

# Forum Committee

## Meeting 23#3



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

**Meeting minutes**  
**Meeting 1#24: 22/01/2024**  
**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) -Cllr Angela Piddock (AP) ( Westbourne Ward Councillor and member of the Forum) -Diana Hare (DH) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Jason Swerling (JS) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Lina Alchami ( Resident and member of the Forum) -Keith Cookson (KC) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Maria Eubanas (ME) (Resident and member of the Forum) -Adam Zaki (AZ ) (Citizens Advice Bureau) -Sheuly Chowdhury (SC), Westbourne Resident -Stella Hales (SH) (WCC, Senior Community Development Officer) -Christine Powell (CP) (WCC, Relationship Manager Capital Projects) -Helena Corcoran (HC) (WCC, Communities Manager, Engagement Lead- NPP) -Rachel Chapman (RC) (WCC, Strategic Engagement Lead- NPP) -Martini Crank (MC) ( WCC, Senior Communications and Engagement Manager) -Kathrine Yentumi (KY) (WCC, Communications and Engagement Manager) -Danny Taylor (DT) (WCC, Strategic Delivery Lead – NPP)		
<u>Item</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome, Introductions and Agenda</u></b></p> <p>1.1 The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting. Each member provided individual introductions.            1.2 The agenda was circulated ahead of the meeting outlining the format of the meeting as follows:</p> <p><b>Minutes and matters arising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introduction – Stella Hales Senior Community Development Officer for Westbourne Ward</li> <li>Update on the refurbishment of the Road Playground</li> <li>Westbourne Priorities for North Paddington Programme</li> </ul> <p><b>Working Groups Updates</b></p> <p>Green Westbourne working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update</li> <li>Place Shaping plans Canal Green Space</li> <li>Allotment</li> </ul> <p>Events working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Westbourne World Festival, 2 March 1-4pm</li> <li>Westbourne Summer Festival, 23 June 1-5pm</li> </ul> <p>Planning update</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIL Spending</li> <li>• 300 Harrow Road</li> <li>• Taxi House</li> <li>• 291 Harrow Road</li> </ul> <p>Community Voices working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update</li> </ul> <p><b>Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Forum Review - Areas of Focus</b> Updated Structure 5 Focus Group (standing Committee) 15 Forum Board (existing) 50+ Friends of the forum (Invite to working groups, festivals, and other activities)</li> <li>• <b>Goals for twenty-four</b> Engagement Plan</li> <li>• Communications Plan Friends of the Forum development Neighbourhood Plan Shared Platform with information - Calendar</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>2.1 Introducing the Senior Community Development Officer for Westbourne</b> The Chair introduced SH, recently recruited as the dedicated Westbourne Senior Community Development Officer in the North Padding Programme (NPP).</p> <p>2.2. At the invitation of the Chair SH, made an introduction and discussed her role as the dedicated officer for Westbourne. SH explained that her immediate focus will be working in close collaboration with the Forum to support and develop its work as a key stakeholder representing the interests and concerns of Westbourne residents and community. SH said she considers the main part of her role is to be the ears and voice of the community; to understand the issues affecting residents, what matter to them and what they want to see happen in their neighbourhood and to communicate these to the decision makers in the Council.</p> <p><b>2.3 North Paddington Programme</b> 2.4. RC- Provided an overview of the NPP and explained that the programme was set up in response to findings showing that Westbourne, Harrow Road and Queens Park Wards are disproportionately affected by higher levels of socio-economic deprivation in comparison to other areas in Westminster. Studies show there is an 18-year life expectancy gap between people born in the aforesaid wards compared to those born in wealthy areas such as Knightsbridge.</p> <p>2.5. The programme has identified six thematic priority areas which will inform its implementation. The thematic priorities include issues such as housing, employment, community development, crime, and safety. The sum of £20m has been allocated to the NPP area to be delivered over a 4-year period. The overarching priorities will provide a strategy on the delivery of the programme.</p> <p>2.6. In closing, RC emphasised the NPP recognises the importance of working closely with the community and residents as through lived experienced they are best placed to authentically articulate local needs and priorities.</p> <p><b>2.7. Comments/ Feedback from the Forum</b> 2.8. DH, said that homelessness/ rough sleeping is a key issue in the Ward. Due to lack of resources homelessness is on the increase. DH said sometimes rough</p>	

<p>sleepers use the stairwell on the Brunel Estate.</p> <p>2.9. LA, added that affordable housing, shortages in social housing, increased homelessness are key issues affecting Westbourne. More needs to be done to tackle the matter. The NPP is in a unique position to look at innovative solutions and approaches.</p> <p>2.10. AP, highlighted that there are lots of positive changes that are taking place in the community. Local people are more willing to work with the Council and shape developments in the Council. Historically, residents considered that Council's engagement with the community was one-sided. Recently there is emphasise on co-production and consultation.</p> <p><b>2.11 Albert Road Playground</b></p> <p>2.12. CP updated the Forum on the improvement works on children's playground on Alfred Road. CP said the Council is investing a significant resource to redevelop the site and create the first inclusive playground for families of children with physical disabilities and neurodiverse children with additional / sensory needs.</p> <p>2.13. CP said her team has carried out consultations with local parents, schools, and professionals. The playground will be designed for the needs of children with wheelchairs or those with sensory needs, the first of its kind in the area. CP invited the Forum for its view on the proposals and the following comments were put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.14. DH, asked for the presentation to be circulated to the Forum.</li> <li>• 2.15. LA, said she was unaware the playground belonged to the Council. She assumed it belonged to Westminster Academy. LA suggested that signage should be placed in the area, so the community know where it is. Further, the fence should be heightened to separate its identity from the Academy.</li> <li>• 2.16. DH, said that security is a major concern. The playground is isolated because it's located within a residential estate, has less footfall and furthermore, the area is not well lit. DH, suggested that the design should be creative and welcoming to attract families. The design should aim to reuse or repurpose as much of the current equipment as possible.</li> <li>• 2.17. ME, added that the playground should be colourful and fun. At the same time the lighting needs to be improved and the surrounding area such as the vegetation needs to be cleaned up and maintained. Families are more likely to visit the playground if the area is clean, maintained and feels safe.</li> <li>• 2.18. DT, suggested patrols in the area from CSO and clear signing to deter anti-social behaviour. For example, signage warning that monetary fines will be imposed for any ASB.</li> <li>• 2.19. KC, said the Council should consider whether it's possible to lock the gate in the evening, it would deter ASB.</li> <li>• 2.20. GB, enquired what action the Council will take to ensure that the redeveloped playground is maintained and doesn't return to its current state of neglect. He asked what assessments have been carried out to determine the community need for the facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>2.21. Development and Regeneration Update</b></p> <p>2.22. MC updated that; people have started moving into the newly completed 300 Harrow Road development. Under the previous administration the development had a mixed tenure of private and social housing. However, under the Labour government 300 Harrow Road is 100% social housing. MC, emphasised the Council's commitment to contribute to the development of the</p>	<p>CP to share presentation and update on next steps</p>
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	<p>local infrastructure. He cited the Enterprise Zone on the ground floor of 300 Harrow Road which will be used to promote to promote creative arts and businesses.</p> <p>KY, updated that Westmead Care home is at completion stage. The facility will provide sixty-four homes for elderly residents.</p> <p>2.23. MC, further updated that the Council is looking to create new homes at 291 Harrow Road. The proposals are still being developed; the Council hopes to be in a position to update residents about the next stages in the coming weeks.</p> <p>2.24.DH, asked what consideration the Council gave to redeveloping/modernizing the existing structure rather than creating a new build.</p> <p>2.25.MC, said the Council had looked at retrofitting as an option however the site current structure is not compatible with modern day standards. The Council is at the initial stages of consultation with the residents who have learning challenges and disabilities to determine how they will be re-provided for. The discussions will include support and family networks of the residents.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>CIL Funding</b></p> <p>3.1. GB updated that Grand Junction has asked the Forum for support regarding their application for CIL funding for building and lift repairs, however he is not sure if that meets CIL criteria. GB said he is also aware that Paddington Arts put in an application for CIL funding.</p> <p>3.2. GB commented that clarification and transparency in CIL fund administration and funding criteria is needed. Moreover, the responsibility and role of the Forum in relation to the assessment of CIL application and funding needs to be clearly defined.</p>	<p>SH and GB to provide an update at the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Green Westbourne</b></p> <p>5.1. Green Westbourne is a community-based group whose focus is to promote environmental and sustainable green initiatives in the neighbourhood. The group actively encourages residents to plants vegetables and get involved in food growing.</p> <p>5.2. LA, said the Hammersmith Community Gardens association successfully applied for a grant (£18K). The grant will be utilised for improving the space at the allotments such as cleaning and placing non-littering signage.</p> <p>5.3. The Green Westbourne Group is looking at encouraging young people to get involved with the allotments. Children from local primary schools and the Academy have visited the allotments.</p> <p>5.4. The Group will benefit from the experience and expertise of the newly recruited Climate and Environment Officer who will be based with the Paddington Development Trust.</p> <p>5.5. DH, enquired about the section of pavement between Grand Junction and Harrow Road, she said that pavement is neglected and covered with pigeon droppings. DH wondered whether there is potential to use the space for the community.</p> <p>5.6. KC also raised an enquiry about a piece of disused land next to the allotments and asked whether the Council could allow the community to develop allotments for children and families for food growing. KC asked whether there is potential to support a meanwhile use bid through the NPP.</p> <p>5.7. MC, explained that the Forum should develop a proposal for meanwhile use of the land for consideration by decision makers in the Council. MC to advise on how this can be taken forward.</p> <p>5.8. On 9 March 2024, the Westbourne Green Community Festival will be held</p>	<p>SH to feedback at the next meeting in respect of DH's query.</p> <p>MC/ SH to feedback on meanwhile</p>

	near Grand Junction.	use of land for community gardening.
5	<p><b>Structure of the WNF</b></p> <p>5.1. The Forum consists of fifteen elected members and meets every 8 weeks. The Forum's Standing Committee is made of five members who meet monthly. The Committee's role is to provide strategic oversight of the Forum's work, consider policy and financial matters, shape the Forum's work, provide input on consultations, engage with wider stakeholders and feedback to the main body.</p> <p>5.3. GB, updated the members that the Forum is looking to establish an ancillary group called the Friends of the Westbourne Forum "the Friends." The purpose of creating the Friends is to provide a platform for residents who wish to participate in Forum led community projects and initiatives without a formal affiliation with the main body. The Friends will allow the community to connect, articulate local views, receive information and input in shaping the neighbourhood through, festivals, music, food, etc.</p> <p>5.4. GB explained that on 2 March at the World Festival, we will have 'soft' launch of the Friends and recruit members.</p>	SH and GB to update on the launch of the Friends
6	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan</b></p> <p>6.1. GB, explained that the Forum has been looking to develop and Neighbourhood Plan however, due to lack of resources and the complexity of the process the idea was placed on hold.</p> <p>6.2. JG, stated that it's imperative the Forum should renew interest and push forward in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. He suggested that as in initial fact-finding exercise by approaching other Forum's who have an established Plan to learn about their experience and best practice.</p>	SH, to take the matter forward and feedback to GB.
7	<p><b>Westbourne World Festival</b></p> <p>7.1. The festival will take place on 2 March 2024, where the community will come together to celebrate cultural diversity through food, music, and family fun activities.</p> <p>7.2. GB, commented that last year's (2023) festival was over-subscribed. The venue is designed to hold three hundred people at any one time, the capacity was exceeded in 2023.</p> <p>ME, suggested requiring people to book free tickets via Eventbrite.</p> <p>BG said the budget for the festival is £6500.</p> <p><b>Summer Festival</b></p> <p>7.3. The date of the Summer Festival has been set for 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. The budget is £15k, at present there is a shortfall of funds.</p>	GB to feedback on planning progress.
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>No other business spoken about</p>	

*Next meeting: 22 April 2024 at the Stowe Centre, 258 Harrow Road, W2*