

**Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee and Plan Making Group meeting – 9th February 2017.**

**Held at Streathers, 44 Baker St, W1.**

**Present:**

Kevin Coyne, Yael Saunders, Michael Bolt, Sarah Hume, Steven Dollond, Andrew Wilson, Hugh Small, Amanda Feeney, Stephen Evans, Richard Lovell, Sheila D'Souza, Andrea Merrington, Paul Ugwu, Steven Quinn,

In attendance: Neil Homer (rCOH)

**1. Apologies:**

Ian Macpherson, Phil Wilson, Kay Buxton, Simon Loomes, Steven Medway, Michael Meadows, Penny Alexander, Tim Carnegie,

**2. Approval of the Minutes of Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

The Minutes should be amended to correct the spelling of Yael Saunders' name. Subject to this the Minutes were approved.

**3. Review of AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

KC reported that there had been a good attendance at the AGM with some 70 members present. There was a concern however that the questions that arose at the meeting concerned a wide range of issues that are non-planning related. It was agreed that there is a need to focus future meetings on the issues the Forum is looking for feedback on.

A discussion on how best to achieve this followed. It was agreed that meetings might be focused on particular topics or to have meetings with a series of topic tables for Members to visit those where they have a particular point they wish to raise. The important thing is to make sure we have the evidence base in place support the policies.

SE commented that these meetings are an opportunity for Members to have a say on things that concern them and we shouldn't stifle them by restricting the matters to be discussed. This was agreed.

SE offered the crypt hall for table meetings for public engagement – there was concern whether there would be sufficient pedestrian footfall to draw people in on a passing basis. SD suggested having a general update meeting with topic tables. It was agreed we should do this in June with stakeholder meetings to gauge their views ahead of this.

#### **4. Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Groups.**

NH commented that the Forum has a problem of covering a very large area whilst relying largely on people with day jobs to do the work and we need to find ways of groups putting the flesh on the bones of the policies the groups have come up with or alternatively to drop the ideas with little traction to make progress on the remainder.

In addition, NH suggested there are some policies which might be added to those already being considered such as second homes.

Discussion followed on whether consultants are asked to do the work – NH commented that rCOH are willing to help but suggested that at this stage the important thing is to get the task groups meetings taking place.

RL suggested the plan should focus on a small number of key policies – NH/SH agreed with this subject the Committee agreeing that we are still addressing the issues raised by Members at the Forum meetings.

##### **Sub Group Reports**

Design & Conservation – an Outlook Invite proposing a meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February had been circulated but members of the Group commented that this would need to be rearranged as no-one could make that date.

Special Policy Areas – AJW reported that he had compiled research since the 1970's on institutional uses in the Portland Place Area and how the numbers of these had changed. Now putting some draft policy wording together and a meeting of the Group is being arranged to review this.

It was agreed that the group should also look at issues spreading into the Forum area from Marble Arch/Edgware Road Stress Areas and from the proposed changes to Oxford Street and how the plan might tackle these. AJW to contact SM, KB, SH and British Land in this connection.

Lifetime Neighbourhood – SH reported that a meeting of the Group had been arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30am at her office. It was agreed the Group would look at the second home issue.

Parking – The Group are promoting two policies and can now draft policy wording. HS will do an initial draft for consideration by the Group.

Public Realm – SL had circulated a note summarising the Groups position.

## **5. Sub Committee Reports**

Finance and Funding – PW had sent his apologies but has promised is to provide a funding update and what further funding might be available for the next meeting.

Governance – The new Articles have been filed at Companies House. A resolution is now required to adopt these.

A resolution to formally adopt the new Articles of Association was put to the Meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

## **6. AOB**

KC mentioned that Mark Gazaleh would like to be involved with any greening matters and it was agreed he would be put in touch with SL's Public Realm Group.

NH reported that the Governments new Housing White Paper had been published which seemed to suggest some bolstering to the status of NP's.

MB reported that Rachel Ferry Jones had attended the AGM and it was suggested a meeting with her take place in May/June when we hope to be going out to public engagement.

Requests for information from sub groups for information from Westminster should be sent to NH.

## **7. Future Meetings**

The next meeting will be held at Streater's offices at 44 Baker Street on 9<sup>t</sup> March 2017 at 8.30am.

Further meetings as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – 8.30

11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – 8.30

8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – 8.30

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – 8.30

Signed:

Date: