

Forum Committee Meeting 25#1



Face to Face Meeting at Westbourne Park Baptist church
corner of Porchester Road and Westbourne Park Villas, W2 5DX

Meeting minutes
Meeting 1#25: 27/01/2025
Held at Westbourne Park Family Centre, Porchester Road

<u>Attendees</u>		<u>Apologies</u>
-Geoff Biggs (GB) (Chair of the Forum) -Jack Gordon (JG) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Jason Swerling (JS) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Richard Harrison (RH) (Resident and Member of the Forum) -Lina Alchami (LA), (Westbourne Resident) -Stella Hales (SH) (WCC, Senior Community Development Officer) -Keith Cookson (KC) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Gill James (GJ) (Nington Programme Director)		-Marina Kroyer (MK) (WCC, Change4Life Programme Manager) -Sheuly Chowdhury (SC), (Westbourne Resident) -Maria Eubanas (ME), (Westbourne Resident) -Cllr Angela Piddock (AP) -(Westbourne Ward Councillor and member of the Forum) -Diana Hare (DH) (Resident and member of the Forum)
Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p><u>Welcome, Introductions and Agenda</u></p> <p>1.1 The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting. All in attendance made individual introductions.</p> <p>1.2 The agenda was circulated ahead of the meeting outlining the format of the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of new member(s) to the Forum • Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting. • Update – Joint Maida Hill and Westbourne Forum Planning response. • Review of the Westbourne Food Festival <p>Working Group Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on environment, climate, and greening projects in Westbourne • Allotments • Events working group, communications. • North Paddington Programme, Place Shaping • Paddington Programme, Place Shaping • Neighbourhood Plan <p>Finance Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Update • National Lottery Update 	

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2.	<p>Application of new member(s) to the Forum 2.1.GB, explained that MK had previously expressed an interest in joining the Forum, as an action GB said he would follow up with MK to ascertain whether she remains interested.</p>	SH- to contact MK .
3.	<p>291 Harrow Road Development Plans GB, said that the Westbourne Forum and the Maida Hill Forum submitted a written response to Westminster City Council's consultation on the proposed planning plans for the development of new housing, recreation, and an enterprise at 291 space at Harrow Road. GB, in summarizing the salient points in the joint response said that both forums are concerned that key decisions about the design plans for the development appear to have already been made by the Council and Developer ahead of the community consultation. The process therefore did not give the community a meaningful opportunity and platform to shape and influence the outcome of the proposed design and plans. Furthermore, GB said that concerns about population density which will inevitably increase due to new housing has not been addressed. Its not clear whether the Council has undertaken feasibility study assess and understand the impact on current social infrastructure and resources such as; GP Practices, schools, social services, transport etc. Whilst there will be some anticipated financial benefit to the local economy, the operational management of the proposed recreational space on the ground floor is unclear. The facility will directly face Harrow Road which will attract people. There is potential for the space to be misused, careful thought should be given to the matter. RH, added that thought should also be given to the design of the public realm space around the area. The paving around the area is not very accessible for wheelchair users or people using walking aids. In concluding discussion on the item, GB said that a further letter will be sent to the Council jointly from both forums seeking clarification on outstanding points mentioned herein.</p>	
4.	<p>Community Hubs update – GJ, gave on update on community hubs and explained that the development of the new hub on Ernest Harris House is completed. The Council is in the process of appointing an operator, it is hoped that the new hub will be open to the community in March 2025.</p>	
5.	<p>Update on the North Paddington Programme- GJ explained that the programme is reaching its second year/ phase 2 of delivery. Phase 1 of delivery encompassed consultation with the community and residents, forging networks and gaining a deeper understanding of the local area including needs and priorities. At the start of 2024, the programme carried out thematic workshops with partners and residents to understand where delivery should be focused. The programme has a fund of £20million attached to it. The fund is divided into a revenue and capital pot. The capital fund is for the benefit of improving local community assets. Phase 2 of the programme encompasses delivering a program of works which is underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation programme. GJ, said that alongside the £20million fund, the Council is leveraging other money available from other sources. Phase 2 is</p>	

	<p>characterised by a delivery and leveraging process. KC, asked about the capital fund programme and enquired about applications for the fund. GJ, responded that 12 organisations have made applications for the fund. JG, asked where the money comes from. GJ, responded that the Council has ringfenced 3rd party assets for the NPP to be used for the 3 wards.</p> <p>Westbourne Forum Community Festivals & Events (Food Festival) The festival took place on 25 January 2025. It was attended by 400 people. The theme of the festival centred around the Chinese New Year- this was reflected by the menu and craft activities. Harrow Road Soup Kitchen was commissioned to cater for the event, which worked out at £6 per head. Residents and visitors enjoyed the festival and gave great feedback on the food and range of entertainment. RH, said the gospel group received lots of great feedback. He also added that reception area/ welcome area of the Centre could have benefited from being well dressed and decorated to make it more attractive. JG, said that the branding and advertising could be more amplified. It would be good to create a promotional video for future events.</p> <p>Green Westbourne updates, LA talked about the allotments and Westbourne canal side. LA, said the community is being encouraged to care for the allotment and canal side area. LA, also said that she has handed over the management of the Westbourne Green group to Lola May from the Paddington Development Trust.</p>	
5.	<p>KC, also updated that Inge Lynbourg (WCC) is working on improvement plans for the allotments which include funding and management plan. Katherine Spence (WCC) is also looking at carrying out a consultation with residents of the Brindley Estate to develop a section of the area near the canal,</p>	
6.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) KC summarised the work he has undertaken to date and said that; he had a discussion with PDT and sought advise about the recruitment of a resource to work on the plan and other areas. This was prompted by an understanding that a local community organisation secured funding through CIL to recruit for a post. It was on that basis that the Forum sought to investigate whether the opportunity is also available to it. KC, said that he completed an application for CIL. Feedback from the CIL team indicates that funding cannot be granted for a post/ position however, it is possible to fund consultancy work related to the procurement of a neighbourhood plan. KC, further updated that he was advised that the Forum might wish to consider looking at the WCC City Plan when deciding on its priorities and basis for a plan. KC, explained that</p>	
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