

Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee – 14th December 2017.

Held at Streathers Offices, Baker Street W1.

Present: Kevin Coyne (Chair), Simon Loomes, Stephen Evans, Tim Carnegie, Yael Saunders, Sarah Buttlemann, Michael Bolt, Ian McPherson, Amanda Feeney, Hugh Small, Andrea Merrington, Andrew Wilson.

Apologies: Steven Dollond, Michael Meadows, Sheila D’Souza, Phil Wilson, Penny Alexander.

Minutes of Meeting on 13th July 2107: HS requested a correction to the minutes as follows:

- The minutes to note that there had been widespread support on the Committee to the Forum’s suggested policies for parking.
- The need for further meetings to enable greater public engagement had been agreed.

Subject to these corrections, the minutes were agreed and approved.

Report on Meeting with Westminster Officers 15th November 2017.

KC reported that a meeting had been held with Westminster officers to discuss possible ways forward for the Forum given the forthcoming changes to planning policy in the coming months through the proposed new London Plan and Westminster’s new City Plan.

TC reported that officers had suggested that a simple Neighbourhood Plan could be drawn up which could always be reviewed later - a perfect plan is difficult to achieve and even producing a single policy plan is fine.

WCC had advised that splitting the Forum into resident and business forums would not be acceptable.

Discussion took place regarding the possibilities of preparing a shortened plan covering a small number of policies. SL suggested reviewing the emerging plans and identifying potential areas where Cil monies could be directed in the Forum area. It was agreed the Forum had a role in commenting on these emerging policies.

It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Forum Committee a decision would be made on four potential policies to take forward for inclusion in a Neighbourhood Plan.

Annual General Meeting.

It was agreed that this will take place at the church in the w/c 28th February 2018 – the election of Officers will take place at this meeting.

It was agreed that the existing policy sub-groups will consider the draft London Plan Policies and identify for the next Committee meeting any comments they may have on the emerging policies so that a Consultation Response can be prepared to the GLA from the Forum.

The possibility of reducing the size of the Committee was considered and it was agreed that this should remain as it is.

Officers: KC advised that Phil Wilson had stepped down as Treasurer and thanked him for his assistance – there is c£900 of funds remaining in the Forum bank account. He suggested that Michael Bolt stand in as Treasurer for the time-being until the AGM and advised that he is willing to stand as Treasurer at the AGM. This was agreed.

AJW is retiring and AM volunteered to stand as Secretary. This was agreed.

KC reported that he is willing to stand again for one more year as Chairman. This was agreed.

Other Committee members – it was agreed that greater representation for small businesses would be helpful and members were asked to consider possible candidates from local estate agents, restaurants, retailers and other businesses employing less than 50 people.

Finance/Funding

There was nothing to discuss.

Oxford Street Transformation.

Other Forums are commenting on the proposals for Oxford Street and the meeting considered whether the Marylebone Forum should do so as well.

SL advised that The Portman Estate support the proposals in principle but have reservations about various aspects of them, including, the lack of financial resources and the lack of focus on the western end which it is concerned may decline as a result. Baker Street Quarter also support the proposals in principle but Marble Arch Bid don't.

TC summarised the Marylebone Association's position on the proposals which he advised is a firm no. The MA had many concerns including traffic displacement, traffic congestion in Wigmore Street, lack of cycling and disabled provision, 24 hour use and lack of any coherent retail policy.

It was agreed that the Forum should make representations based on the matters it is concerned with rather than saying it supports or opposes the proposals. There is a need to respond urgently and it was agreed that draft comments would be circulated so that representations could be finalised and submitted before Christmas.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place at 8.30am on 5th February 2017 at The Portman Office in Portman Square.

The Meeting closed at 10.00am

Signed:

Date: