



## Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum

Forum Committee Meeting

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 – Zoom Room Meeting

### Minutes of the Meeting

PRESENT	
Geoff Biggs	Westbourne Park Family Centre, Chair
Toby Gale	Paddington Development Trust (PDT)
Lizzie Fletcher	Paddington Development Trust (PDT)
Jason Swerling	Resident
Keith Cookson	Westminster Housing
Shamsa Hersi	Voluntary and Community
David Boothroyd	Ward Councillor
Adam Hug	Ward Councillor
Sophie Nguyen	Business community

### 1- OPENING AND WELCOMING

Geoff welcomed all present on Zoom (video conference) due to confinement on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### 2- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Nicole Charles, Fr. Henry Everett, Patience Owen

### 3- MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record.

Sophie to take the minutes today.

### MATTER ARISING

#### **Geoff**

#### Sadia Furloughed

There is currently no date for when Sadia will be back at work. PDT furloughed Sadia before the Easter Holidays due to Covid-19. However, the funding for her involvement will be pushed back and therefore Sadia will be working for WF for the same length of time as originally.

#### Jack and Lawrence

- Lawrence was pleased to receive the vouchers as a thank you for his involvement in the Forum.
- Jack was pleased as well and wished to give his vouchers back to the community via the Westbourne Park Family Centre.
- WF agreed to it.

### Diana Hare Expression of Interest

**Geoff** explains that Diana Hare has expressed her interest in joining the WF. Following the previous WF meeting, Geoff contacted Diana in June and asks for a short summary of why she would like to join the forum and what she would be able to offer.

**Geoff** reads her email of 19/06/2020: *"I would like to join because I've lived in the neighbourhood for over 20 years and have a strong interest in how we can try to really make the best of what we have got in terms of design and planning of developments, public realm and infrastructure around this area. I have the experience of working as an architect for over 20 years."*

**Geoff** explains that Diana has just started a very demanding new job so in terms of availability it might be a challenge if it was to involve a large number of meetings but that she was keen to contribute her ideas and experience as much as possible.

- **Sophie** explains that Diana was introduced to her by Biljana Savic from the Maida Hill Forum. Biljana met Diana when they were both working on HS2 project and said that Diana was interested in joining the Westbourne Forum. Sophie explains that she does not know her personally nor professionally
- **Keith** found her to be a helpful and supportive resident and a sensible person, when he was managing Keyham House
- **Shamsa** thinks it will be a good asset to have another architect and a local resident from the Brunel Estate

**Conclusion:** The Forum is happy to welcome Diana as a new member.

**Action:** Geoff to email Diana Hare to confirm that she has been accepted as a new member of WF and to invite her at the next WF meeting.

## **4- PLANNING UPDATES**

### **Lizzie**

#### London National Park City

Lizzie Fletcher, Health and Communities Programme Manager at Paddington Development Trust, presented the London National Park initiative for which she is volunteering 1 day per week. National Park City is a partnership between residents, community groups, schools, local authorities, businesses and everyone that is involved in making London Greener, healthier and wilder.

Lizzie will be focusing on the Westbourne Green area, including the canal towpath. Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of access to green space for all. This initiative will be a comprehensive long-term plan of landscaping, greening, rewilding and community engagement around nature and green spaces.

What next?

For the Westbourne Forum: How would Westbourne Forum like to be involved?

- SN asked if this initiative could receive some funding through section 106?
- Toby mentioned that the WF has applied for the Good Growth Fund for Westbourne Green
- David Boothroyd mentioned that money could be allocated to it if the WF does an application to Westminster Council.

- Shamsa is in favour of developing the Westbourne Green project and offers to engage with it.
- Geoff mentioned that having the WF actively engaging with this project will be a benefit to the people and the area

**Conclusion:** WF is willing to support this project

**Action:** Shamsa is volunteering to engage with it

For Lizzie

- Working with place shaping team to agree plan and put together initial project management group and agree timelines
- Putting together a group of Rangers (there are 50 volunteer Park Rangers) to support us with designing some initial options and identifying potential
- Working with our current groups of residents to start thinking about their connection with nature

**David**

#### The Collective Taxi House

Status: Granted in principle (subject to S106 agreement and GLA approval) on 28/01/202

#### 300 Harrow Road

Status: Granted in principle (subject to S106 agreement and GLA approval) on 12/05/2020

#### 5 Kingdom Street

Proposal for the construction of an 18-storey office-led building in the Paddington Basin area. The applicant is British Land and the architect is Allies and Morrison.

Status: Refused by Westminster Council due to the development being too tall.

The Mayor of London (GLA) has advised Westminster Council that they broadly support the scheme, but the application has deficiencies which should be addressed.

A Public Hearing should happen being the application being granted.

**Geoff** has been contacted by email, by the developer British Land who has partnered with Oxford Innovation to deliver a study to inform the new development for an affordable space within the Box.

Geoff had a long conversation and explained the needs in Westbourne and how the local people could benefit from it, including having a physical connection to Westbourne area.

**Conclusion:** WF to stay alert to make sure it can influence the development for the benefit of the community.

**Sophie**

#### Design and Character Policies in London Neighbourhood Planning – Research Postgrad Student

Background: WF is being invited to take part in an Oxford Brookes University research project (MSc Spatial Planning) about the content and framing of design and character policies in London neighbourhood planning.

WF will be asked to complete one online questionnaire containing six questions, about the role played by design and character policies in neighbourhood planning, drawing on WF past experiences and broader knowledge accumulated during the neighbourhood planning process. 74 Neighbourhood Forums/local groups have been asked to participate in the study. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary.

Following completion of the survey, WF will be invited to take part in a follow-up semi-structured interview using Zoom.  
This research project will form the basis of a Masters dissertation that may be made available as a reference document at Oxford Brookes University Library.  
Contact: Samuel Hawksford White, email: [19043266@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:19043266@brookes.ac.uk) or mobile phone: 07964138073.

**Conclusion:** It is agreed that it would be a good idea for the Westbourne Forum to take part in this study.

**Action:** Sophie is volunteering to get involved. Sophie will liaise with all members of WF who are interested in participating in this study, in order to complete the questionnaire on behalf of WF. We can discuss at a later date, if WF wants to participate to a video interview?

## 5- THE FUTURE OF WESTBOURNE FORUM – PROPOSED GOALS 2020

**Toby**

Re-designate the Forum

Was submitted in April 2020, with additional information being requested and submitted, with a 6 weeks consultation process ending on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

But no news yet.

**Geoff**

Deliver 4 consultation Workshops

Idea of involving the community in planting seeds outside Grand Junction and use the small landscape which belong to St Mary Magdalene Church: on hold for the moment.

Deliver 2 large scale community cohesion events

Summer Festival was cancelled due to Covid-19. Some of the funds will be allocated to the next events. Lizzie from Happy Lizzie is happy to carry-over her fees for the works she has already done, to the next event that she does for WF.

Happy Lizzie sent some ideas for activities for this year, that we could discuss at the next meeting. Geoff will email Happy Lizzie's ideas.

**Geoff** asks what sort of event can WF do to restart reconnecting with the community?

**Shamsa** proposes an Event for the elderly? Foodbank for the vulnerable?

**Geoff** explains that at the beginning of the lockdown, WF and the Family Centre sent out 5000 letters to the Westbourne community, offering support with a contact number to get help.

**Jason:** Little events might be easier for people to trust that they can come out of their homes safely

**Geoff:** Let's include 'London National Park City' in the WF 2020 Goals

**Action:** Proposals/ideas to be discussed at the WF next meeting

## 6- FORUM COMMUNITY EVENTS – review next meeting

## 7- FINANCE UPDATE

- Accounts: £5315.90 in account. No money has been spent since last zoom meeting
- Finance Policy and Procedure:  
WF need to have a policy and a procedure to how we manage the WF money.  
**Action:** Geoff would welcome any templates.
- Bank Authorisation:  
Toby needs to be able to access online banking, and Jack needs to have access removed.
- Interim Treasurer – needs appointing:  
Geoff can be the bookkeeper but WF needs to appoint a treasurer to review the accounts. Geoff asks if anyone is interested to be the WF treasurer, to be discussed at the next meeting

## 8- ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Westbourne Forum Skills Audit

**Geoff :** It would be good to do an audit of what are the skills the WF members have and what are the skills missing. When we reach out, it will help us understand who could complement the skills we have.

- **Action:** Geoff to send a questionnaire to all WF members to see who can do different tasks. The questionnaire will be administered by Geoff.

### **Shamza**

- **Action:** Shamza to send a template for the members to fill-in their profile. Profiles to be added to the Audit questionnaire

### Website input

### **Jason**

- **Action:** Geoff to ask Lizzie Fletcher to write a resume about the Westbourne Green project, to be included on the WF website

## 9- NEXT MEETING

- 21<sup>st</sup> September 6.30pm