

Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum

Forum Committee

Plenary session 16 # 6

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28 November 2016

Venue: The Warwick Community Hall, Harrow Road, W2

Present

Shamsa Hersi (SH), Voluntary and Community, *Chair*

Lawrence Harrault (LH), Resident, *Secretary*

Geoff Biggs (GB), Voluntary and Community

Toby Gale (TG), Paddington Development Trust

Jason Swerling (JS), Resident

Rehmat Khan (EK). Business community, Harrow Road

Jack Gordon (JG), Resident

Jane Winney (JW), Resident

Observer

Kevin Haynes (KH), Resident

Apologies

David Boothroyd, Ward Councillor

Adam Hug, Ward Councillor

Papya Qureshi, Ward Councillor

Naomi Muiguia, Resident

Keith Cookson, City West Homes

Alex Liauska, Westminster Academy student

1 Welcome, introductions, apologies for absence

Shamsa Hersi, as the Chair of the Forum Committee for November and December 2016, opened the meeting at 18:38, and welcomed all present, who introduced themselves in turn.

Apologies from the three Ward councillors had been received and were duly recorded as above. Apologies were also received from three other Committee members, as recorded above.

2 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting of the Forum Committee (3 October 2016) were unanimously approved as accurate, with one correction:

- Among the observers, read *Rehmat* Khan instead of *Ehmet* Khan. Apologies from Lawrence.

3 Statutory matters

Lawrence (LH) made a brief review of the membership of the Committee as follows.

- In the summer, the Committee lost Nada Calovska and Shona Cullen.
- In October (see minutes), the Committee gained three members: Alex Liauska (WA student), Rahmet Khan (Business community representative) and Jack Gordon (Brunel Estate resident).
- It will be good to have a representative of an organisation involved with children and families.

Regarding the accounts of the Forum, these remained to be finalised before being submitted to the first Committee meeting of 2017.

There was no other end-of-year notice.

4 Neighbourhood Planning

SH invited LH to give an update of the process. LH informed the Committee that he has progressed well with the production of a Preliminary Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, but needed a bit more time than expected in October. He was hoping to finish the work over the Christmas period and would start interviewing all Committee members and a few other stakeholders in the New Year.

TG and GB remarked that the work undertaken by LH was substantial, and advised LH to make sure that he could cope with the workload.

Regarding the environment and sustainability issues, Kevin (KH) asked if there has been any feedback from Committee members. LH replied that he has received a few verbal comments, but thought that it would be useful to ask again. KH requested LH to circulate his document again, which was agreed.

5 Local Planning issues

LH gave a summary of local planning issues on hand.

- Whilst the Paddington Pole Project had been killed off by the developer, following massive protests from local people and organisations (including Westbourne Forum), the new Project consisted of a large Cube at the location of the former sorting office. On behalf of Westbourne Forum, LH acknowledged that there were some improvements in the Project, but that the Cube was still unacceptable development. On behalf of Westbourne Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Jack Gordon (JG) expressed similar views.
- Hathaway House: this project in Woodfield Road was amended by the developer (13 storeys reduced to 11 in the tower block), but both Westbourne and Maida Hill Forums expressed strong opposition to the design as it stood. Despite this, the Planning Committee voted in favour of the project.
- Windsor Castle (former public house): no news of significance.
- Westbourne Park (next to Bus garage): LH was to make contact with Tower Transit.

6 Communication and outreach

The Bulletin envisaged in October never went out, as Jason (JS) had not received enough contributions to produce it. However, something had been posted on the website.

JS suggested producing a Bulletin around Christmas, if he received contributions in good time.

It was suggested to approach students at Westminster Academy who would be interested in networking and/or putting a newsletter together in 2017.

Website: new design works to begin later this month.

7 Updates

7.1 St Mary Mag's

The stage now in progress is six months of design work of the Arts and Heritage centre (PDT/Church partnership). Tenders to be invited in February or March 2017, with close cooperation with the Westminster Society.

Two events to engage with the community:

- Monday 5 December: *The Imam and the Pastor* – An evening to listen to the experiences of two very different people come together to promote peace and unity. How the Imam and the Pastor put their differences aside for the food of humanity...
- 7 to 18 December: *Revival* – An art exhibition by 9 artists in the Crypt.

Interviews for a leader of learning activities were due to start soon. Opening expected in the autumn of 2018.

8.2 Westminster Academy

WA held a special event to celebrate their tenth anniversary.

8 Any other business

8.1 Summer Festival 2017

GB suggested starting thinking and preparing for the Summer Festival. He was quite happy to run the Events Working Group again in 2017. Meetings of the WG would take place on the first Thursday of every month.

GB suggested contacting Paola again for her to take a lead of the preparations, for consistency's sake.

8.2 Celebratory fireworks

GB mentioned that Queen's Park Community Council organised an annual firework display, and wondered whether Westbourne Forum would consider this too.

Exploring this possibility would mean studying its feasibility, the finance side, any environmental issue involved and the amount of work that would be required. We would need support from stakeholders.

9 Next meeting and conclusion

Dates of forthcoming meetings: Forum Committee: Monday 6 February 2017 evening. GB to chair.

SH thanked all present and closed the meeting at 20:03.