



**FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING – 23#3  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm  
At Westbourne Park Baptist Church  
MINUTES**

**Presents:** Geoff Biggs (Chair), Sadia Moh, Jason Swerling, Diana Hare, Julie Allen, Angela Piddock (Cllr), Adam Zaki, Lina Alchami, Jack Gordon, Keith Cookson.

**1. Opening – Welcome to attendees and introductions**

The chair welcomed all presents.

**2. Apologies for absence:** None reported.

**2. Minutes and Matters arising**

The minutes were approved as a true record.

1. *New members – Jack Gordon, Julie Allen, Adam Zaki*

Lina: Community Project Leader - Worker

Gordon: former Westbourne Forum Chair – Resident

Adam: CAB Manager - Resident

3. *New membership process*

New members' copies of application were distributed to all members and the candidates were asked to leave the room for the committee to come up with a decision. All applicants were provided with the constitution document to read prior to coming to the meeting.

The decision was made unanimously, and the 3 members are now confirmed to be elected to be part of the Westbourne Forum Board Committee.

Note: Forum website will need to be updated with the new members.

**AGREED:** all members are to send their photos to JS to display on the Forum Website.

**4. Working Groups Updates**

1. *Green Westbourne working group.*

- Update
  - Allotment garden activity is still active. One committee member, JA, has joined in.
  - Hammersmith Gardens Association was funded for a six-week community garden training that took place in the allotment.
  - More funding has been successfully received: six-month funding for HGA to continue to provide their service to the community gardening and £18,000 from Green Westminster to facilitate access to the allotment and to have a sitting area.
  - Another funding will be applied for by Grand Junction towards greening.
  - A cost-of-living workshop course was held and delivered by One Westminster to the community towards learning how to save money during the crisis.
  - A free workshop “How to make beauty and cleaning products from kitchen ingredients” was organised by SM in partnership with Community Champions and delivered by Vivi Wallenius (Volunteer external provider).
- *Place Shaping plans Canal Green Space.*

A place-shaping plan has been displayed by St Mary Magdalene Church.  
Comment: this has been seen as a positive development which will open up the canal towpath and pedestrian districts.  
Regarding Westbourne Green, there is going to be an orchard with a lot of bunches. It is designed so that the whole area and further along is reclaimed for the community.  
An issue was raised regarding the Strip along the canal needing dilapidation.  
Suggestion: to open a dialogue with the Canal River Trust to work together for a positive and successful project.

Issues with bunches attracting anti-social behaviour were raised though it will be probably mostly used by the elderly.

Suggestion: to find out if there is any possibility to do a test to enable decision-making.

- *Allotment*

The allotment is on a long list of development sites, and it is within the Development Team and on the Council's agenda. It will be looked at with a decision on the timescale by December 2023.

2. Events working group.

- *Summer Festival – 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 from 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm*

It has been running for the past 20 years.

- SM will be holding a stall for the Westbourne Forum
- There will be a visit of the Lord Mayor, Cllr Patricia McAllister, and Cllr Adam Hug, Leader of the Council.
- Youth Stage
- Food will be provided for volunteers.
- SM mentioned that a need of volunteer is always welcome to help. JM, a committee member, has accepted to help.
- Unfortunately, Paddleboarding is not available to attend the event.
- To also re-integrate the Housing stall to the event and find out if they could contribute.

Note: KC has already written an email today to those concerned in the housing Team and he has notified them that he will be attending as a volunteer of the Forum and that he will be happy to help with a housing stall contribution.

JG will also ask if the local antisocial behaviour team to attend.

3. Planning update

- *Alfred Road Playground Consultation.*

Christine Powell, Relationship Manager-Capital Projects, Sport, Leisure & Active Communities (Active Westminster) has contacted SM about a new project redeveloping the abandoned playground as she has managed to get some funding. She wishes to engage with the local community through organisation support to have the residents and the children have their say in the planning. They are interested in having the Forum on board for this project. SM has been invited to visit the playground. The space is being misused and has no CCTV camera.

Views of the group: there are two large building blocks nearby that have their own playground and some concerns were raised.

**AGREED:** to ask if Active Westminster has done its research into what is the best use of that space.

**AGREED:** SM to feedback on what the plans are and whether any consideration has taken place. KC will also have a chat with Christine Powell.

A concern was raised about safety regarding exercise cycling being next to the table tennis in Green Westbourne Park.

**AGREED:** LA to email Keith with the issue and he will raise it with Everyone Active and the partnership officers in sport and leisure.

- *300 Harrow*

It is a high-rise building that is being built on the top of the precincts of shops with a new nursery and new provisions which will be made in the basement. The majority of the accommodations will be council rent.

- *Taxi House*

It is part of the Harrow Road Development; it is the transformation of the London Taxi Drivers' Association headquarters on Woodfield Road into a new waterside destination on the Grand Union Canal. The project is to deliver 332 modern serviced accommodation rooms, commercial and retail space, and the replacement of the existing Westminster Cleansing Depot with an upgraded structure.

An issue was raised regarding the residents having their furniture and items destroyed by the construction that has been taking place. One member of the Forum has complained and has been successful with compensation. There is now a list of residents who will also be claiming compensation for this issue. A request for community spaces has been also raised to have access to host sessions.

A 50% discount for swimming pool use and cinema has been agreed for residents. Also requested is direct access to the canal from the Taxi House. There are also other amenities in the project.

- *Westbourne Village*

This is another overlap with the canal which was also on the agenda of the community benefit that the Forum needs to tie in some of these potential profits. The plan is to move the buses out of the way to a dead area with a warehouse (the other side of the Westway) and develop the space into houses.

A meeting was held with future developers with some forum members.

It was raised that these developers did also a presentation with Westminster. WCC Council has made it clear that their project will need to commit to providing a percentage of social housing.

There were concerns about these developers. The Chair has managed to get the drafted plan from another source which was not presented at that meeting and shared it amongst the group.

**AGREED:** The chair will share the drafted plan link with all members of the Forum. The Forum will continue to be involved and engaged with this future development.

#### 4. Community Voices working group.

##### *Update*

Westbourne Park Family Centre has been running its own project on knife crime which is in its final stage. There are three main workshops remaining, Childhood and adolescent development, Child and Parent communication and community safety. A funded First Aid training for knife crime is also offered to the community, one workshop is to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and the other one on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

A discussion also took place focussing on elements that relate to knife crime. A Substance misuse workshop for parents is to be organised. LA will contact Westminster Academy to try to collaborate with them to facilitate a venue for this event. It will be publicised on the Forum Website as soon as it is ready.

##### *Safer Neighbourhood Panel*

- Police are concerned about knife crime reports. There are concerns about the management level, police can only move when they are told by senior officers. They are saying that there will be more trust, less crime and there will be higher standards but will that be implemented in our community? Only time will tell.
- Westbourne and Bayswater are fortunate in having dedicated, committed police support with a new sergeant.
- There is also an issue of concern that has been raised: crimes are not always reported and therefore the police cannot respond. People also reported the crimes but there was no response from the police. It seems that there is a lack of trust between the police and the community that will need to be resolved.

The group was encouraged to attend the safer neighbourhood team meeting in their local area to enable them to have a voice.

**AGREED:** JG to share the next meetings with the group.

#### 5. Community Development Worker

- *Update*

Trips, new volunteers, and Tempo Time credit for volunteers

- Visit to a Hydroponic planting place for future community engagement. The outcome is that the items are too expensive to buy and to maintain and their offer for community workshops is also costly.
- Women's cycling is still on the agenda fully funded but at there is no cycling coach to run the session at the moment. Waiting for Cycling Confidence to confirm whether they will be going ahead to offer cycling training to existing women in the cycling group.

- Two trips are being organised for the community in collaboration with Urban Wise (Hampton Court Palace & Tower of London)
  - New volunteers will be interviewed next week.
  - Tempo Time credit will be allocated to volunteers. SM will be having training.
- *Website/Communications*  
To keep the website up to date with local activities or news.  
Suggestion: JS to send a text as a reminder to the WhatsApp groups for any new activities that need to be promoted.  
JS wishes to have a volunteer help with the maintenance of the Forum website.  
**AGREED:** SM to ask the existing volunteer if interested.  
It was also agreed to leave all the old promotional activities displayed on the website.

## 6. Management

- *Goals for 23*  
The Forum will need to know what it wants to achieve.  
Four skilled members have now joined the forum, and this will allow them to share roles and responsibilities.
- *Area of interest/responsibility*  
The GB reminded the group of his role in the Forum: Chair/Fundraiser/treasurer. This discussion took place about how the Forum can move forward, what it wants to focus on and how it can sort out roles considering the preferences of each individual contribution.  
Bearing in mind that the NP has been put aside due to a lack of resources, there are three main areas of interest proposed to focus on:
  - Community engagement
  - Planning included protecting the environment and green spaces.
  - PR and forum reputation (communications linking with other groups and stakeholders)**AGREED:** To hire an external facilitator for the forum. Item to put as first on the agenda at our next meeting.

## 7. Finance Update

- *Budget 23-24*  
No further spending since our last meeting. Copies of budget has been circulated to all members. Any comments please do contact the Chair.

## 8. Any other business

Stowe Centre has made an application for CIL for £150,000 (50,000 for repairs and 100,000 for a Caretaker for 3 years duration). PDT has a full lease of the building and is responsible for any damage that may occur to the building. The Stowe Centre is an asset for community resources.

**AGREED:** The application will be sent to all the group presents for any comments, concerns, or questions.

The group is unanimously in support of this application.

## 9. Date of next meeting and conclusion

- 18.09.23 Location? TBC