

Forum Committee

Meeting 26#2



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

Meeting minutes

Meeting 27 April 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) - Cllr Angela Piddock (CP) (Ward Cllr and member of the Forum) - Sheuly Chowdhury (SC) Forum member and Westbourne Resident - Elizabeth Thorpe- Tracey (ETT) Happy Lizzy Event Planning and Member of the Westbourne Forum - Shane Fearon (SF) Happy Lizzy Event Planning and Member of the Westbourne Forum		- Marina Kroyer (MK) (WCC, Change4Life Programme Manager) - Maria Eubanas (ME), (Westbourne Resident) - Diana Hare (DH) (Resident and member of the Forum) - Steve Shaw (SS) (Paddington Arts)
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. - Westbourne World Festival - Feedback - Westbourne Summer Festival 21.6.26 - Plans - Interfaith Wellbeing Festival – Cancelled - Paddington Festival Celebration – 10.10.26 Plan - Neighbourhood Plan - Redesignation Application and Constitution - North Paddington –joint forum website - Budget Update	

2.	<u>Application of new member(s) to the Forum</u> 2.1.GB informed the members that Adam Zaki (Citizen’s Advice Bureau) has resigned as member of the Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum as he has relocated from the area. <u>Community Festivals & Events</u> 3. Westbourne World Food Festival: Review & Update (27 January 2026) 3.1. KC said he thought that the festival went very well. KC also said that the quantity of food appeared less when compared to the previous year, however that being said everyone who attended was fed and watered. GB explained that the recorded number of people visiting the festival was 367 which is slightly lower than the previous year (2025) of 369. GB also explained that the layout was different this year with less stalls in the main hall and activities assigned to other spaces. JS and RH, fedback that they thought the festival was fun and enjoyable. SH shared some of the feedback from older people who stated that they enjoy the festival and look forward to it every year. They consider that the food festival provides an opportunity to meet other residents, celebrate with the community and enjoy free food from around the world. The event allows elderly particularly those experiencing loneliness or mobility restrictions the chance to socialise. LA provided her feedback and said the performance from the traditional Indian Bollywood dancer was hindered by technical issues and could have gone better. In response to the above, LTT explained that the Bollywood dancer is not the performer they normally commissioner, unfortunately she was unavailable. The performer at the event was unfamiliar with the setup. Concerning the food LTT stated that the caterers had issues with the kitchen they intended to use, which meant the food had to be cooked elsewhere and transported to the venue. 4. Westbourne Summer Festival: preparation and planning 4.1. GB confirmed that the festival will take place on 21 June 2026, on the Westbourne Green. HELP have been commissioned to deliver the festival. GB noted that the previous festival on the Green was highly successful and received positive feedback. GB also invited members who might have different suggestions about the future location of the festival to speak with him. 4.2. GB explained that owing to the challenge from the animal rights group PETA, this year there will be no donkey rides. However, the donkeys have always been popular especially with young children who enjoy petting them and looking at them. The donkeys’ welfare has	
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	always been maintained to the highest standards including air-conditioned transportation, lots of breaks and being sited under a shaded area. In future the forum will review whether to have donkeys again. 4.3 This year Living Things will take part and present exotic species. Zodiac Sports will present sport activities for young people as well as a climbing wall. Interfaith Event: the event has been cancelled. The proposed dates for the event were too close to the Summer festival, having considered the issue it was decided with support from the Council to cancel the event. Paddington Festival Celebration: The social event funded by Taxi House is designed to celebrate local community volunteers, activism and advocates in North Paddington. This year it will be hosted at the Westbourne Family Centre on 10 September 2026. The event rotates amongst different organisations; last year it was held in Queens Park. <u>Planning, Regeneration and Development</u>	
5	Brunel Consultation: GB stated that the Planning and Regeneration Team at Westminster City Council have been in touch with him to discuss setting up a resident panel. The aim of the panel is to represent the voice and interests of the community with respect to the proposed housing regeneration scheme on the estate. GB said that anyone wishing to participate on the panel is free to apply. JG; added that, the residents will want to be fully informed on the proposals. JG mentioned that the signage that's been installed on the estate giving directions to the Brunel Happy Hub has caused concern on the estate, regarding the accuracy and size of the signs. In response LTT, acknowledged the feeling of residents but explained that the matter is beyond her control. The installation of the signage was being handled by the Council, and they have been made aware of the issues raised by residents.	S.H to obtain information on next phase.
6.	21-31 Woodfield Place: GB stated that Kanda Consulting have contacted the Forum about a proposed residential re-development on Woodfield Place. It's understood the proposed development will offer 13 affordable housing homes, landscaped greening and working space. The developer is currently carrying out public consultation and in due course will be invited to the Forum to present their proposals.	
7.	291 Harrow Road: RH enquired about the progress of the development. RH stated that since the demolition of the pre-existing housing there doesn't appear to have been further progress with construction on the site	

8	Paddington Arts: The renewal project to update Paddington Arts is due for completion in Autumn 2026. Further updates will be provided by Steve Shaw	
	<u>Westbourne Neighbourhood Plan</u> 9.1. KC recapped on progress of work thus far and explained that he and SH met with a local graduate in late 2025, who is a resident in Westbourne and possess the necessary qualifications, local insights to work with the forum on establishing a plan. The graduate started some work on the plan. KC explained that unfortunately the speed of progress was hampered by the cyber crisis at the City Council which placed significant restrictions on using, accessing and exchanging information with third parties. 9.2. 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 outdoor spaces. Spaces for residents and organisations come at a premium. 9.3. KC updated that through collaborative efforts with Future for London, the Forum appointed 2 volunteer graduates with experience and relevant qualifications in town planning and local policy development. They are also adapt using Artificial Intelligence to produce working documents. The graduates will be set a workplan to work on one chapter at time. KC said he and SH will support and work alongside the graduates, they will ensure they access to all the necessary local documents, key policies and relevant resources and intelligence to enable them to deliver the work. 9.4. KC and SH will provide updates at focus group meetings and in full forum meetings on progress and any key developments. 9.5. Redesignation and constitution: SH, updated that a draft application has been submitted to the planning policy team. The team have looked at the application and made comments for further work which is being undertaken. <u>Communications</u>	
10	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 said that he had met with Neil; he also said there are many factors to be considered such as; on-going maintenance, resource for planning. GB enquired whether it's possible to put together a project proposal / business case outlining; the process, costs, resources required and technical support required.	

	<u>Budget</u> 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 £2635 balance. GB said that he has applied for funding from the National Lottery – organisations are allowed to apply for 2 events every 2 years. In addition, GB said he had applied for NCIL funding and for funding from the Westminster Events Team. He noted that it’s becoming more challenging to secure funding for community events, consequently they might have to review the scale of future events in view of financial restrictions. LTT said that she has sufficient resources to book activities for the Summer Festival, however she emphasized that her financial standing is precarious as she is yet to receive her grant from the Council for the operational costs of the Brunel Hub. AOB The Paddington Development Trust is recruiting for a Maternity Champion Lead Officer to be based at the Brunel Happy Hub END OF NOTE	
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