

Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum

Forum Committee

Plenary session 15 # 3

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May 2015

Venue: Westbourne Park Baptist Church, W2

Present:

Shamsa Hersi (SH), Voluntary and Community, *Chair*
Lawrence Harrault (LH), Resident, *Secretary*

Geoff Biggs (GB), Voluntary and Community
Jason Swerling (JS), Resident
Jane Winney (JW), Resident
David Boothroyd (DB), Ward Councillor
Adam Hug (AH), Ward Councillor
Smita Bora (SB), Westminster Academy
Toby Gale (TG), Paddington Development Trust
Abby Jan Dharamsey (AD), Resident
Nada Calowska (NC), Family Lives

PDT Staff in attendance:

Monika Pawlowska (MP), Community Officer

1 Welcome, introductions, apologies for absence

Shamsa Hersi, as the Chair of the Forum for May and June 2015, opened the meeting at 18:40.

Apologies had been received from: Naomi Muiguia, Jackie Rosenberg, Fatima Taha.

2 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

LH had produced the minutes of the second Plenary Committee meeting held on 16 March 2015. These minutes were approved as accurate.

There were no matters arising from the minutes other than covered by later items on the agenda.

3 Relationship with PDT

3.1 Financial provisions

With reference to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Forum and PDT, it was felt that more clarity was required in the financial area:

- PDT staff has managed the relationship with Locality, with a view to gaining funding toward neighbourhood planning activities;
- Part of the funds obtained had been earmarked to pay PDT for services provided.

Consequently, the last bullet point needed expanding to include the role of PDT with regard to Locality. Furthermore, there was a need for a separate paragraph to cover payments made to PDT for its ongoing support.

LH, who had produced the draft, acknowledged this and proposed to draft a new Article 4, covering financial aspects to account for these remarks.

Action:

The amended MoU, as revised by LH, to be circulated prior to the next Committee meeting.

3.2 Neighbourhood Planning

MP reminded the meeting that £8000 could be applied for from Locality for 2015-16. The Forum could apply for the full amount, but the application had not been submitted yet.

Clarifications were required as to:

- remunerating PDT for work in this field and ongoing support;
- including a consultant's fee estimate: PN was to request a quote for £3000. The same

quote as for Church Street could be used to that purpose; if we used the same consultant, we might get a better deal.

Locality was also prepared to provide technical support, accounting for the fact that Westbourne was a deprived area, and the Forum had little expertise in planning. Several packages were available, but we also needed to apply for this.

Action:

MP to proceed with the application to Locality along the lines she suggested.

3.3 Funding of the Summer Festival

MP was happy to report that the Summer Festival had already attracted funding from West London CCG (for £2000), CrossRail (for £500), the Edward Harvest Trust (for £2700), the rest being covered from the Ward Budget, thanks to our Ward councillors.

LH noted that Thames Water only intended to contribute for £100. It was felt that the inconvenience caused by the works on Westbourne Green would have called for better compensation than that.

Action:

LH to express the Forum Committee's disappointment at the small contribution from Thames Water.

4 Neighbourhood Planning

4.1 Report from the Working Group

TG: since its creation, the Neighbourhood Planning WG had held two meetings, and reflected on:

- How will the Forum consult local people as to the contents of the Neighbourhood Plan? How to use the Summer Festival to do this?
- There are some documents already there. How can we exploit them? LH and FT were starting work on the Ward Profile.

There are several very fluid points:

- Focus on the canal side as something with potential to be explored;
- Shops: what do local people wish?
- Leisure and community facilities: what do we need?
- St Mary Mag's: what can we expect from the project?
- What is lacking in the area?
- How to improve the Harrow Road/Royal Oak junction (cf. Masterplan)?

- What should the Plan include for young people?
- Housing is a major, but difficult, area to handle.

AH: two development plans were rejected, at the Brunel Estate and on Westbourne Green. We should be careful not to trigger alarm bells. In particular, one should not be over-focused on Westbourne Green.

Linking with the Harrow Road Town team is highly desirable. The Brunel area should be addressed proactively as well.

SB: One should look at the area's reputation.

4.2 Public consultation during the Festival

It was suggested that the Summer Festival was an excellent opportunity for the Forum to consult local people along those lines:

- TG: What sort of neighbourhood do local people want?
- We should come up with something aspirational, a longer term piece of work.
- Whereas previous plans were Council led, the Neighbourhood Plan is to be led by the community itself.
- LH: importance of the Forum stall as a kiosk.

MP suggested using a similar method to Church Street. Consultation should be "part of the fun", including:

- expressing desirable priorities with marbles into jars;
- a wish-tree;
- ideas written down on pieces of bunting and/or pegs;
- local map to navigate around.

We should get as many people at the stall as possible.

Action:

The WG to organise activities for the public consultation at the Forum stall along the agreed lines.

5 Westbourne Summer Festival

As Chair of the Events WG, GB reviewed the preparations for the Summer Festival, to be held on Sunday, 7 June, from 1 to 5 pm, on the canal side.

The layout would have to be slightly different to last year's, with a bigger stage as well.

TG and GB observed that Paola had been a great asset, including in the coordination of volunteers.

Students from Westminster Academy would be very welcome.

SH: In future, we should find a way to invite people to give their views about the date of the Festival.

GB: Important to state that the forum is the organiser of the Festival.

6 Communication and outreach

JS informed all present that the Forum Bulletin was to go out before the Festival, and that the entries were awaited as a matter of urgency.

Actions:

- ***LH to contact Manahil for an article on El Nour supplementary school.***
- ***Deadline for articles for the Bulletin: Friday following this meeting.***
- ***LH to liaise with JS regarding the proposals for a new Website.***

7 St Mary Magdalene's Project

TG informed the meeting that the SMM Project was progressing well, with all plans coming together for the purpose both of fund raising and planning permissions.

May was to be a busy and challenging month, with some difficult issues to be tackled, such as the height of the new building. It would be helpful if the Forum produced a letter of support at some appropriate point.

DB: Get all other heritage societies to come in support.

LH: N-Planning WG could look into planning considerations.

TG: There will be a specific stall at the Summer Festival.

TG: Parents from SMM Primary School were consulted as to potential effects on the school.

TG circulated invitation cards to the People Show to take place on 20-22 May, in connection with the Crypt part of the Project.

8 Other updates

8.1 Prince of Wales Junction (Harrow Road)

An application was being prepared for registration of the former pub as a community asset. This was now ready to go, subject to comments and agreement with the Harrow Road Town team.

NC: Too many objections had been rejected because they were deemed unrelated to the provisions of the Betting and Gambling Act.

DB: The licensing had not reached committee stage yet.

SB: Forum members would need some training as to what can be done in such situations

8.2 CrossRail

JS: Works on the footbridge had been delayed. No date known yet.

LH: The operator for the CrossRail concession had been named, and CrossRail begins to operate the Shenfield line from the existing Liverpool Street rail station from 31 May.

10 Date of next meeting and conclusion

The next meeting of the Forum Committee is to take place on a Monday evening in July.

Date, time and venue will be confirmed nearer the time.

SH thanked all present and closed the meeting at 20:30.