

MARYLEBONE FORUM AGM 17.04.2018

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT MARYLEBONE PARISH CHURCH

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm with an attendance of approximately 65 people. All attendees were signed in as existing or new members of the Forum.

INTRODUCTION

Proceedings were opened by Kevin Coyne (KC) who introduced himself as Forum Chairman. He announced the meeting open and its purpose to conduct the official business of the AGM. The chairman welcomed everyone present and explained reasons for the additional meeting due to the poor weather and lack of members present in February, the AGM meeting was not able to go ahead. He reviewed the progress that the Forum Committee had made to date and the reasons for the pause in progress due to emerging local and City Plan policies and the need for a proposed Neighbourhood Plan to conform to this new upcoming policy. He thanked the Committee members for all their hard work and commitment for the last year and gave a brief outline of the evening proceedings. KC also announced that in view of him standing as a candidate for the Campaign Against the Pedestrianisation of Oxford Street in the forthcoming local elections he would be standing down as Committee Chair.

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies were received from Tim Carnegie and Amanda Feeny.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

Copies of the minutes from the previous AGM having been made available, however apologies were made that these were not made available prior to the meeting. The 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.

ELECTION OF FORUM COMMITTEE

A list of all members of the Forum Committee 2018/2019 were made available to view at the meeting as well as being previously formally notified to members and the nominees for both resident and non-resident constituencies were proposed, seconded and duly elected (with one opposition) to serve on the Committee for the year to come. Emphasis that the Committee aimed to achieve an equal balance between residents and non-residents as set out under the terms of its articles of association.

Members Elected for the Year 2018/19 are listed below:

RESIDENT

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

NON RESIDENT

1. Kevin Coyne
2. Dan Johnson
3. Penny Alexander
4. Andrea Merrington
5. Kay Buxton
6. Simon Loomes
7. Hugh Small
8. Canon Stephen Evans
9. Michael Meadows

ELECTION OF FORUM OFFICERS 2018/19

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

Yael Saunders- Chair

Andrea Merrington- Secretary

Michel Bolt- Treasurer

INTRODUCTION FROM STANDING CHAIR

Yael Saunders gave a short introduction and thanked Kevin Coyne for his time and commitment to the Forum over the past years. Yael then gave a short summary of the background to neighbourhood planning and the importance of it. Yael stated that the Committee was always looking for more volunteers to serve of the Committee or indeed in other roles on the Forum.

GOVERNANCE

Committee member Michael Bolt (MB) tabled the Form Committees motion to amend the number of members required to be present to form a quorum. He explained the amendments proposed to the Constitution and asked members to consider a reduction in the number of members required at the AGM and other meetings where a formal vote is taken from 30 to 15. He explained that this resolution arose as a result of only 27 members being present during the previously held meeting in February 2018 when accordingly it was not possible to take a formal vote. Also while the work of the Forum is on hold it is likely that numbers attending such meeting will be lower.

Before the formal vote was taken to make the above mentioned change concerns were raised that a drop down to a requirement of 15 members was too low and would not be an adequate representation of the Forum members overall. However Michael Bolt raised that because Forum has paused in anticipation for the release of the New Westminster City Plan, the lack of overall funds and the issue with not enough members he believed that the quorum number should be reduced.

A compromise of 20 for a quorum was proposed, seconded and agreed.

UPDATE ON LEN AND AIR QUALITY

In the absence of Vicky Keeble from Cross River Partnership, committee member Simon Loomes presented an overview on the background of LEN and its support from both Westminster Council and the Marylebone Forum. Simon stated that the LEN is in its final year and will be focusing on the following 8 areas:

1. Portman 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

Various comments and discussion was around electric taxis, the lack of Boris buses not switching off and the general concern of idling traffic around Marylebone Station. In addition a short discussion was had with regards to air quality and the use of Shisha pipes in the area. Simon Loomes suggested that the Forum would take away all comments and opinions made however comments should also be taken to WCC on a regular basis.

Oxford Street

The question of the proposed Transformation of Oxford Street, involving pedestrianisation proposals to the part of the street covered by the Forum area was raised. Councillor Daniel Astaire-Cabinet Member for Planning and Public Realm was present and made a statement to members in order clarify Westminster Council's position.

Cllr Astaire stated it was clear that the overwhelming majority of Westminster's residents and businesses were opposed to the concept. TFL and the Mayor were the main proponents of the changes to the street, but it belonged to the Council and the decision would rest with them. He said that detailed work on a scheme was now on hold. He went on to say that at present, there was no scheme nor a proposal which was acceptable to the Council and there were a number of very significant hurdles to be overcome before the Council could approve any scheme. On further questioning about the ownership of Oxford Street, and the Mayor's threat to take it over if his proposals were opposed, Councillor Astaire said that this would be a difficult and long drawn out process and said it could take the Mayor over 4 years to take over the road from the Council, if he could manage it at all.

SUB GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were heard from the five of the Forum's subgroup convenors, each summarising their work to date and the direction each group might be taking following what is known about emerging regional and local planning policy to date:

Lifetime Neighbourhood- Sarah Buttleman

Special Policy Areas- Andrea Merrington

Design and Conservation- Michael Bolt

Public Realm and Transport- Simon Loomes

Parking- High Small

SUMMARY OF FORUM COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee member and Treasurer Michael Bolt reported on the current finance position of the Forum and the current funding available to the forum. All members were made aware that there was a huge funding issue and the final account balance is £148.44. A full report of the accounts to date was published and was carried unanimously.

GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM FORUM MEMBERS

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. Pedi-cabs;
2. Graffiti;
3. Baker Street and Marylebone Road Crossings

Yael Saunders, proceeded to close the meeting which concluded at approximately 7:30pm.

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 Marylebone Summer Fayre.

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

20/04/2018