

Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee and Plan Making Group Meeting – 3rd May 2016.

Held at The Howard De Walden Estate Office, 23 Queen Anne Street, W1.

Present:

Kevin Coyne (Chair), Michael Bolt, Sarah Hume, Steven Dollond, Stephen Evans, Andrew Wilson, Penny Alexander, Richard Lovell, Tim Carnegie, Sheila D'Souza, Stephen Quinn, Kirsten Bowers, Amanda Feeney, Ian Macpherson, Simon Loomes, Michael Meadows (part).

1. Welcome

KC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Hugh Small, Steven Medway.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 4th April were approved subject to noting that the list of task groups in Item 4 should include the Air Quality group.

KC reported that Hugh Small has unfortunately had to step down as Treasurer and volunteers for that role and chairman of the Publicity and Communications Committee are being sought.

4. Update on Progress of Development of Neighbourhood Plan.

Lifetime Neighbourhood Group - SH reported that the Group had met and summarised the issues arising from its discussions as follows:

- A lack of affordable housing for all stages of life.
- Social exclusion.
- The Plan should insist that 35% of new housing to be affordable in all developments. The plan should set out a clearer definition of what is regarded to be affordable housing. There should be a preference for social rented housing, especially to key workers.
- Protection of public realm/open spaces to maximise the opportunities for social interaction. It was agreed there is an overlap here with the Public Realm Group.
- The Library must be retained in the area.
- Lack of school places – provision needed for more school spaces.
- Public toilets ought to be included in large developments.

SQ reported that he had written to Robert Davis seeking an explanation for accepting only 20% affordable housing at the West Green Site in Edgware Road along with publication of the viability assessment justifying the reduction.

Special Policy Areas Group – TC reported that the group had met and discussed the Harley Street SPA and Portland Place SPA. The points arising are as follows:

- It was felt that the Harley Street SPA has generally worked well and has potential to expand to include new medical uses located close to the boundaries.
- The Portland Place SPA was felt to have been less successful and has not prevented the loss of institutional uses – now only c 11 remain. The query therefore is whether it is fit for purpose and should be dropped. Various alternative uses for the buildings had been considered, particularly educational uses.

Design and Conservation Group – It had not been possible to arrange a suitable date for the group to meet but this is in hand and its findings will be reported at the next meeting.

IMacP agreed to join the Special Policy and Design/Conservation Groups.

Parking Group – SH summarised the discussions of this group in the absence of HS.

- Attack the requirement for parking to be provided in new residential developments.
- Limit the right for parking permits to reduce the number of cars.
- No petrol stations in the area.
- Increased provision of cycle parking.

TC presented an alternative view for having more off street parking to free up space on the street for pedestrians + provide space on street for visitors, deliveries, tradesmen etc.

Agreed need information on take up of Zone F spaces for evidence base.

Public Realm Group – The group has collated the relevant policies but not yet had the opportunity to meet.

Air Quality Group – SDS reported that she had offered to be a resident volunteer on the City Council's air quality monitoring group following a recent review of air quality by the Policy & Scrutiny Committee.

The Group has gathered some evidence as a basis for policy making and a list of further information required. The Group's aims are to improve air quality, increase awareness and increase measures to improve air quality.

SDS reported that the Policy & Scrutiny Committee had reduced funding for Neighbourhood Forums at its last meeting.

It was agreed that all Groups should gather together lists of additional information needed to provide the evidence base for the Plan so that a coordinated list could be sent to Westminster.

SL presented an organisation chart for the Forum which was discussed. It was agreed that the Forum Committee and Planning Committee be merged to create what will be known as The Forum Committee and Plan Making Group. Otherwise it was agreed that the Organisation Chart be adopted.

It was agreed that Councillors should be invited to attend future meetings.

5. Sub-Committee Reports.

Finance and Grants Sub-Committee – A new Treasurer to head up this committee is needed and KC requested a volunteer. MB agreed to step in to continue the work done already to secure grant funding. MB reported that specialist advice is available from Aecom on various aspects of plan making particularly in respect of heritage matters. This will be followed up.

Further funding is required and SH queried whether this could be provided by the corporate members of the Forum. MB explained that the corporates are concerned that their support will attract accusations that they have bought influence. AJW stated that the HdeW Estate is happy to provide support in kind and management time but any financial support will be equal to what everyone else provides so it is not accused of buying influence.

MB advised that the Marylebone Association Business Members had not been a source of funding in the past.

Manpower is also needed – the BID's do not have staff available to assist the Forum.

Publicity and Communication Sub-Committee – Again, a new Chairman is needed and KC requested a volunteer.

The stand at the Summer Fayre was discussed. The purpose of having the stand is to tell people what we're doing, attract new members and get feedback on the ideas for the Plan we have come up with so far.

It was agreed that a sign for the stand would be purchased costing approx. £160. A communication sheet setting out details of the Forum, membership and so on would be prepared to hand out to visitors to the stand. Consideration would be given to suitable badges or other promotional give-aways to advertise the Forum at the Fayre. A series of boards will be prepared for the stand setting out issues and questions for visitors to support, oppose or provide alternative ideas.

A rota for manning the stand is to be drawn up - KC to action.

Governance Sub-Committee – The meeting of this committee had been postponed and three alternative dates for a meeting had been put forward - 17th, 25th or 26th May. Members of the Committee were requested to advise on their availability for these dates.

6. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Forum Committee and Plan Making Group will be 8.30am on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 8.30am at HdeW office.

7. Any Other business.

There was none.

Signed:

Date: