



## Forum Committee Meeting

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020, 6.30-8.00pm, via Zoom Meeting

PRESENT	
<b>Geoff Biggs</b>	Westbourne Park Family Centre, Chair
<b>Sadia Moh</b>	Community Development Worker
<b>Sophie Nguyen</b>	Business Community
<b>Jason Swerling</b>	Resident
<b>Keith Cookson</b>	Westminster Housing
<b>Fr Henry Everett</b>	Resident
<b>Diana Hare</b>	Resident
<b>Nicole Charles</b>	Westbourne Park Baptist Church
<b>Sophie Nguyen</b>	Business community
<b>Joe Turner</b>	Paddington Places

### 1. Opening – Welcome

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

### 2. Apologies:

Keith Cookson, Adam Hug and David Boothroyd

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The Minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record.

Geoff presented Diana Hare to the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Diana Hare has been welcomed.

*Diana Hare* – very happy joining the meeting and introduced herself.

- She has been living in the Westbourne area for over 20 years.
- She is an Architect and has worked in different part of architecture including schools and sport centres.
- Last 11 years she worked for transport – International Metro Project
- Recently work for HS2 and two major American organisations
- Passionate in engaging the local community.

*Toby's leaving gift* - Geoff informed everyone that he had sent a personalised framed drawing of the different places Toby had worked at in the Westbourne Area. He showed the drawing on screen to everyone. The group were very pleased.

#### 4. Planning Updates

Geoff reiterated the two objectives of the forum. One was the involvement in the neighbourhood plan and the other is the community development, aiming to build stronger communities through social cohesion, empowerment, and participation in community life.

Discussions followed on the following planning updates:

**300 Harrow Road:** Geoff had attached a Council Newsletter to the agenda and invited anyone to make comments.

300 Harrow Road is a new development that now got planning permission. It is opposite Westminster Academy and just off the canal. It is proposed to be a high-rise building, presumably a mixed tenure and imposing.

Sadia mentioned the forum could advertise in the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the Harrow Rd Newsletter as a way of reaching the community. Geoff was cautious of aligning the forum to the newsletter because of the historical past. However, some consideration will be given to the idea.

Sophie commented on the inappropriateness of the ground level spaces of the building which will be used for storage of bicycles following a meeting with Westminster. One aspect of this development is not necessary very good for the community. The Council response was that they could not compete with the existing restaurants and cafes although they will have one café possibly.

Diana raised a question who the architect might be. Sophie mentioned Charles Raden Lewis Architect.

Geoff asked if there was anything the forum could do to influence a better outcome and community focus. Sophie suggested having a conversation with Cllr Adam Hug. Diana raised the issue of health and safety.

**Action:** Geoff agreed to talk with Adam on concerns about ground level proposal.

#### **Paddington Places - Jo Turner, Project Manager**

Geoff reminded everyone about the email sent with attachment to forward to people they might know to get the information out.

Jo Turner, Project Manager for Paddington Phases Shaping team at Westminster City Council is working to develop a concept design strategy of different projects that works for local people. Attachments and links to the website had already been sent with the agenda. Please pass to anyone on your contact list.

This is a strategy to collect early ideas and comes to an end on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2020. However, further contribution can still be made after this date via the website. There had been a mailout to all residents but considering the current restrictions there has been less boots on the ground.

#### **St Mungo's Facility – 217 Harrow Rd**

Geoff: gave the feedback about the meeting held previously. St Mungo's facility will be situated by the petrol Station and Westway. Geoff, Sadia & Fr Henry had an initial meeting with the architects' s developers. Now plans are being revisited to develop St Mungo's – homeless temporary accommodation. They are looking to build high and lower blocks in that area and to give more space to St Mungo who will support homeless people 'moving from hostel to more supported accommodation. Mixed tenure. Also, looking to improve the Westway walk away with more life and activities or even a shop for skateboarding. They still need to consult with the community and engage with key partners. The lower they go for high of the building the less they can provide towards accommodations.

Geoff added we will need to be more involved to attend their meetings and we will write a letter of influence once the proposal is ready.

### **Our Lady of Lourdes and St Vincent Paul**

Geoff explained that the building has been painted externally and looks more presentable but so far, no news about external work. We still got the CIL money (£180,000 designated to Westbourne). They will need to go through the Forum for that support but so far, we have not heard from them.

Father Henry responded on the question of the planning. The existing church remains but the hall and car-park will be demolished and replaced with a better hall with a community focus. The site is in terrible mess, but they want to make some facilities which will be more useful for the community. So far it is not a radical proposal.

### **Westmead Update**

Residents now moved out into Shirland Rd. Previous concerns raised were about the heights of the new build vs the current 4 levels. It was agreed for no more than 5 levels. Geoff suggested a follow-up conversation with David.

Sophie reminded the group that she wrote a list of concerns and there is a need to know how high or tall the building is going to be.

**Action:** Geoff/Sophie to follow up on this with David

To find planning permission, please go to Westminster website/current planning/consultations.

## **5. Proposed Goals for 2021**

Deliver 4 Consultation workshop – Update Sadia.

- Has been working with Community Champions.
- Challenges engaging with the community with the current Government restrictions with COVID 19.
- Attending a workshop tomorrow with parenting families to talk about the Forum.
- Sent out Westbourne activity flyers to schools and support from the Council for further distributions in Westbourne Estates.
- Worked with community champions on a group walk of 6 women
- Advertised for a volunteer to help with the Forum Website.
- Possible training to be provided on building the community's confidence and motivation (to start with community Champions)
- Activity plans for 2021 to be discussed.

Sadia to report about her work at the next meeting.

Jason talked about creation of a questionnaire

Sadia will speak to Geoff

Geoff understands the difficulty with COVID's restrictions, and the key element is to help the community.

### **Deliver 1- 2 large scale community events.**

Global Food Festival not possible for January to postpone until COVID climate restrictions ease.

Join in with Lizzie to promote the Green Project Partnership – she contacted the councillors and is looking for funding to start the project. To be reviewed in the new year.

Partnership with 'London National Park City'  
Lizzie put in a bid but was unsuccessful.

### **Fundraise professional support to develop the NP review.**

The 'locality' funds are available to employ an expert to help develop the plan. Sophie and Diana volunteered to contribute to the development. Geoff suggested putting in a funding application but would need some expert knowledge in completing the initial form.

**Action:** Sophie/Diana/Geoff to review in January.

### **To improve communication and promotion-Update**

Discussion around the logo which does not appear on the Forum Website.

**Action:** Diana offered to work on improving the existing one and will share with the group prior to finalising. Geoff propose to Diane to come with at least 3 different suggestions.

**Action:** Diana offered to work on the logo improvement and will email update sometimes in January.

## **6. Review future structure meeting**

Next Forum Committee Meetings 2021

25<sup>th</sup> January (budget will be presented for this next financial year)

26<sup>th</sup> April 26<sup>th</sup> July and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## **7. Finance Update**

No money has been spent.

Finance Policy and Procedure review in place

Bank Authorisation: Sadia and Jason are the new signatories, but it has not been actioned yet.

**Action:** Geoff to sort out.

## **8. AOB:**

Sophie, Keith, Fr. Henry, and Nicole have all completed and sent in their WF Skills Audit. The purpose is to identify the skills gap in the forum.

**Action:** Geoff will attach them again to be completed.

Date of next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Geoff thanked everyone for their presence and input and thanked also Diana for joining the group