

Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee and Plan Making Group meeting – 12th January 2017.

Held at Streathers, 44 Baker St, W1.

Present:

Kevin Coyne, Yael Saunders, Michael Bolt, Sarah Hume, Steven Dollond, Andrew Wilson, Hugh Small, Ian Macpherson, Phil Wilson, Amanda Feeney, Stephen Evans, Tim Carnegie, Richard Lovell, Sheila D'Souza, Kay Buxton, Andrea Merrington, Simon Loomes, Paul Ugwu, Steven Quinn, Steven Medway, Michael Meadows, Penny Alexander

In attendance: Neil Homer (rCOH)

Apologies:

None

1. Approval of the Minutes of Meetings held on 9th November 2016 and 8th December 2016.

IMacP requested that the Minutes of the Meeting of 9th November 2016 note under Item 3 that two residents had commented after the Open Meeting on 10th October that alternative uses to schools be considered for the Portland Place SPA. In addition that the words "other advice" should be deleted from the first paragraph of the Minute relating to Item 8: Finance. He further asked that the Minute relating to Item 9: AOB – Chairman record that a name had been forthcoming after the Meeting but this had not been followed up. Subject to these corrections the Minutes of the Meeting were agreed.

HS requested that the Minutes of the Meeting of 8th December 2016 should state in relation to Parking that no new Res Permits be granted for new developments.

2. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

3. AGM on 26th January 2017.

KC reported that 20 members had responded to say they would be attending. A further letter notifying members of the meeting had been sent out before Christmas.

SD queried what would be presented at the AGM in relation to the Accounts. PW commented that the Draft Year End Accounts to August would be presented in abbreviated

form as there has not been a lot of activity - these were issued to the meeting. SE requested that the venue hire costs be clarified as it might appear that this relates to use of the Church. SD requested that a breakdown of the consultancy costs be provided as well as an explanation what Groundworks is.

A motion to receive the Accounts will be required at the Meeting.

Papers to be given to members attending will be: The amendments to the Articles of Association, candidates for election and the draft Accounts.

KC reported that the following had put themselves forward for election to the Committee at the AGM:

Residents – Sheila D’Souza, Amanda Feeney, Ian Macpherson, Richard Lovell, Michael Bolt, Tim Carnegie, Steven Dollond, Yael Saunders, Steven Quinn, Sarah Hume.

There are two vacancies.

Business – Kevin Coyne, Michael Meadows, Steven Medway, Penny Alexander, Andrew Wilson, Kay Alexander, Simon Loomes, Phil Wilson, Paul Ugwu, Steven Evans, Lisa Glover, Hugh Small.

KC reported that he is willing to continue as Chairman but for one more year only. In addition that AW is willing to continue as Secretary and Phil Wilson as Treasurer. This was agreed by the meeting.

KC requested short biographies from each Committee member for assistance of members at the AGM.

4. Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Groups.

NH reported that a revised list of policy areas to be examined and developed by the Sub-Groups had been issued before Christmas.

Concerns were raised whether emails were being received by all members and MB is to ask David Unwin to check whether the email link is working correctly.

HS advised that parking policy is an additional matter his group is looking at.

TC advised that a draft roof extensions policy had just been circulated for consideration.

SH advised that more work had been done on the policy areas the Lifetime Neighbourhood Group is looking at.

NH advised that the Groups may feel that a new policy can’t actually add anything in which case the policy can be dropped but the work to investigate it should be done.

WCC have reported on the Knightsbridge NP and their comments give a useful indication of their likely approach. NH highlighted that the Knightsbridge NP contains a lot of policies and WCC have advised against focusing on existing policy and trying to redraft it.

NH advised that WCC's comments are well intentioned and reasonably positive.

NH advised that we now need the task groups to develop their policies and the aim is to finish work for the end of April.

SE queried whether the recent changes at Westminster may have implications for emerging Neighbourhood Plans. Rachel Ferry Jones (Westminster NP Liaison Officer) had been invited to attend the meeting but this had not been possible. NH recommended we keep the momentum going and liaise with Westminster officers as policies develop.

SD queried whether we join forces with other Forums to drive common policies through. NH advised that this had been done elsewhere and might be considered here if necessary.

MB drew the Meeting's attention to the London Neighbourhood Plan Group website which has helpful information and updates on how other NP's are coming along. NH advised that this information is more helpful for NP's within the same local authority area rather than wider. It might be particularly helpful where various NP's adopt the same wording to address a borough wide issue, for example, the impact of second homes.

HS suggested we target Richard Beddoe, the new chairman of WCC's planning committee, to attend the AGM on 26th January. KC said that in the past there had been good reasons not to get the local councillors involved in the group but now NH agreed there could be advantages in their involvement.

Ian MacP asked if the committee could have the detailed comments made on the draft Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Plan. MB agreed to write to Simon Birkett to ask if these could be circulated to the Forum committee. KB suggested that we should look at buffer zones – ie Edgware Rd/Hyde Park, Oxford St/Mayfair to see where there could be common ground and whether the approaches made to WCC on these policies could be framed in similar ways for maximum impact. It was agreed that this should be the task of Andrew Wilson's sub group on Special Policy Areas.

The chairman summed up the way forward: NH should recirculate his latest document to all members of the committee including new ones and those who for some reason were not on the list. All the subgroups should use the document to focus on how their policies fit in before the next full meeting on 9th February.

5. Future Meetings

For clarity we were reminded that Forum committee meeting dates were the 2nd Thursday of the month, eg 9 March, 6th April, and the further dates of 11May, 8th June and 13 July were added to the list. NH suggested that at each of these meetings a progress report from the subgroups should be presented, not for debate but to resolve any conflict between the different task groups. The groups should be aiming to finish their work by March/April.

SD'S suggested the Air Quality group be disbanded since it was not part of land use or planning. Any air quality issues should be handed over to TC's group under LEN. SD also suggested that Governance could come off the list as their work had been accomplished.

Finally, it was agreed that MB would contact Dave Chan to ensure that Yael and Paul were added to the group's email circulation group and to ask why some of the members were still not on the list in spite of the fact that a number of them had accepted the invitation to join.

The chairman reminded chairmen of the subgroups to contact Rev SE for any particular presentation aids they might need in the Church for the AGM and closed the meeting by reminding members that the next meeting would be on 9th February.

6. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Streater's offices at 44 Baker Street on 9th February 2017 at 8.30am.

Signed:

Date: