

# 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 3#29/4/2025

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) -Diana Hare (DH) (Resident and member of the Forum)		-Marina Kroyer (MK) (WCC, Change4Life Programme Manager) -Maria Eubanas (ME), (Westbourne Resident) -Cllr Angela Piddock (AP) -(Westbourne Ward Councillor and member of the Forum) -Kieth Cookson (KC) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Adam Zaki (AZ) (Citizens Advice Bureau)
Item	Notes	Action
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introductions and Agenda</u></b></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"> <li>• Application of new member(s) to the Forum</li> <li>• Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting.</li> <li>• Update – Joint Maida Hill and Westbourne Forum Planning response.</li> </ul> <p><b>Working Group Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on environment, climate, and greening projects in Westbourne</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Events working group, communications.</li> <li>• North Paddington Programme, Place Shaping Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Update</li> <li>• National Lottery Update</li> <li>• London Tigers CIL application</li> </ul> <p>-</p>	
2.	<p><b>Application of new member(s) to the Forum</b></p> <p>2.1.GB explained that MK had previously expressed an interest in</p>	SH- to contact MK.

	<p>joining the Forum, as an action GB said he would follow up with MK to ascertain whether she remains interested.</p> <p>KC noted that comments made in the previous minutes dated 27:01:25, contained a factual inaccuracy regarding the detail of his enquiries with CIL officers. KC, agreed to provide the correct information and update the minutes.</p>	
3.	<p><b>291 Harrow Road Development Plans</b></p> <p>GB explained that the Forum in conjunction with the Maida Hill Forum submitted a response to Regeneration and Planning Officers at WCC. Thus far, very little has changed. Both forums remain concerned that the planning application consultation and engagement process was not meaningful or productive. It appears that major decisions regarding the design proposal such as the building height had already been reached prior to discussions with community organisations. GB said the focus group will look at the letter in details consider which issues will be taken further with the Council by the Westbourne Forum.</p> <p><b>217 Harrow Road Development Plans</b></p> <p>GB said that the Forum had received a letter from a private developer called Lodha which has bought 217 Harrow Road. Lodha states in the letter that it plans to develop the site into housing and has requested an audience with the Forum to discuss it proposals. A meeting is set for 21 May 2025, with Lodha and the focus group.</p>	<p>Focus Group to look at the joint consultation response letter and consider which issues will be taken forward with WCC.</p> <p>GB to update the Forum on the outcome of discussion with Lodha at the next meeting.</p>
4.	<p><b>Westbourne Summer Planning Update</b></p> <p>GB updated that the summer festival will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July on Westbourne Green. The site used in previous years is still under construction. Happy Lizzy has been commissioned to deliver the event and thus far, the planning seems to be going according to plan. However, it appears that an objection has been raised concerning donkey rides. Historically, the event has allowed donkey rides for young children and no complaints were made. SC said that she recognises that some people may naturally have concerns about animal welfare, but the donkeys are well looked after and provide children the educational opportunity and experience to learn about donkeys and other wildlife. In concluding this element of the discussion, GB agreed that he would update the Forum on the decision reached whether donkeys will be allowed or not.</p>	<p>GB, to update the Forum on the final decision about having donkeys at the summer festival.</p>
5.	<p><b>Barry Taylor event:</b> GB, explained that Taxi House has allocated funding for the Barry Taylor award which will bring active local citizens and volunteers together to show appreciation for their work in the community. Each year a social event providing light refreshments and an opportunity get together will take place. The events will rotate amongst the Westbourne, Harrow Road and Queens Park wards. Queens Park will host the first event.</p>	

6.	<p><b>Green Westbourne updates</b></p> <p>Previously residents and the community /climate champions had raised concerns about anti-social behaviour from a man occupying the area on the canal close to the allotment gardens. Feedback from Lola May (PDT) indicates that the issue has abated and the group leader now feels safe to deliver activities on the allotments. KC updated that there are plans to create a Children’s Garden on the area adjacent to the allotments. He also added that some of the plots on the allotments are excessively large in comparison to others. There are plans to review the sizes of the plots with a view to reduce the larger ones, so plots are equitably distributed. Furthermore, KC updated that the Place Shaping Canalside improvement works are still progressing. The long-term hope is to foster a sense of pastoral care amongst to community to look after the canal as a valued community asset.</p> <p>DH commented that the management of the allotments needs to be addressed. KC said he would make enquires with Inge Lynbourg (WCC) about future plans of the allotments and provide feedback.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>KC updated about the progress of his enquiries into developing a neighbourhood plan. He explained that 3 priorities have been identified and agreed following discussions at focus group meetings. The priorities are: (1) Green Westbourne (2) Community Spaces and (3) Housing. KC said that he has created an outline skeleton draft which is sufficient to provide the basis for a consultant to develop the document into a plan.</p> <p>BG said it would be a good idea to discuss the plan and discuss the priorities at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Communications &amp; Media -</b></p> <p>JG, that over the past year, good progress has been made investigating and exploring different social media platforms to promote the profile and reach of the forum. The next logical step is to decide whether to make a financial investment in a professional resource responsible for implementing the ideas generated. A dedicated resource is needed to run the campaigns and scrutinise analytical feedback to determine the most effective engagement method for the forum.</p> <p>LA and SC suggested that WhatsApp is a good platform to promote the forum. They cited the North Paddington Community Noticeboard as a successful example of how information can be shared and exchanged with local networks on WhatsApp.</p> <p>JG said whilst the suggestion is helpful it should be borne in mind that a digital social tool that provides analytical feedback is very important in understanding and measuring the effectiveness of the forums’ engagement strategies. Additionally, WhatsApp, may by default exclude or restrict those who are not members of the group.</p> <p>As an action, SC and LA, agreed to investigate how the Forum can use WhatsApp to increase its work and profile and feedback at the next meeting.</p> <p>JS provided feedback on the website and said that during the half-term traffic of visitors saw an increase.</p>	
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8.		<p>As an action, SC and LA, agreed to investigate how the Forum can use WhatsApp to increase its work and profile and feedback at the next meeting.</p>

9	<p><b>Finance Update</b></p> <p><b>Lottery Fund</b> GB told members that since PDT submitted an application to the Lottery Fund for funding a resource that directly benefit the Forum, there is no feedback. They await a response.</p> <p><b>London Tigers (CIL)</b> GB said that London Tigers who have been commissioned to operate the Amberley Youth Club on a temporary basis have written to the Forum expressing their intention to submit a CIL application for funding to acquire equipment for the club. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Forum would support the application in principle and only on the condition that a letter is sent to London Tigers making it clear that equipment bought through CIL funds would remain the property of the club. Should the contract between London Tigers and WCC change, the equipment will remain at the club.</p> <p>GB updated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Forum's account has a balance of £6085. The summer festival will cost £16,500 to deliver.</li> <li>- The Board has been asked to approve £11,000.</li> <li>- Grand Junction will contribute £1000 to the summer festival budget and in turn they will co-jointly host the Windrush Festival at the Westbourne event.</li> <li>- This will leave a surplus reserve of £3000 in the Forum's accounts. LA, suggested that the funds be used for the summer festival.</li> </ul> <p><b>AOB</b> – The tenure of the Westbourne Forum as the designated “forum” in Westbourne ward is due to expire in July. Enquiries will be made with WCC regarding whether the application procedure remains the same and clarify what is required of the forum to be redesignated.</p> <p>SH – circulate an updated schedule of meeting dates for the 2025/26.</p>	<p>SH to contact WCC Policy Team and obtain clarification.</p>
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	Next meeting – 14 July 2025	
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