

Forum Committee

Meeting 26#1



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

Meeting minutes Meeting 27/01/2026 Held at Westbourne Park Family Centre, Porchester Road

Attendees		Apologies
- 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) - Cllr Angela Piddock (CP) (Ward Cllr and member of the Forum) - Cllr Adam Hug (AH) (Ward Cllr and member of the Forum) - Cllr David Boothroyd (DB) (Ward Cllr and member of the Forum) - Steve Shaw (SS) (Paddington Arts and member of the Forum) - Sarah Crampton (SC) (Director, North Paddington Programme, Westminster City Council)		- Marina Kroyer (MK) (WCC, Change4Life Programme Manager) - Maria Eubanas (ME), (Westbourne Resident) - Adam Zaki (AZ) (Citizens Advice Bureau) - Sheuly Chowdhury (SC) Forum member and Westbourne Resident
Item	Notes	Action
1.	<u>Welcome, Introductions and Agenda</u> 1.1 The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting. All in attendance made individual introductions. Chair extended his welcome to SC, Director of Paddington Arts and explained that SC will be submitting a formal application to join the Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum, further the Chair stated that the forum is expecting additional applications from new members (Elizabeth Tracy-Thorp and Shane Fearon both from Happy Lizzy Event Planning (HLEP) and current operator of the Brunel Happy Hub. 1.2 The Chair offered his appreciation to the ward councillors for their dedication, hard work, and the remarkable difference they have made in Westbourne. The Chair highlighted the North Paddington Programme as key example of the positive investment the Council has made in the area, bringing dedicated resources, adding value to services, and promoting collaboration between partner community organisations and the council. The council's investment in the refurbishment of community assets such as Paddington Arts serves as further example of the achievements in the area.	

	1.3 The agenda was circulated ahead of the meeting outlining the format of the meeting as follows: • Application of new member(s) to the Forum (GB) • Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting-(GB) • Community Events and Festivals (GB) • Westbourne Forum application for redesignation (SH) • Neighbourhood Plan (CK & SH) • Communications (JS) • Project updates (Alfred Road, Amberely Estate Improvements, and the Stowe/ PDT refurbishments) (SH) • Finance/ Budget updates (GB) • Administration (SH)	
2.	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.	
3.	Community Festivals: Westbourne Food Festival 3.1. GB explained that Happy Lizzy has been commissioned to deliver the festival which will take place on Sunday 31st January at the Westbourne Family centre. The festival will provide international cuisine to celebrate the multicultural diversity of the Westbourne. This year Happy Lizzy will be presenting a new act (West African Drummers) in addition to popular acts such as Bollywood dancing, storytelling, and the gospel singer. Children's face painting, arts and crafts will take place in spaces adjoining the main stage. GB shared that the Forum's Maria Eubana's has produced a brief film called "Celebrate Westbourne" which feature interviews with local community leaders and residents. The film promotes the work of the Forum in Westbourne. GB outlined the budget for the festival as follows: • £5k ward Cllr budget, • £2k events fund. 3.2 SS, talked about other local events taking place in Westbourne. SS said that Grand Union are holding an event on 6th February which will provide entertainment for children during the day and adults in the events. Furthermore, the Brunel Hub is hosting a valentine's events called "Strong Woman." SS commented that; he disagrees with the City Council's requirement that applicants applying for funding etc, should have to state personal information such as sexuality and religion. SS said that he did see how such information can place people at risk. Update on the Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan 4.1 KC updated on the progress of work thus far to acquire a neighbourhood plan. KC explained he and SH had met with a local graduate who is a resident in Westbourne and possess the necessary	

4.	qualifications, local insight and local to work with the forum on establishing a plan. The graduate has started some work on the plan. KC explained that unfortunately the speed of progress has been hampered by the cyber crisis at the City Council has placed significant restrictions on using accessing and exchanging information with third parties. KC reiterated the key priorities for the neighbourhood plan which are greening and the environment, community assets, and housing. KC expanded that the priority in community assets encompasses community spaces such as local halls, centres, and spaces. Spaces for residents and organisations come at a premium. 4.2. KC explained that he and SH are also working with an organisation called Future for London as they have expertise on neighbourhood planning. The aim is bot obtain advise, direction and expertise that will help with the development of the forums plan. 4.3 SS commented that enquired whether it is necessary to for the forum to adopt a plan. 4.4. KC acknowledged that some organisations appear to take a different view on whether a plan is necessary. However, it has been a longstanding ambition of the forum to acquire a plan. The forum believes that a formal will reinforce the legitimacy of the work the forum in Westbourne. The forum represents the voice and interests of the community. The forum on behalf of the community, responds to consultations, engages with the local authority, partner organisations and wider stakeholders on matters and discussion that impact Westbourne. 4.5 SH added that a having a plan gives the forum legitimacy to hold public processes and decision that impact residents at the account. The forum has the ability to influence how decisions are made and how local resources are spent to ensure that the community benefits and are not at a detriment. 4.6 JG state he agreed with the arguments supporting a plan, JG said that they its fundamental to the current work and future development o of the forum.	
5	Planning and Development 5.1 RH, enquired about progress on the 291 Harrow Road development. AH said that the previous building has been demolished, further updates will be provided at key stages of the development. AH, added that Westmead is now completed and he will be attending a ceremony to mark the event. 5.2 LA, asked about the next phase of the work on the canal side under Westway. AH, explained that the Muriel was installed at part of the activation works, further updates from Place Shaping will be obtained. LA commented the gentleman who is illegally residing on the canal appears to have gone quiet, but during warmer months he causes ASB and intimidation to residents working on the allotments.	S.H to obtain information on next phase.

6.	Communications 6.1. JS said that he was contacted by Neil Reader of the Maid Hill Forum regarding creating a cross-forum website. JS also that Niel Reader has contacted the North Paddington Team to ascertain what support they can lend as part of the legacy work. JS will be meeting with Neil Reader and will provide an update at the next meeting.	
7.	Budget 7.1GB said that the budget for the summer festival will be produced ahead of the event. The festival will cost an estimated£16K. There's £3150 legacy from the national lottery.	
8	AOB 8.1 RH, enquired about the progress of the installation of digital boards. 8.2 KC, said that the installation of lighting at the Millenium club has made an improvement to the area, people report feeling safer in the area.	
	END OF NOTE	