

# **MARYLEBONE FORUM AGM**

**08.05.2019**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH**

The meeting commenced at 18:38 pm with an attendance of approximately 65 people.

All attendees were signed in as existing or new members of the Forum.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Proceedings were opened by Yael Saunders (YS) who introduced herself as Forum Chairperson. She announced that the meeting was open and its purpose to conduct the official business of the AGM.

YS thanked the St, Marylebone Church and Reverend Stephen Evans for hosting the AGM with refreshments.

### **APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pancho Lewis, Councillor Jonathan Glanz, Councillor Karen Scarborough and Paul and Patricia Neville.

### **MINUTES OF 2018 AGM**

Copies of the minutes from the previous AGM had been made available prior to the meeting and via the forum website. Minutes were presented and members were asked to accept them as a true and correct record of the previous AGM by show of hands and were duly approved.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

YS outlined and summarised the role of neighbourhood forums and neighbourhood planning's position within the local planning context. She then went on to explain the role of the Marylebone Forum and its location within the Marylebone Area.

The Chair made a focus within her report on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and how this works with neighbourhood planning with an overview of the amount of total amount of CIL funds raised in Marylebone to date. YS then went on to give an overview on the policy position and explained the importance and relevance of having a neighbourhood plan and the link towards access to an increased amount of CIL funding with a neighbourhood plan in place (25% of funding).

YS gave a light overview of the CIL consultation which was carried out by the Marylebone Forum and the responses received from this consultation. It was made known to all members at the meeting that the responses from the consultation were available via the forum's website.

YS thanked all committee members for sharing the link to the CIL consultation recently completed and to Streathers and the Marylebone Association for instructing and completing the consultation.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT- MICHAEL BOLT**

Michael Bolt gave a review of accounts for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018.

All accounts were duly approved.

#### **REPORT ON CIL CONSULTATION- TIM CARNEGIE**

Tim Carnegie gave an introduction to the CIL consultation and the range of questions which were being asked as part of the survey which took late last year and early this year.

It was reported that 195 people completed the survey who both live and work in the Marylebone Area as well as by others who live outside the forum boundaries.

The top three responses from the survey included- Communities, greening, and more pedestrian facilities or play spaces to be provided within the area.

It was presented that the next steps will be how we take these results going forward to create a project of priority with the CIL funds available.

The Forum is in further consultation with other stakeholders and Westminster City Council on this point and will report back in due course.

#### **UPDATE ON OXFORD STREET DISTRICT PLANS- SUSANNE AFRA, WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

Susanne Afra from Westminster City Council gave a detailed overview of the Oxford Street District Strategy and how the City Council had arrived at this plan following on from the previously abandoned plan put forward by TFL.

Susanne explained that the next steps following the recent Cabinet approval for funding would be the Zonal Group meetings which would begin within the middle to late part of May 2019.

Yael Saunders has been invited to represent the Marylebone Forum and all others who had a stakeholder interest in the area would also be invited to join these meetings as well.

Susanne then welcomed questions which included the following:

- 1) Would there be any representation from the local schools within the zonal group meetings?  
-Susanne stated and confirmed that she would look into this.

- 2) A concern regarding air quality was raised with regards to existing green spaces and if these will be improved?  
-Susanne stated that she would confirm on this.
- 3) Various concerns were raised regarding the Baker Street 2-way and Susanne confirmed that she would raise these comments and concerns with her colleagues at WCC in charge of this project and how this would work with the future proposed Oxford Street proposals.
- 4) A comment was raised regarding the empty plinth in Cavendish Square and that a relevant statue from Park Lane could be moved to this location. – Susanne stated that she would take this suggestion forward to the City Council.

#### **UPDATE ON MARYLEBONE LOW EMISSIONS ZONE- JO GAY, WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL**

Jo gave an overview of the LEN project through info graphs and slides about what the project focused on what it was able to achieve in the time it was up and running. The following items were things which were included within the LEN:

1. Green Club;
2. Freight and Delivery Consolidation within the LEN area;
3. Emission based parking;
4. Anti-idling Campaign;
5. School Engagement Programme;
6. Play Streets;
7. Improvement of Urban Realm in the LEN area; and
8. Air Quality Monitoring

Jo confirmed that the LEN project is now largely complete with just the public realm works outstanding which will be ongoing until the end November 2019.

Evaluation of the project's results are ongoing and will be reported in due course.

Next steps for the project include an evaluation of the urban realm, the building emissions and the results from the Diesel Surcharge work continue.

Jo invited questions and these included the following:

- 1) Sarah Buttleman wondered if there was a set of guidelines being used to measure the improvements to air quality following the LEN works and if the air quality was getting any better?  
-Jo stated that it is very hard to measure air quality, however, more could be measured regarding behaviour changes and engagement.
- 2) A question was raised regarding how many anti-idling incidents were recorded?

Jo stated that it was hard to know because the focus has been around behaviour change and engagement first off and everyone who has been part of LEN has worked on achieving this.

- 3) The discussion on air quality in Marylebone continued with many comments regarding the current polluted air filters at St. Marylebone Church, concerns regarding pollution around Marylebone Train Station coming from both sitting trains and taxis.

Jo- stated that WCC are engaging with Network Rail and the Taxis within their efforts to improve air quality.

Some further comments were raised at this stage in the meeting which included:

- Loss of the green wall at the Schoen Clinic- Andrea Merrington responded on behalf of the Howard de Walden Estate;
- An updated was requested on Luxborough Garden and the kick about space there- Yael Saunders mentioned that the Forum had responded to the City Council's recent consultation on this.

### **AIR QUALITY MONITORING- SHEILA D'SOUZA**

Sheila d'Souza provided a very through presentation on air quality and stated that the Forum would be making an effort to make improvements to air quality a focus going forward.

Sheila reviewed what air quality information has been collected to date from TFL, Westminster City Council and the LEN.

Sheila also reviewed the timeline of when the collection of data has occurred in the past (i.e. prior to LEN works, before the Baker Street 2-way commencing and prior to the works on the Oxford Street commencing.)

Sheila confirmed that as a Forum we would be happy to develop and steer the conversations going forward with the City Council regarding air quality in the Marylebone area.

Further comments were made with regards to air quality in connection to an increased amount of building works in the area, utilities works and pollution on the Underground as well.

### **ELECTION OF FORUM COMMITTEE 2019/2020**

Yael Saunders presented all members of the Forum Committee and asked each member to stand as:

#### **RESIDENTS**

1. Sheila d'Souza
2. Ian Macpherson
3. Richard Lovell
4. Michael Bolt
5. Tim Carnegie
6. Sarah Buttleman
7. Yael Saunders
8. Ann Marie Johnson

## **BUSINESS MEMBERS**

1. Henry Gregg- New West End Company
2. Penny Alexander- Baker Street Quarter BID
3. Andrea Merrington- The Howard de Walden Estate
4. Kay Buxton- Marble Arch Partnership
5. Simon Loomes- The Portman Estate
6. Kevin Coyne- Rotary Club
7. Canon Stephen Evans- St Marylebone Parish Church
8. Leonora Schofield- British Land

The above members were proposed, seconded and elected.

## **ELECTION OF FORUM COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

The Forum Officers were then proposed, seconded and elected as below:

Yael Saunders- Chair

Andrea Merrington- Secretary

Ian Macpherson- Treasurer

## **GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR THE FORUM COMMITTEE**

Various questions from members followed, answered by various Committee members, mainly focussing on current areas of concern in Marylebone amongst which were the topics listed below:

1. Heathrow flight path;
2. Noise and Pollution from helicopters; and
3. Noise and disruption from the Underground

Yael Saunders, proceeded to close the meeting which concluded at approximately 7:49pm.

## **CONTRIBUTORS TO THE FORUM**

The Rector of Marylebone Parish Church- for provision of the church and refreshments and facilities for the previous Forum meetings.

The Howard de Walden Estate- for making available a stall pitch at the Christmas Lights Event.

The Portman Estate- for the provision of meeting rooms and refreshments for the Forum Committee.

Streathers Solicitors Baker Street- for the provision of meeting rooms and refreshments for the Forum Committee.

The Forum Committee are grateful to all of the above for their various contributions without which the forum would have been unable to progress with its work to date.

Andrea Merrington

17/05/2019