

Westbourne Forum Committee Meeting

Monday 19th April 2021, 6.30-8.00pm, via Zoom Meeting

PRESENTS	
Geoff Biggs	Westbourne Park Family Centre, Chair
Sadia Moh	Community Development Worker
Sophie Nguyen	Business Community
Jason Swerling	Resident
Keith Cookson	Westminster Housing
Adam Hug	Ward Councillor
David Boothroyd	Ward Councillor
Jackie Rosenberg	Paddington Development Trust
Shamsa Hersi	Resident

1. Opening Welcome

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

2. Apologies: None received

3. Minutes and Matter Arising

The minutes were recorded.

The Minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record.

3.1 *Bank Authorisation – 2 new signatures needed*

Sadia and Jason have sent the TSB form to Geoff which will be TSB. Details to be sent to Geoff and will be forwarded to the bank to get their authorised signatories.

(Payment can still be made but so far there's no outstanding payment)

Action: Geoff to process.

3.2 *Action Teams – all members supporting an activity area*

Everyone responded. 3 actions teams relating to the three items on the agenda.

The aim is to progress with the three different areas in between meetings and act as working groups - *community engagement, planning and communications*. For community engagement there are 8 names down, 7 names for planning and 3 for communications. Geoff proposed that all three meetings shouldn't meet in the same week but space out since there is a three-month period in between board members meetings. One working group can meet in May, and another in June etc. Any sub-groups such as the summer festival planning will still go on but be mindful of other activities such as the four or five different community development activities each with their own focus and people might want to attend both. However, each group decides for themselves.

All groups need someone to take responsibility and to feedback.

Sophie was nominated to report back on behalf of the planning group. Sophie agreed. Part of the responsibility is to initiate and Chair the meeting. It was suggested and in points of agreement to ask everyone in the group to take turns in taking minutes or notes on the action points so that people get used to doing it and the workload is shared more evenly across the groups.

Geoff asked if everyone would agree the principle for working groups that people take turns to take notes of actions? Nodding heads for agreement. As a guideline, it was suggested, if possible that all minutes or notes should be completed within 1 week and send out to all members on the board.

Action: All members to rotate minutes or note taking.

4. Community Engagement

Sadia and Geoff will share note taking for the group.

Geoff, Sadia, and Jason are down for the communication group. It can be a flexible group that needs to touch base frequently for the period and different things are needed for the website etc.

Geoff acknowledged there has been a lot said under matters arising and asked for questions or comments about this way of working.

Sophie asked how to decide which topics or projects to focus on?

Geoff suggested that it could be as things came up, they'll need to be addressed. The group can go ahead and not wait until the board meeting. However, anything new can be brought to the board attention. Others were asked for thoughts or comments.

Geoff reiterated that the Forum is now in a new proactive phase which is great and having reduced the meetings to four per year enables space for attention to this. People can be invited to join the groups without being part of the board, however, the Chair of each group needs to be informed as a matter of courtesy. It's obviously important to get other people involved in the working groups so that the Forum can expand the outreach to those who are really interested in those areas.

Green Westbourne

Sadia reported that the allotment is being cleared. However, the funding for the Project Manager wasn't successful but the work goes on. Lizzie and Sadia have drafted a list of organisations and businesses to invite as partners which include Westbourne Forum, Grand Junction, Westminster Academy, and St Mungo's.

Jackie reassured everyone that Lizzie is still looking for other funding opportunities in trying to bring in enough funding so that there can be a project worker to lead on that work. In the meantime, smaller projects are still going forward with Sadia and the Community Champions supporting that while the bigger programme needs an officer leading it.

Sadia reported that the Hammersmith Community Garden Association is also engaged to carry out green activities with the project.

Geoff clarified the reason why the CIL funding was unsuccessful was because a higher proportion was for the worker rather than a building. Jackie agreed funding would prefer to give towards capital.

Geoff thought that if CIL funding is down to capital, the Forum might struggle as the human resource enables the capital to be realised.

Jackie suggested the way forward would be for the Forum to put some sort of neighbourhood plan together which gives a percentage of CIL to spend as you choose. Further discussion around how much difference would it make to the forum which is unknown but Jackie on point of law and development said if Westbourne Forum had a plan which was voted on by the population, then any development in Westbourne Ward that has CIL attached, the forum will get a percentage of that CIL, 25% with a plan and 15% without a plan.

Parents Voices/Westbourne Community Safety – Sadia

Two training sessions have now been offered to the parents by Emma from Young Person Advocating Exploitation Unit, Children service at WCC on child grooming, sexual offences, and gang association. Further training will be provided by the police on the statistics of criminal activities on knife crimes and the

hotspots within the Ward. This will provide some ideas to parents on how to tackle the knife crime, youth violence and key issues from police perspective. It is scheduled for 21st April 2021.

This steering group will continue to support the parents to empower them in taking this forward until they are ready to stand on their feet.

Background Info: Westbourne has the highest incidence of knife crime in the whole of Westminster, according to recent information shared through the Young Westminster Foundation. Whenever there is knife crime in an area, resources get put into it and therefore, Westbourne has some resources to address this issue. However, it is concerning and we're aware of lockdown and the summer ahead, it's inevitable that many more issues are likely to arise such as the recent Amberley Estate stabbing which wasn't fertile but currently it's quite challenging.

Youth Westminster Foundation – Geoff

Has put in an application with the Council for the Mayor's fund for a significant amount but was unsuccessful. One of the reasons was because there wasn't enough community engagement. They've asked Westbourne Forum and Queen's Park Community Council to do a community survey and £2,500 was provided for it. It's best to come to the Forum rather than the Family Centre as it has a broader remit. At some point, a questionnaire will be put together to reach as many people as possible in the community to find out how they've been impacted or concerned about knife crime or youth violence. We'll try to get this done within one month.

Geoff gave clarity on both projects. Parents Voice is a long-term joint project with other organisations to encourage and empower parents to understand the impact on violence and where to get resources while the community survey is a short-term piece of work that will build into another application of applying to the Mayor's office again for significant amounts of money - £750,000 to provide a programme of work to address this issue across Westminster.

Shamsa commented on the issues around the youth. The lack of provision and withdrawal of services by WCC which proved effective within the community. She argues that this isn't only about parent's responsibility as young people now need more support, more intervention, and more funding of new services as it takes "a community to raise a child".

Comments from Geoff, who agreed for more funding and services, however Sadia suggested the parents might be able to access funding for activities which will be necessary to keep the kids active. Moreover, there are resources available in Westbourne for something to do.

Geoff reiterated that the Forum is trying to connect the community to access the resources but understands there might be issues of trust around policing etc. They are huge issues, but the community should feel empowered to do certain things rather than feel powerless.

Westbourne Park Food Pantry

Westbourne Summer Festival – Saturday 17th July: Geoff

It will be an unusual day and there is a need to manage numbers, have an entrance and exit point, as much as possible. Strange and different partly due to the development @ 300 Harrow Rd where the large space that usually holds the bouncy castle is now inaccessible.

Sophie asked if there is a possibility in including teenage or young adult's activities? Invite sport centre to do a sport demonstration relating to young adults such as boxing or [Kenistatics], it is impressive and might appeal to young adults.

Shamsa commented on the previous youth leadership on various activities and would like to see young people and their parents be encouraged to take active part in it since it is a young people festival.

Comment from Jackie: To talk to All Stars. They might do a boxing exhibition, or something targeted at young adults rather than little ones.

Grand Junction is bringing a youth stage and the young people are controlling that as part of their contribution. That will be another significant entry point.

If anyone is interested and wants to come to the meeting, they're more than welcome, please speak with Geoff or Sadia and they'll send you the links to the meetings which generally meet once a month.

Jason asked about the entrance - Entrance can be accessed through Harrow Road, however, it is always hidden, and people generally never know to access it. It will create extra hard work this year but there are big boards to stick things on and have people pointing and guiding from the street.

5. Planning

Summary from Geoff on Neighbourhood Plan

From last meeting, there was a lot of discussion about the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), whether to continue or not. If we continue it will be in the hands of the new planning committee which has just been created. Extra funding will be needed to bring in consultants to help with that.

The option of having five designated key areas or just focus on one area such as the greening which is something we're currently involved with and particular to Westbourne. We have lots of green areas and a canal running through.

Whether we focus on one area or don't have a NP and focus attention on specific projects that we can still apply for as long as we look at Capital more than people.

We will have CIL money 15% rather than 25%, that will be allocated if we didn't have a designated plan.

Action: decision needs to be made

Update from Sophie:

Whether we go for a NP or do the other option called **Neighbourhood Development Orders** which isn't a NP, we need to identify key themes which is needed by the community and have evidence to support the chosen development.

The NP is lengthy and requires skilled group of people to do it, but the alternative (NDO) still needs to be evidenced based on identify needs and demonstrate the needs.

Decision to take Sophie thought first to meet with the community engagement team to identify what is needed.

Geoff: seems like no decision will be made this evening.

Decision on the Neighbourhood Plan

Sophie: I think if we decide for example not to go for a NP but still want to get involved in making some projects happen, we still need some process of community engagement. Community engagement can serve the NP or the alternative, NDO. We don't need five areas we can have two areas – greening spaces and community centres.

Sophie further suggested if everyone will agree, we don't go for the NP (for the obvious reason – it's lengthy and needs more resource) but for the NDO – which is like having the power to grant planning permissions for small developments. Sophie suggests meeting in the next month, identify maybe two themes and see whether community engagement with the feedback from the survey what is needed then go through the NDO route.

Geoff clarifies Sophie's suggestion as proposing to look at a couple of areas through the Neighbourhood Planning working group. There also needs to have a structure or process in place to move it forward, either it becomes sections of the NP or just to pursue individual NDO.

Sophie: It is prepared by the neighbourhood forum, subjected to WCC, and approved through public referendum.

Comments were invited from members in which direction to go.

Jason suggested going for a full NP.

Sophie wanted to know about the structure of the 2009 NP.

Jackie explained that the current plan is now different because that plan was prior to the Planning Act and before Neighbourhood Forums was formerly set up by the government. The 2009 NP was a major piece of consultation work conducted by Paddington Development Trust at the time, which produced a plan based on a big community survey, but it isn't a plan. There are a lot of relevant issues but not a neighbourhood plan specific to this legislation.

Jackie explains from her reading that a neighbourhood development order is about affordable housing for sale and a very specific thing from a NP. It looks like a pilot scheme between 2019/20 and then 21/22 but it's not clear if it will be around after next year.

Sophie agrees and reads as well "but it's a small community development schemes, such as, for example, housing or new community facilities".

Jackie suggests that the Forum will have to decide that they believe Westbourne needs new community facilities before you go down that route, given Geoff's new building, the Stowe Centre, and Grand Junction.

Jackie has been heavily involved in producing the Church Street Neighbourhood Plan and is of the view that the Forum would do well to have a focus on greening. It can cover all subject areas with an umbrella such as your NP is about the greening of Westbourne.

In reference to housing, it can talk about using the most effective technologies for ensuring sustainable development within Westbourne in terms of children and young people.

It can talk about the need for fresh air and reducing carbon emissions from cars

In terms of all areas, it could have a green flavour, because it involves greening work in Westbourne and many little projects involving the community, in doing greening events. It seems you can do both the consultation and conversation simultaneously while delivering the little projects and build up this big resource of what people are saying they love or/and like.

You could cover things like improvements to the canal, growing food along the Harrow Road.

It's much easier to capture the community around one theme, then consult on it and get support for it than to produce the whole neighbourhood plan. (Church Street had a resident with PhD in planning who did all the hard work). Jackie agrees with Sophie, NP is hard to do on your own.

Main message from Jackie: As a Forum, we all have a really good idea for what is going on and where the lack is and where things can be improved. We have confidence in our knowledge of what the community thinks and feels, we then put something on paper to consult and touch base with people.

One of the challenges of producing a NP at the same time as the Council's development is that you get stuck with consultations around you while you're also trying to consult on a NP. Another reason is if we focus on the greening, it is much more tangible for people to relate with, we can cover everything on this one theme, and it will be easy to meet all the planning permission.

Secondly, she suggests that "have courage and not feel necessarily that you need professionals right at the beginning. You can bring in professionals near the end when you're ready to submit something, and you need it checked over so that it meets planning needs". A good place to look in is the Queens Park NP, it's very brief and not in so much detail but contains a lot, and if it has what the community say they want in terms of planning, and doesn't breach existing planning, there's no reason why it shouldn't be successful.

Comments from Keith: Subject to agreement with both Queens Park and Church Street if they could allow us to use some of their materials where issues are the same and Westbourne builds on it specific details pertinent to it.

Jackie responds that it is a good valid idea, however Westbourne has a particular challenge around big roads, the railway, the A40 which she feels the greening issue will unite such as people on the Brunel will have as much to say as people on the Amberley and this is a way to capture the community around something that they really buy into. In her opinion, other issues will cause it to become fragmented. However, both can be done – have some key headlines based on the others and a bigger chapter on greening with just a few key policies you picked from the other existing or some to be existing plans. Jackie's main thing to say is, this is "doable".

Geoff: The general feeling is that we need a NP of some size but haven't worked out the size or scale. This will be explored but the guide for this meeting is having a plan. Greening seems to be the starting point of something that can bring together all the elements of the community in one area.

Sophie suggests creating physical activity space for young people as part of the greening.

Geoff suggests for Sophie take this forward in the working group meeting and bring any further guidance and actions back to the next meeting. Sophie was encouraged to take up Jackie's offer to connect with her as well as looking on the Queens Park/Church Street NP.

Planning Updates- David

Paddington Places – No movement since the last meeting. Consultation finished at the end of last year but awaiting results to be announced at some point.

300 Harrow Road- Building works started and foundations in place.

St, Mungo's Facility – very active and upfront about the consultation. There might be a series of meetings coming up in the middle of May and have something more definite on the proposal but could be a very tall tower.

Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Vincent Paul – Looking a lot better than ever.

West-mead – Went to Planning Committee last month and was granted permission despite some very effective pleas by residents. Both Adam and I spoke, trying to get some sort of amelioration of that planning but was granted as recommended.

Paddington Arts on Woodfield Rd - They've had various ideas for redeveloping over the years, probably linking it with the Getty Images site which is right next to them. They're proposing an extension for catering facilities which will come into some sort of yard cum car park on the entrance but keep a few parking spaces. A café for people using the centre and extra facilities on the floor above. It's a modest extension, reasonable idea but not sure in terms of funding.

Geoff: there's a lot of activity happening in planning. Some periods are quieter than others. Geoff suggests to Sophie in formulating a consistent approach to what is felt about planning in relation to size and scope and in some sense, take forward the views of the forum and feedback to the Forum. About two thirds of the board, have expressed an interest in being part of the planning working group. That is good news.

6. Communication

New Logo: Some variations on designs were shared and some comments raised. We need to come to some specific finalised proposal and take a vote on it. Any other suggestions on how to move forward on the logo?

Action: Communication Planning Group to take this forward. Have two new designs and the old design and ask people to vote on their preference.

7. Report Up-date

Community Development – Sadia

Liaising with Jason to ensure all updates regarding activities are on the website.

Spoke to Lizzie about organising an Eid event in Westbourne for the 20th of May but was advised to postpone till after 25th June, otherwise guidelines are still in place. Another option is to have it outside on the green at Grand Junction and the Community Champion could help out. Still working on it and will feedback at some point.

Questionnaire to send out to all committee members which is like a survey for the community needs and asks questions such as if people are engaging in activities, do they have enough facilities etc. Form has been sent to all committee members and Sadia asked to email her any comments.

I'm registering both Forums with Tempo (time credits for volunteering). The incentives can be used by the Forum for the following:

- Incentivise people to deliver workshops
- Incentivise recruitment for specific skillsets (web design, admin, minute-taking etc)
- Recognise / thank / incentivise attendance of forums by residents / service users

It is based on vouchers awarded on the number of hours accumulated. Volunteer could choose from a list of options to redeem their vouchers.

Look forward to more workshops.

Action: Sadia to take forward the Eld festival idea and will confirm it with the group.

Community Development and Planning Groups to propose meetings dates for each group and send out to the whole group.

8. Finances - Geoff

We had £5,353.00 in the account. I put in an application to the National Lottery for the summer festival of £8,000 and we got it. Our current balance is £13,353.00. Coming into the account is £2250.00 to pay for individuals helping with the community safety consultation (Young Westminster Foundation). If anyone is interested in participating with that or know anybody who would like to earn some money doing the consultation, then do let Geoff know.

Summer budget is usually around £12-15,000 and will more likely remain the same.

9. AOB

10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 19th July 2021 at 6.30 pm

