

Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee Meeting- 14th March 2019

Held at Streathers, 44 Baker Street, W1

Present:

Yael Saunders (chair) (YS), Tim Carnegie (TC), Michael Bolt (MB), Sarah Buttleman (SB), Simon Loomes (SL), Richard Lovell (RL), Kay Buxton (KB), Andrea Merrington (AM), Dan Johnson (DJ), Penny Alexander (PA), Leonora Schofield (LS), Ian MacPherson

Apologies

Kevin Coyne
Ann Marie Johnson
Steven Evans
Sarah Buttleman
Shelia D'Souza

1. Introduction

Introductions- all done
Minutes approved from January meeting- all approved
Thank you to Sarah Buttleman and Streather's for hosting.

2. Manchester Square Ideas, Presented by Penny Alexander (PA)

Overview with ideas for Manchester Square in connection with Wallace Collection
Working with Marble Arch, Wallace Collection, Portman Estate and BSQ;
Overview of existing situation of pedestrian use and safety and where additional amenity could be provided
Where additional green space can be created for visitors, workers, etc
Existing traffic movements have been reviewed and where the safety concerns exist with regards to pedestrian interactions
One proposal includes altering the highway in front of the Wallace collection be taken back as green space
Early concepts on how this space will look with low level planting and resting spaces
Or looking at French Gardens with an existing French fountain that can be moved out into this space to possibly provide drinking water
MB- How much car parking would the scheme lose?
PA- only pay by phone parking locations would be lost- around 10-12 spaces
RL-Where will diverted vehicles go and how will anti-social behaviour be tackled?
PA- Wallace Collection have good CCTV, on-street team hours will be will be extended so they are looking at this
MB- How does it work with Manchester Sq Trust?
PA- No permission to open the north side, but they have been consulted
SL- Make the most of the space outside of the square to get borrowed enjoyment of the square
KB- The pause points for people who work and live in the area is really important
SL- Next steps?
PA- Funding needs to be raised and looking for further support from Forum, and others
PA- to share with MB for Marylebone Association and AM to take to Hdwe

3. Air Quality Monitoring Ideas

YS- any comments from Sheila's e-mail (circulated before meeting)?

DJ- very complex and needs one person to own this and initiatives need to be linked

MB- Ok to use diffusion tubes as these are being sent off to Kings, and the gaps within LEN need to be addressed

SL- We should be monitoring over a period of time so the data we receive is representative

MB- The area is going to have a lot of change in traffic movement and we should be able to measure this

YS- All agreed that Committee supports Sheila's proposals and SDS to represent the Forum with WCC on air quality issues

4. Update on CIL Survey, presented by Tim Carnegie (TC)

Community Facilities comes out top, Church roof, Library etc

Greening projects comes out second, with play space third, and then pedestrian improvements, though distribution is well weighted

71% of the survey responses were workers

Fair balance between living and working in Marylebone

Age distribution- over 55 makes up 35% but overall a good distribution

All comments reflect everything that we have discussed

KB- Some things are already programmed and are coming through, so maybe people didn't already know

TC- there is anything new that has come up that we didn't know about

KB- All of Marylebone Area proposed to be 20 miles per hour

AM- what are the next steps?

YS- We need to start to think about how funds will be allocated?

MB- We need a meeting with WCC

KB- Early spring is what WCC have said we could meet them

TC- We are the only ward with substantial funds and do we feed back to Councillors as they have become more aware of CIL funds available to Forums

KB- Non-Neighbourhood CIL funds (85%) can be spent anywhere in the borough

DJ- NWEF working with FitzWest Forum and trying to find out how to draw down funds

KB- A Neighbourhood Planning Session and WCC found to be non-compliant- KB to circulate report, London Forums get together

MB- Shall we get all the West End Forums together to share learning?

TC- Amenity Societies get together so we can get all contact details of Forum groups. TC will action to get a single register of all West End Forums

KB- action to get a Westminster Wide Forum contact list

TC- Councillors should attend meetings- two have approached with regards funding- 1) for a Christmas Tree 2) Funding a 4-way pedestrian crossing Seymour and George Street

SL- We have an allocation of only 15% of total CIL funds collected. Why are the City Council asking for a Forum allocation rather than funding from the 85% remaining allocation?

TC- We should be lobbying

AM- We need to invite Councillors to meetings to discuss, so they understand our wishes and this is a way to get them on board.

TC- Invite all 12 ward Councillors, but remind that only 1 per ward can attend

SL- George Street junction- if we agree that this should be upgraded for safety, we should raise our concern and use our voice to say that CIL money should be spent in this location
Should we have a series of points and schemes that we lobby?
YS- Could they be linked to Mary's (emerging Neighbourhood plan policies)?
SL- as long as they are for the longer term The forum can be a lobbying a group on relevant schemes.
SL- to draft a letter on behalf of Forum to lobby on George Street crossing
AM- Councillors need to attend these meetings to understand what our priorities are

LS- We need to have a direct contact at WCC so we have someone to contact
PA- We need to give them something to action, and someone to respond to our letters
YS- Sent letter on Luxborough Street to Nickie Aiken, and no response received. Committee expressed concern that Leader and Cabinet should respond to Forum.
DJ- We should draft letter following our CIL Consultation, asking for guidance from WCC on CIL funding process. Letter needs to be shared, with groups across Westminster., Agreed, DJ to draft.
SL- list of lobbying points, PPM (Programme of Planned Maintenance) to discuss

5. Neighbourhood Plan: Policy Grid for Draft City Plan

TC reviewed emerging policies and how well we are aligned to these policies. Portland Place emerging policy not aligned at the moment.
AM- we should not do any further work until WCC City Plan consultation is published
YS- we can't move forward with Neighbourhood plan, on particular topics that we don't agree on
TC- If we don't start working on this we will never have a plan
MB- We might never have a plan and we just might advise on projects for CIL funding alone
TC- we may never have 100% agreement on all Neighbourhood plan policies
SL- Portman Estate will have an issue with restrictive proposals which affect the principles of development across the area. It is better to look at supporting development on a site by site basis
AM-policies need to be created which should be positive for growth and support development
IM- At some point we need to get to support from WCC on Neighbourhood plan and they will not support something that shows a clear split between residents and business
YS- should TC get on with reviewing policies?
TC- AGM someone may bring up what we have been doing with the City Plan so we should be doing some work. Agreed.

Next Dates: Committee: 8.30am, Thurs 25 April

AGM: Thursday 2nd May. Subsequently changed to 6.30pm, **Wed 8 May**, at St Marylebone Church