

WESTBOURNE FORUM – COMMITTEE MEETING (23#2)
Monday 20th March 2023 – from 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Zoom Conference

MINUTES

Presents: Geoff Biggs (Chair), Sadia Moh, Jason Swerling, Lina Alchami, Cllr Angela Piddock, Keith Cookson

New Attendees: Jack Gordon, Julie Allen.

1. Opening – Welcome to attendees and introduction

GB welcomed everyone and introduced new attendees. Both new attendees are present as observer and they will need to follow process into terms of welcoming new members.

2. Apologies for absence

Diana Hare and Adam Hug

3. Minutes and matters arising

Agreed as being accurate.

4. Working Group Updates

1. Green Westbourne working group – Update

- Some indoors and outdoors sessions have taken place.
- A hotel's bugs have been built by the community.
- Allotment fencing has been painted by the community to make it look more appealing and attractive. More workshops are to be planned for the near future.
- The funding that was allocated to the allotment will finish by end of March 2023.
- The Hammersmith Community Gardens have secured funding for a six-week community gardening course for Westbourne Ward residents which will be due to start in April 2023.
- The Creative and Community Director, Grand Junction at St Mary Magdalene's will be looking into applying for a Green Future funding.
- The Health & Communities Programme Manager, Co-founder of the Green Allotment, will be back from Maternity Leave by end of April 2023 and will also be looking to apply for further funding that will last until September.
- The allocation of the allotment will be reviewed by Westminster Council this year.
- The next Green Westbourne Committee Meeting is to be held on the 4th of May. Future of the allotment to be added on the agenda.
- Next workshop "Makeup with leftovers" is to be delivered by VW, a community volunteer who provides various workshops such as microgreens, worm composting, foraging and food waste reduction. The event will take place in Grand Junction.
- Hammersmith Gardens Associations offered various walks in nature to the community. Successful way out for residents has taken place at the Leg of Mutton at Hammersmith.

Allotment: KC will have a meeting next Monday with the head of the Regent Team and Jenny Harris from Placeshaping Team to find out if there will be a possibility to extend the allotment's agreement beyond September 2023. Some decisions will be made by end of March about the regeneration plans and timescale for what WCC hopes to do and when.

AGREED: KC will update the team following the Monday meeting and found out whether there will be a possibility to explore further funding.

AGREED: KC received some information about Greening Westminster and will share the information with the group.

2. Events working Group

11th March International Festival – Review from all members

GB shared some pictures from the event, and he has also mentioned that due to GDPR the pictures will stay for internal use only.

Feedback from the group:

- Excellent attendance – about 600 people turned up.
- Event went well, and it was extremely busy.
- People seemed happy and enjoying themselves.
- Performances and music were fabulous.
- 42 Feedbacks were completed and collected.
- More volunteers this year around managing people in the building, serving food, clearing, and cleaning up

Some minor issues were discussed such as children having a poor behaviour.

AGREED: challenge to look into at the next year food festival.

Elections – Cancelled

GB apologised for not informing the group earlier that the elections were not take place at the event due to lack of people applying for the elections.

25th June Summer Festival

Plan for the festival is to be delivered at the same location as usual. The organiser, HL, will coordinate the event. Monthly meetings will be held for the planning, and everyone is welcome to attend.

AGREED: SM to contact the list of people from the feedback questionnaire and asked them if they would like to be involved. To get that in place prior to our next meeting.

Funding for the festival is moving forward. More money will be asked from other sources in the next financial year.

3. Planning Working Group – Update

Planning is to be put on hold for now until further volunteers recruit to join the Forum.

Idea was discussed around finding viable project that the Forum could apply for CIL money to achieve. The idea also to link the Green Westbourne and Westbourne Green. KC is having discussions with WCC officers to find out whether the Forum could align to those aspirations together.

AGREED: to work on the Green and Westbourne Green agenda

4. Community Voices Working Group

Workshop Update

A community Safety workshop was held on the 8th of March to bring awareness on knife crime and gangs. It was delivered in partnership with Future Men, Community Champions, and Helping Hand (Young Westminster Foundation) who has been developing programmes to work with the community organisations.

It was well attended with the presence of Local MP Karen Buck and Cllr Angela Piddock as well as Westminster Academy Headteacher who was interest in facilitating further workshops within the school.

Comments: The workshop wasn't focussed as originally planned. It was more about information sharing from the partners rather than helping parents to understand and talk through the issues which were the focus of this workshop.

It was also mentioned that a need of more communication and knowledge of support services for the community.

Suggestion: to have information page on the Forum Website to direct people to all those organisations.

Westbourne Family Centre has secured a bidding through Westminster Young Foundation – Helping Hand to do workshops with parents to address issues of serious youth violence with them, their general concerns about their children and their wellbeing. There will also be a first aid training in relation to knife crime to target young people so that they can act and help as well as young people working in local shops. There will be 3 series of workshops over a 12-month period.

Committee members will be kept up to date for the next meeting and are welcome to join bearing in mind that it is a parent led group.

It was mentioned that there seems to be a synergy between the Westbourne Community Voices and the Safer Neighbourhood Panel. This will be discussed further with JG and Cllr AP.

Suggestion: to bring the safer neighbourhood panel and link it together and make sure that both are communicating sharing and supporting each other agenda, although different but many things in common.

AGREED: The group will be notified about the next meeting schedule and everyone is welcome to attend though we are trying to make it a parents led group to be ownership from the community.

5. Community Development Worker

Update – Activities taken place

- Leg of Mutton Hammersmith – walk organised by Hammersmith Gardening Association. 11 people were in attendance.
- Women Cycling is still running on Thursdays in Westbourne Green. A lunch gathering event took place at Grand Junction and women were presented with an attendance cycling certificate.
- House of Parliament Visit – Sponsored by sponsored by Karen Buck MP. 18 residents both from Westbourne and Church Street wards were in attendance. People expressed interest and enjoyment.
- SM was also involved in outreach to promote the Forum's events as well as flyers application to recruit more members on Westbourne Forum Committee

Website/Communications

JS talked about the importance of community safety and communicating across different groups and perhaps having a page on the website for community safety and links to organisations that can provide support.

JS has also managed to display information of different events which has increased a number of visitors on the Forum Website. An average of around 40 people are visiting the site.

Idea was brought up about linking with WCC to email us their events that can be beneficial to the community and have them displayed on the Forum's Website too.

Issues were raised around not getting sufficient number of candidates for election. Idea to look into the reasons why this has not been successful. Engaging the community in getting knowledge about Westbourne's history and thereafter that might become supportive and protective of their area. To also link with Urban Wise that has provided Canal Heritage history with Community Champions.

5. Management

Review Election Process

A brief background was provided towards the elections. Only one election was held seven years ago when there were 16 or 17 people standing for 15 places. In the second election process there were only 7 or 8 people standing out of 15 allocated which didn't allow to have the elections. A need to think about another alternative methods to recruit by keeping the Forum's principles of the constitution which require a broad representation of the Westbourne Ward towards 50% of the residents and also including local businesses, voluntary organisation and young people. In terms of engaging people it is best also to have an AGM once a year to have a membership and those who are co-opted on throughout the year who have to be nominated by somebody and seconded by somebody who's already on the Forum and to work towards this broad representation.

Suggestion: to look at a simple framework or membership and review that prior to the next meeting.

AGREED: GB to send the joining the Forum application form to the new attendees to complete.

- Goals for 23 – postponed to the next meeting

7. Finance Update

- Accounts Report – GB shared account on screen
Actual budget for this year up to 31st March was £22,000 and this has been spent leaving a balance of £137 – financial year if from 1st of April to the following year 31st of March.
Will have in bank account £7,103
Westminster Housing gave £1000 towards the international food festival but the purchase order was made to Westbourne Park Family Centre and therefore the Forum will invoice the family centre for the money to be transferred over. KC is aware of this and has agreed to it.
GB thanks KC for his support.

Budget 23-24

£15,000 for the summer festival

£6,500 for the international food festival

Some money has been put for communications for community workshops

Nothing has been budgeted for neighbourhood planning and for the elections which are not relevant for this year.

Total around £22,000

£9,750 has been also secured from Award for All (National Lottery) which will be carried over for this financial year. Some other post of money for funding have been applied for.

(please see budgeting account attached with this email)

Stopped at 23.20

8. Any Other Business

9. Date of Next Meeting and Conclusion

- 19-06-23
AGREED: next meeting to be face-to-face and will be reviewed. Timing will remain unchanged. Venue will be confirmed.
AGREED: to send a calendar invite to the group.