

Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee Meeting- 25th April 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), Ian MacPherson (IM), Andrea Merrington (AM), Penny Alexander (PA), Leonora Schofield (LS), Ann Marie Johnson (AJ), Shelia D'Souza (SD)

Apologies

Kevin Coyne
Richard Lovell
Steven Evans
Kaye Buxton
Dan Johnson

1. Introduction

Introductions

Minutes approved- with some additional corrections to be made

IM- some comments on minutes and his attendance needed to be recorded

SL- Also indicated some corrections needed to be made on behalf of comments from The Portman Estate. These would be sent over to AM in a separate e-mail.

AJ would like an update on Manchester Sq. as she missed the last meeting, this will be actioned separately.

2. Air Quality Update

SD- Update on Air quality following on from discussion at the last Forum meeting.

SD updated committee on current and ongoing discussions with the City Council including Councillor Scarborough regarding LEN and outcomes from the work that has been done to date.

SD wanted confirmation on how committed the Forum was to the issues around air quality and would we also like to have a lobbying voice to receive and scrutinize the base line information which has been prepared to date by the LEN and TFL further large projects start like Oxford Street start.

There was further discussion around reporting this at the AGM but how would the forum present its position on this

All agreed that we would like to be a lobbying voice for the community on this but that we would need to state that we are not specialists in air quality and would not be able to present ourselves in that way.

TC- stated that we should start the process of requesting all relevant air quality information from WCC and TFL as it will take a few weeks to get this information.

SD- The Mayor of London and WCC have the information on air quality and we should rightly ask

SB-What is the forum role in air quality as there are the BIDS, LEN etc. dealing with this?

All confirmed that the LEN is now complete.

TC- Planning policy can influence air quality through the construction of new homes and policies relating to this.

MB- It would be good to report at AGM that we are taking an interest and we have an opportunity to lobby these issues on behalf of the community.

PA- Are we asking for information and what WCC is doing with the information because we should have both?

PA- Are we asking about the whole area or just what has been done so far around air quality and Oxford Street?

SD- both, as one of the stated goals of the Oxford Street proposal is to improve air quality.

SB- As a forum we must manage what we saying we are doing. We can request information to be made public, but we can't provide expert analysis.

YS- We want the information to made publicly available.

ALL agreed for SD to make a public request on the air quality information complied to date from TFL and WCC with a view to share this with the Forum committee to then share with our members.

3. Update from the Chairman

YS- A Forum of Westminster Forum's meeting has been arranged for 15th of May. YS to attend with any other committee members who are interested.

YS- The internet banking has been all set up and Kay Buxton has been added to the permissions for internet banking on behalf of the forum.

4. Plans for the AGM

YS- confirmed all existing committee members are happy to stand again.

YS- confirmed Michael Bolt will stand down as treasurer, Ian McPherson will stand in.

AM- will stay as secretary

TC- will present data from consultation at the AGM, however this will be limited to the raw facts and data as we don't have any answer to what we are doing next.

MB- we can ask for more feedback at the AGM, and we can ask Councillors for their opinion in addition to presenting the ideas of what we can do with CIL funds allocated to the forum.

SB- are Councillors invited?

AM- Have the Councillors been invited to forum meetings?

YS- confirmed they have not been invited to date but will do following the April meeting.

TC- Going forward we will invite Councillors to every meeting- all agreed and YS to send invitation to every meeting – ALL AGREED

MB- CIL money is meant to go towards the City Council's growth strategy and therefore the City Council can veto what we propose, that's why its important to get Councilors on side.

TC- (Back to AGM items) is there a projector and location in church, YS to confirm?

SB- is it fair to put Councillors on the spot there and then as direct engagement needs to be made with Councillors and having the public there will put the pressure on them!

TC- the issue of the library will come up.

YS- did e-mail Councillor Bott to report on the library (a day or so ago) and she has not heard back.

YS- will report on Forum's consultation letter regarding the draft Westminster City Plan at the AGM.

MB- will report on Forum's consultation letter regarding the Oxford Street proposals at AGM.

YS- agreed no discussion at AGM on rebellion and extinction protests around the West End and on Oxford Street.

YS- to ask Councillor Scarborough to report on LEN at AGM.

YS- will report on Forum accounts

SB- how much to we have?

YS- £2,000 from NWECC contribution.

YS- we now have an accountant costing £250.00.

Discussion was then held around current numbers of business members and resident members to date.

MB- We need a balance between business members and resident members.

YS- we have a 50/50 split.

PA- if there are any questions on Oxford Street, who will answer?

YS- the Councillors will answer on Oxford Street, library etc.

Question was raised on how many Ward Councillors exist within the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum?

YS- there are 15 Ward Councillors.

AJ- Should we have a Police representative attend the meeting to discuss security matters?

YS- no, not our remit.

MB- Are we happy to present concerns regarding fully pedestrianized areas within the Oxford Street proposals such as the area around Oxford Circus, and traffic modelling around this?

SL- Presented the information collated by KB to date to Oxford Street working group at WCC and they should be engaging with Forums and SL could present on this at the AGM if required.

SL- We can give an update on Oxford Street and present what we know to date and what the Forum's position is.

PA- Will see if someone from Oxford Street group can come to meeting

SB- are consultation response letters on website?

YS- they are, and we will make members aware at AGM

SL- was Oxford Street part of the Forum CIL consultation?

YS- no as this is not part of CIL.

SD- when do we suppose to understand what we are doing next with potential CIL funds?

MB- Sept/Oct, CIL (WCC) committee meeting, so we should have proposals to present to WCC by then.

SB- can we find out if CIL money can be put forward on a private building (i.e. the Church)?

SL- We need to find out, YS to action.

PA- Do we need to develop ideas regarding proposed projects with CIL funding to a point that is feasible as PA believes we do (AM agreed).

Discussion was then had on if proposals regarding CIL funds could be presented at AGM, agreement was not made on this point.

The discussion moved to engaging with the Westminster Council CIL officer- Michael Clarkson.

SB- WCC have confirmed in the past that we should have a designated CIL officer and if Michael Clarkson will attend our next meeting? - YS to action.

YS- shall the committee meet for a drink after the AGM? All agreed

5. Marylebone Forum Neighbourhood Plan- Next Steps

YS- TC would like to know if everyone would still like to create a plan? - All agreed

MB- raised that we have only been designated as a Neighbourhood Forum for a period of 5 years, so we need to renew this if we are to continue.

PA- have any other forums gone through this and should we ask, YS to action

Discussion moved back to AGM invitation

AM- raised the issue that invitation was never received, and it was confirmed that 5 committee members had also not received formal invitation.

MB- will check with Dave Chan to do a second mailing with RSVP

AM- never included on invitation list and we need to check otherwise there may be possibility that we didn't invite people and that people didn't know.

SB- we need to do another test e-mail – YS to ask D Chan to do this.

YS- also confirmed that a follow up e-mail will also be sent to confirm who is receiving the e-mails from contact list that we hold.

Next meeting confirmed as:

08:30 am

19th June 2019

Streathers