

Forum Committee Meeting

Monday 25th January 2021, 6.30-8.00pm, via Zoom Meeting

PRESENT	
Geoff Biggs	Westbourne Park Family Centre, Chair
Sadia Moh	Community Development Worker
Sophie Nguyen	Business Community
Jason Swerling	Resident
Keith Cookson	Westminster Housing
Fr Henry Everett	Resident
Diana Hare	Resident
Nicole Charles	Westbourne Park Baptist Church

Opening – Welcome

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

Apologies

Adam Hug and David Boothroyd

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record.

Bank Authorisation – 2 new signatures needed

Action: Geoff to process.

Project Updates

Green Westbourne – Lizzie

Westminster Council working on landscaping along the canal to engage residents to benefit from the outdoor green space, engaging with nature. Looking at all possible ways throughout the community ranging from their school life, leisure time, skills for work, employment opportunities. The process has been delayed due to CORONA Virus impact. There is a bid for a consultant to help with the community consultation. WCC has taken the wording from Green Westbourne project proposal and included it in the proposal for the Consultant.

Timeline: WCC is looking to make a concept Master Plan from Mid-March to end of April (collecting all evidence they got so far)

Arrangements are being made to meet with London National Park City to collect as many exciting examples as possible that relate to nature and green. These ideas will be piled up together and then provided to the Consultant.

Action: Anyone who has an idea in the group to add on the proposal, please shared it with Lizzie and this will be sent across.

June – October 2021: proposal will go out to the community for consultation.

In the meantime, we are trying to regenerate some interest amongst residents, i.e., Nature and Mental Health sessions with Community Champions which has made a fantastic impact.

The Hammersmith Community Garden Association bid was not successful. Lost the Bid

There are some available bids that Lizzie will go back to. She also mentioned having had an offer from Free Raised Bed from the Council and will work on it.

Action: If anyone has any ideas considering low time investments and to capture people's imagination, please share it with her.

Lizzie talked to Re-Power London (Solar Power installation in Community Buildings) and they are looking into the roof of the Stowe and will do a feasibility study at the Westminster Academy.

Sophie asked if Solar Power will be interested in helping the lighting along the canal as it is quite dark, this will bring some life to the area. Lizzie explained that the model is to supply the buildings anything else will go to the grid, but she will try to ask them.

Feedback from the community: Lizzie stated that it will be best to wait for the Consultation. When the plan comes out, we can look and make sure to be present at the workshop with the Consultant. It will also be an opportunity to ask some questions. When the consultants are appointed, it will be great to chat to them.

Geoff suggested to consider getting a page on our website and to think about branding Green Westbourne. We will be happy to support this project and raise awareness throughout our channels, to get people engagement and getting ready for the consultation. We should all work on that as a Forum as well as individual and organisational work.

Action: Lizzie will chat to Sadia to make a list of contacts to where we are going to hit and to send Jason a page about the project and some pictures.

Geoff thanked Lizzie for coming to the meeting and could also talk to her outside the meeting for more support.

Parents Voices – Westbourne Community Safety

The idea of this meetings is to develop community response to knife crime and violence particularly with supporting families to feel more empowered and being able to know where to bring their concerns for advice and to offer the parents some preventative actions.

The Meeting for Parents voices was organised by Lizzie following a community champion resident concerns about a woman who was stabbed in Westbourne a couple of months ago. On the 10th of December we met to discuss how we could go forward followed by another meeting where some residents and community providers were invited. There were concerns of witnessing youth aggravation and behaviour gathering near the outdoor sport area in the park bringing influence by group of youth. The first community meeting was held in January which Geoff chaired. We are planning to have another community meeting with young people invited on the 23rd of February at 2.15 pm and if anyone is interested, please email Sadia. If there are any hotspots activities, please inform the Parent Voices group as this could require perhaps more Police patrols.

Action: Geoff will send an invite to all for the next meeting which has an email contact list of attendees.

Suggestion to put a list of all providers on the Forum Website as well.

Westbourne Park Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is a community initiative for low-income families to get a low-cost food, set up by Westbourne Park Baptist Church. It will serve most people in Westminster and it is being supported and funded by WCC.

It will require a weekly subscription of £5 and people will be able to choose up to 12 items of their choice.

The Pantry will start on the 4th of March open from 10-1 and 4-7pm.

There will be a need to ask the residents what the most important food items they would like to see as this will be tailored to the need of the community.

Neighbourhood Plan

Review decision to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Benefits vs Costs

Geoff, Sophie, Diana, and Sadia attended a zoom meeting with Council (Michela Leoni, Policy officer – Planning) on the 20th of February regarding the NP development.

Sophie gave a brief outcome: -

- The NP was introduced in the Act of 2011 and it is not mandatory, but it needs to have a designated area and need a Neighbourhood Forum to write a plan.
- It is not necessary to do a plan
- What the NP enable us to do is to make a decision to replace a strategy and policies for future developments.
- We can also implement projects without having a NP
- NP allows us to use more of the CIL money. i.e., if we do have a Westbourne plan as a Neighbourhood Forum, we could still use 15% of the CIL money, and if we have a NP, we can use 25% CIL money.
- NP may require about 2 -3 years of work to be written and it is down the Neighbourhood Forum to write the plan and we will not get help from the Council to write.
- WCC will help only when we will go to the next stage i.e. when the draft plan is achieved, we will consult with the community and gather evidence to show that the plan and project have been identified. Thereafter this will be submitted to the Council who will look at it and determine whether we have been informative with the legislations including EU's, Human Rights ad policies.
- NP is a local plan but cannot go against any other planning policies, government plan, local plan, and strategies.
- When this has been accepted by WCC, there will be a need of a Referendum and WCC will pay the cost and will organise it. The Referendum is accepted only if it reaches 50% voters. Once accepted it will become another policy against all the development in the areas has been assessed.
- The pros: The Neighbourhood Forum will have more influence in what happens in our local area.
- The cons: it takes at least 2 years and we will have to do the NP ourselves which will require specific skills, such as organising community events, gathering, and analysing Data, writing project documents and feedback. We can get fund of a maximum of £9,000. A locally consultant hire could reach up to £550 a day.

They also advised that this plan is written by community with voluntary involvement. What we discussed recently is we could also get involved in the development of our area, "community right to build an order" (for smaller development only), it is a way for the Neighbourhood Forum to influence policies.

Summary:

- Need to have a skeleton plan of a NP
- Define Key priorities in our area based on feedback from the community
- Then establish a plan which will be subjected to WCC and approved through a referendum

Michela advised the following

- Need of a dedicated community meeting (what do you want here")
- Feedback from the community (how would you like your area to grow, what are the needs)
- Get back to the WCC and see whether we should perform a NP or go through Neighbourhood development Order.

Action: Geoff will circulate the Neighbourhood Planning document to everyone for information.

We all need to work together to identify key priorities.

Some suggestions have been brought up such as housing, greening, community safety, employment, and enterprise. We will need to decide on our resources and where we proceed.

Geoff suggested three ways: -

- We do not need to develop a NP, let us focus on other projects
- Let us go for a NP but we will need a team who will need to get money from some localities and who is going to drive this forward.
- We can choose a priority such as greening to develop a NP over a focussed area which will benefit the community.

All get CIL money to help us to develop one piece forward and then we can broaden to another one

He proposed that it is best for all of us to think about it and come with a decision in our next committee meeting.

There have been other suggestions from the group such as Green project and in terms of original plan children and youth was a significant theme and was one of the five from previous topics.

Geoff explained whatever the project will depend on who you go to ask for money. If there are organisations funding certain areas, as long as you can prove there is a need that come from the community, it does need grounded in research. In terms of expenditure, there will be a different budget we can source and CIL money would just show evidence of the need of the community. Community consultation is essential to whatever we want to do.

Geoff: has agreed that we are addressing some points of areas. We try to work in between meetings to help us as a way of working. We all need to take responsibilities to do our homework and we have only four meetings a year to decide whether it is a NP or part of NP and talk about areas and priorities.

Sophie mentioned the placeshaping which the Forum hasn't attended their meetings for a while. She suggested to attend with Diana

Action: Sophie to send an email to say we are back

Lizzie attends regular meetings with Green Westbourne and if anyone wishes to attend this meeting, she could send them the link.

Geoff suggested to look at our own group at the next meeting and see what areas we are interested in. Spread our energy and get people involved.

Planning updates: Paddington Places, 300 Harrow Road, St Mungo's Facility, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Vincent Paul and Westmead

Geoff read David Boothroyd's report send by email to the group as he was unable to attend the meeting.

Paddington Places: Nothing has happened about the Place Plan since November when Westminster held the public engagement events and sent out the questionnaire. At some point soon they will report back on what they got from the consultation, and propose the next steps in the project.

300 Harrow Road: Permission was granted at a planning committee in May, and formally issued in October. Willmott Dixon have been appointed as contractor and they started on site in December, first by diverting power cables outside Wilmcote House. The temporary nursery is open on Westbourne Green.

St Mungo's Facility: St Mungo's and Stories (the development partner) have started up a big community engagement programme through their consultation team Filigree. They are calling the site 217 Harrow Road and have set up a website (<https://www.217harrowroad.com>), Twitter account <https://twitter.com/217HarrowRoad> and consultation page <https://217harrowroad.commonplace.is/overview>. They are still very early in their process though as we know they certainly had big ideas when speaking to people late last year.

Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Vincent Paul: The church already has planning permission (from November 2019) but needs help in funding. We have been trying to help them apply for CIL and other funds; they also got a grant from the GLA 'Grow Back Greener Fund' to improve the area fronting Harrow Road.

Father Henry made a point that they are asking for CIL money and that is why he has asked them for more information.

Geoff clarified that when there will be an application to WCC for CIL money, the Council will ask us to comment. He also suggested to set up a sub-group to look at the planning in detail outside this meeting and make comments between us. He suggested to meet with Sophie in between meetings and look at the proposals and bring a summary report to the committee meeting with our guidance and proposal to the way forward on each point. Invite others who wants to comment to do so. Get minutes of the meeting to the group prior to the Forum meeting. Focus on CIL money.

Westmead: The big proposal to redevelop Westmead is moving through Westminster's planning system, with Rupert Handley as the case officer. A large number of residents have objected, about light impact, openness of the outdoor space, car parking (not making it a car free development) and not having enough affordable housing. What we have heard from Westminster is that they were hoping to get it to a committee in February, but that they want to do both Westmead and Carlton Dene sites at the same committee and the Carlton Dene application is delayed. (Carlton Dene is in Maida Vale and like Westmead is an old care home closed since Beachcroft House opened).

Goals for 2021

Deliver 4 consultations workshops

Proposal to look into using social media in the future for engaging the community.

Deliver 1/2 large scale community event

Due to COVID climate and government safety guidelines seems impossible but we still pencil a date in the diary for 18th July 2021 as Happy Lizzy would like to have an approximate date

To improve communication and promotion – New Logo

Diana sent suggested logo to the group. She shared three models she has drawn on screen (first couples were based WF and 3D

Following comments by the group: -

- W is more important than the F
- Westbourne Forum wording need to be changes in different size
- Spotted one (reflect many things happening)
- There was also a preference for the old one

Geoff suggested that the idea is more based on the comments. Diana could take all comments and the committee will make a decision by voting at our next meeting.

Diana: to email the group with further development and to narrow choices to two before our next meeting.

Action: Diana will made further variations and work on two suggestions.

Report – Update

Update on Community Development Work

All flyers were displayed around the Estates in Westbourne (200 flyers). The flyers were still displayed at this time.

GJ has finally confirmed that they had service-users following the advertisement and Lizzie confirmed that there has been one woman who contacted her. The challenges are still there due to the Government safety regulations. Children are working virtually from home which impact on the parents to join activities. As everything is done through Zoom, some families might not have the equipment to facilitate their engagement. Following one-to-one supervision with Geoff, the focus is to ensure all activities in the local area are actually visible in our Westbourne Forum and Sadia will be working closely with Jason.

Finance Update

Accounts - £5,315 in account – no change

£2,500 is to be added for community engagement from PDT (Fund...)

Proposed budget for April 21 – March 22

Global Food Festival & Summer Festival

£2,000 Communication

£2,000 Community Workshops

NP approximate £8,000

Funding from WCC £12,000

Locality Fund £10,000

Total Budget £30,000

PDT (Forums Funding to add £2,500 for workshop – Community engagement)

Geoff suggested to adopt the above as a working budget (idea what we will be spending)

Any other business

Westbourne Forum Skills Audit – update

There are still members who haven't completed the Skills Audit Form.

Action: will send them out again for those who didn't complete.

Date of next meeting and conclusion

The date has been changed from 26.04.21 6.30pm zoom to **19th April 2021 at 6.30 pm**

Geoff (Chair) thanks everyone for their attendance and contribution

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