfield Road).

- The massing of buildings remains to be addressed.
- The landscaped stretch along the canal needs enhancing.
- The whole site will be gated and closed at night (from 11 pm).
- There is to be 1000 sq ft of workspaces.

Committee members raised the following points:

- The project will have to clearly benefit the community.
- Public consultation has not been very effective so far.
- The project has the potential to generate gain on local trade.

Toby and Sophie reported on Harrow Road Place Plan project. Apart from the steering group, meeting every three months, there is now a small inter-forum working group meeting every two months. The first meeting of that group had taken place and decided to put the Collective on the agenda of the meeting to be held in May.

Toby and Sophie expressed their intention to attend meetings of both the steering group and the inter-forum working group, subject to availability, and invited Lawrence to join if he felt so inclined.

## **8 New Forum website**

The Task group informed the Committee that the website was now ready to be launched.

Jack reminded members that the website was meant to be part of an integrated communication strategy, in particular for reaching out and consultation purposes.

Jason observed that PDT's contact list was now "ancient" and would need actualising.

## **9 Updates and other business**

### **9.1 SMM Project**

The chosen name is "The Grand Junction @ SMM Paddington".

- Event on Saturday, 30 March.
- New building to be finished around Easter (late April).
- Fundraising still underway: £700K to be found out of £6500K.
- Good support from Westminster Council.
- Should the Neighbourhood portion of the CIL be applied for (failing the central portion), the Committee would have to make a decision.
- Landscaping at the back of the project still pending.

### **9.2 WPBC Project**

Geoff reported that the whole project was "shaping up nicely".

The Church had received a 12 weeks' notice from the builders, but that sounded a bit optimistic.

### **9.3 Contention with AJD**

Lawrence reported on the situation with AJD, informing the Committee that he had personally been made aware that he could be subject to legal action as secretary for negligence and failure to communicate. Several members suggested keeping engagement with AJD to a minimum.

### **9.4 Other business and conclusion**

Toby informed the Committee that PDT was lodging a funding application with Trust for London with a view to supporting work on neighbourhood plans, essentially in Church Street, but a little portion could be set aside for Westbourne.

Sophie reported that the competition for the Canal towpath (under the A40 curve) had reached the point when the first round of selection was done. The final winner would receive £30K.

Next meeting on Monday, 20 May 2019, probably at Great Western Studios

Jack thanked all members present and closed the meeting at 20:16.