

Forum Committee

Meeting 25#4



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

Meeting minutes
Meeting 27/10/2025
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) - Ella Daniel (ED) VAWG, Coordinator, WCC - Christine Mead (CM) Head of Partnerships and Neighbourhoods - David Allright (DA) Climate Champion, Westbourne Resident - Sheuly Chowdhury (SC) Forum member and Westbourne Resident - Maureen, Westbourne Resident		- Marina Kroyer (MK) (WCC, Change4Life Programme Manager) - Maria Eubanas (ME), (Westbourne Resident) - Adam Zaki (AZ) (Citizens Advice Bureau)
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. 1.2 The agenda was circulated ahead of the meeting outlining the format of the meeting as follows: • Application of new member(s) to the Forum • Minutes and matters arising from the last meeting. • Presentation: Violence against Women and Girls – Ella Daniel, VAWG Coordinator, WCC • Presentation: Sheuly Chowdhury, and Maureen, - Social media platforms, using WhatsApp to connect the community Working Group Updates: • Neighbourhood Plan (SH and CK) • Greening – Westbourne Green • Alfred Road Project	

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.	Presentation: Violence against Women and Girls 3.1 ED delivered a presentation to the Forum about support services and provision from statutory and voluntary sectors for women and girls at risk of, or experiencing violence. ED, explained that over the past year Westminster City Council has been reviewing and assessing support services across North Paddington and looking for opportunities for addressing gaps, training and creating platforms for service providers to be more coordinated. EB informed the meeting that there's a monthly practitioners network/ forum run by VAWG specialists that allows organisation/ workers to attend and seek casework advice. In addition, ED said the Council is looking to commission a VAWG / Harmful Practices Coordinator who will be embedded in the community. ED, also said that the WCC Housing Team is supporting Housing Officers to work towards receiving an accreditation which would qualify them to provide specialist support to victims AP: asked, EB where information about the practitioners' monthly forum's is advertised. SC- asked EB, about the referral process for vulnerable people in the community experiencing homelessness, substance misuse.	EB, to send information to GB about referral pathways and the VAWG practitioners' Forum to disseminate to the Westbourne Forum
4.	Presentation: Social Media Platforms -using WhatsApp to promote the Westbourne Forum. M and SC, delivered a presentation focusing on how the Forum could make use of social media specifically WhatsApp as a platform to promote its work in the community, share information and keep updated with the latest events and developments in the neighbourhood. M explained that she runs and administrates with other mums a WhatsApp group called the North Paddington Community Noticeboard which currently has 843 members. Community events and opportunities are posted on the page. M also said that she runs a separate channel for residents which currently has 460 members. KC, asked M, about the difference between the 2 channels. M explained in response that the largest groups (with 800 members) provide more comprehensive information such as chats, notices and updates. The other channel provides just the key notices. GB thanked M for her presentation. GB added as a note that the Forum's communication strategy will be developed as part of the neighbourhood plan.	
5.	Neighbourhood Plans -update KC and SH provided an update on the progress of work acquire a neighbourhood plan. KC reported that in line with the 3 identified priorities which are: (1) Greening, (2) indoor open and outdoor spaces, (3) housing and planning he has reached out to internal WCC departments including Place Shaping for key policy documents to inform the development of the plan.	

	KC said that he and SH had met with WCC Planning Policy officers who advised they reach out to the Director of Planning Policy to ask for support, specifically whether internal staff could volunteer their expertise to help with the plan. KC also updated that he put together a job description for internal staff to volunteer their expertise under the #Give 16 Scheme but thus far the endeavour has not been fruitful. DH asked whether the Forum is looking for a consultant to write a brief. DH suggested looking to Maida Hill Forum to advise as they have neighbourhood plan. KC, in response explained that the current strategy is to progress as much of the work as possible and advance the plan to a working draft stage where a consultant can then be engaged to finalise the neighbourhood plan for submission to the local authority. The aim is to have a working draft by summer 2026. DH and JG said that given the accelerated development taking place in Westbourne it's important to have plan to safeguard the interests of the neighbourhood and its historical authenticity.	
6.	Green Westbourne, Climate Champions. DA, said that the Climate Champions have been very busy carrying out community activities including: - - The reintroduction of beavers - Sewing lessons - The installation of swift boxes on the Amberely Estate - Meditation walks - Canalside festival - A cookbook by climate champions	
7.	Westbourne Forum Festivals Update GB informed members that the Westbourne World Festival will take place on Saturday 31st January 12-4pm at the Westbourne Family Centre. Happy Lizzy has been commissioned to deliver the event; any steering group members who would like to join the festival planning group are welcome to participate. GB said that he has applied for funding from the Ward budget. Currently, the forum has £2300 left over from the previous festival. It is estimated that the cost per head at the Food festival will be £20.	
8.	Brunel Hub GB updated that Happy Lizzy was appointed as the operator of the new community hub on the Brunel Estate which is anticipated to open for use in later 2025 or early 2026. LA, said that she had participated on some of the workshops to redevelop the internal space. RH asked whether Lizzy will be operator for the Happy Hub in Queens Park as well as the Brunel site. SH explained that Lizzy will manage both sites until the lease of the Queens Park Hub expires in March 2026, thereafter Lizzy will manage just the Brunel Hub.	
9.	AOB Woodfield Road – a Westbourne resident has approached the Council to enquire about the installation of a zebra cross on Woodfield Road as the current road conditions are unsafe, particularly for residents with wheelchairs, walking aids or	

parents with pushchairs. The Forum confirmed it's support of the proposal in principle; it would want to see the proposed plans and other required documents.

217 Harrow Road – Lodha, the private developer who acquired the site for development met with the Forum in the summer to update them on their plans. Lodha have been asked to review the heights of their proposal as well as other elements. The Forum having heard the update, implored the developer that the retail space on the ground floor of the plans should include a post-office facility and a cash dispensing amenity. This is in line with what residents consider to be a vital need in the neighbourhood.

New members to the Westbourne Forum

GB said that Steve Shaw, Director of Paddington Arts has expressed an interest to become of member of the Forum. GB also said that Paddington Arts has asked the Forum to endorse its application for funding for an outdoor space as part of its redevelopment plans. In principle the Forum has agreed to support the proposal. AP, for transparency and awareness made a conflict-of-interest declaration that she sits on the Paddington Arts Board.

Happy Lizzy and Champagne Shane have also expressed a wish to join the Forum, along with Steve Shaw they will be required to submit applications for consideration by members in accordance with procedures.

Administration

Members agreed that the next meeting on 27 January 2026 should be held on-line. This is to allow flexibility where there might be conflicting schedules and in consideration of the dark winter nights. The Forum will now meet on Tuesday evenings, quarterly. Focus group meetings will continue without change and continue to take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. On a month where a full forum meeting takes place, the schedule for Focus groups meetings may deviate. All in person meetings to continue to be at the Westbourne Family Centre unless GB advises otherwise.

SH – circulate an updated schedule of meeting dates for 2026.

Next meeting online 27 January 2026, 6-8PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5472716237?omn=87281268769>

END OF NOTE

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