

FITZROVIA WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018

AGENDA

1. Minutes of last AGM [Pages 2-7]
2. Update
3. Discussion:
 - A. Oxford Street East
 - B. Greening
 - C. Cycling, walking and public transport
4. Presentation of accounts
5. Approval of Draft Constitution [Pages 8-15] and consideration of whether to register as a charity and form a registered company
6. Election of Executive Committee [Known candidates at pages 16-18]
7. IT volunteer
8. AOB

FitzWest

Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum

www.FITZWEST.ORG/wordpress

MEETING INAUGURAL MEETING
DATE | TIME TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2015, 6.30PM
LOCATION UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

FACILITATOR WS

NOTE TAKER SB

PRESENT Shadow executive committee.

NICK BAILEY	NB
SHARON BANOFF	SB
GWILYM HARBOTTLE	GH
ALI MATTHEWS	AM
IAN MILNE	IM
WENDY SHILLAM	WS

65 Forum Members. Tom Kimber (WCC) and Cllr Jonathan Glanz,
Observer Matthew Bennett from Soho Neighbourhood Forum.

1. **Welcome and apologies** Presenter WS

WS welcomed everyone to the first official meeting of the Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum. Apologies from Shadow exec member Yoram Blumann. She thanked those members, now standing down, for their work so far.
WS explained the background to Fitzwest and the proposed Neighbourhood Plan.

2. **What Should our Neighbourhood Plan Cover** Presenter Wendy Shillam

WS explained the topic groups that had been meeting since November and the work that the committee had done during that period. In particular she spoke about the workshop that had been held where all the results from each topic group meeting and other feedback, was fed into a set of proposals for further work.

WS explained the headings and introduced those who would be speaking

on each subject. On a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) she gave more detail on the area and the problems being faced. There then followed a presentation from four members of the Shadow Executive covering four key topics.

Nick Bailey, Gwilym Harbottle, Alison Matthews, Wendy Shillam

Topic group presentations

9.

- Nick Bailey presented his paper on The Liveable Neighbourhood.
- Gwilym Harbottle presented his paper on Nurturing Independent businesses.
- Alison Matthews presented her paper on Environment.
- Wendy Shillam presented her paper on The Urban Realm.

See PowerPoint slides.

Discussion followed on each. There were a range of questions and comments on subjects such as rubbish collection, parking problems, noise and planning applications. The full list is included below.

Group discussion and feedback

3.

Points raised included:

- *WCC's own policies not being strictly adhered to at the moment*
- *The lack of green space*
- *Pressure from extended licensing hours*
- *Rent for small businesses*
- *Problems of noise especially at closing times*
- *Deliveries*
- *State of the pavements and disabled access*
- *Fly tipping – lack of enforcement*
- *Stationary vehicles should turn off their engines – Cllr Glanz confirmed that there was a £50.00 fine for this.*
- *Noise from car radios*
- *The need for 24hr resident's parking. Cllr Glanz confirmed that there was a parking review and that could be taken into consideration. IT was also noted that parking in the street helps to calm traffic.*
- *The nature of consultation for planning and licensing issues was not always of good quality or equitable (now that it is carried out by applicants)*
- *Provision of cafe's and restaurants*
- *People smoking outside cafes and pubs*
- *Traffic speeds – why don't we have a 20MPH like Camden?*
- *Tottenham Court Road implications for us.*

4. **Break/informal discussion**

5. **Resolutions** Presenter *Wendy Shillam*

Proposal The Plan

1.a The topics to be considered in more detail by the Executive Committee (and in respect of which the Executive Committee shall propose policies/policy options and report back to the members of the Forum via topic group meetings and emails and in future Forum meetings) shall include the following:

Priorities for The Plan:

- Liveable Neighbourhood
- Nurture Young and Independent Businesses
- Urban Realm
- Environment

To include policies on:

- Pressure for development
- Affordability of housing
- Importance of independent businesses
- State of streets and squares
- Traffic, parking, deliveries, cycling and walking
- Rubbish collection
- Greening the area
- Night time uses

Discussion.

It was agreed that the following further items be included within the plan:

- Noise
Designing out anti-social behaviour
- Enforcement

c) Approva

b) Election of Executive Committee There were a range of questions and com

Proposal (i) Agreement to expenditure

1.b The Executive Committee shall apply for funds from Westminster City Council and Department of Communities and Local Government, and other sources, up to the maximum value available and is authorised to spend all funds so obtained (whether in excess of £5,000 or not) on the following:

a) Technical studies to generate evidence, posit policies or support polic

b) Public consultation, publicity and meetings.

(ii) The Executive Committee shall report to the members of the Forum on the outcome of all funding applications and the use of all such funds via the website and at each general meeting of the Forum

It was agreed that the Executive should prepare a programme for work on the Neighbourhood Plan and consider administrative support for the process as well, as part of their funding applications.

Vote on 1a and 1b

The Forum was asked to give their approval in a vote on Resolution 1a: priorities for the Neighbourhood Plan.

All were in favour, subject to the amendments agreed above.

Also Resolution 1b: agreement to expenditure, subject to amendments agreed above.

There was one abstention.

6. **Business of the Forum**

a)

WS explained two minor changes to the Constitution (to clarify the split between businesses and residents, and the need to set up a CIC). There were some queries on this and it was agreed to adjourn agreement of the Constitution until the next meeting.

Action: Chair

b) **Election of Executive Committee**

The draft constitution allows for up to ten candidates to be elected by the Forum and for another three to be elected by the executive committee during the year. Wendy Shillam reminded the meeting about a clause that WCC had requested we include in the draft constitution.

Cl. 3.3 of the draft constitution provides:

“Subject to the decision of any general meeting, the committee shall be composed of equal numbers of business/organisation members and residents.”

R = Resident member

O = Representative of Organisation

B = Business member

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Nick Bailey R, O

Nick has lived in Fitzrovia for 30 years and teaches at the University of Westminster. He is a member of the Fitzrovia Trust.

Sharon Banoff R

Lived in Fitzrovia for 30yrs and worked nearby (at BBC).

Yoram Blumann R

Involved in the area since 1992, treasurer.

Barbara Corr R

Founder of FitzWest, long time resident and supporter of the area.

Peter Dore-Smith B

Founder of Kaffeine cafes in Great Titchfield Street and Eastcastle Street.

Gwilym Harbottle R

Lawyer. Lived in area over 20 years. Shadow executive member.

Vivien Hughes R

Resident since 1975, now retired from government/academia.

Edwina Lonsdale B

MD Mundi Cruising plc, offering to help edit the newsletter and help set up a business group.

Chris Shaw R, B

Resident and CEO of local business Shaw Corporation.

Wendy Shillam R, B, O

Founder of FitzWest, lives in Great Titchfield Street, worked

The above candidates had put themselves forward for election and were accepted unanimously. WS tendered apologies for those of the above who were not able to attend the meeting.

The following candidates had put themselves forward later in the process and the shadow executive were minded to recommend to the Forum that they be considered at the first meeting of the new Executive. There was no objection to the candidates mentioned.

CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION

Daniel Castle, B
LDG Estate Agents

(TBC) R

Representative from Holcroft Court Residents Association.

7.

Membership Report

Gwilym Harbottle presented a short membership report. (See slide show) It was suggested that FitzWest set up a newsletter and advertised membership in the local papers.

Sum up

8.

Overview of tasks

WS thanked the meeting and apologised for the lack of refreshments. She thanked the University through Nick Bailey for offering the use of the Pavilion Room.

END 8.30pm

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum (“The Forum”)

Key Principles

1. *Membership of the Forum is open to all those who live or work in the area or are elected members of any council whose ward falls within the Area. It will have a minimum of 21 members.*
2. *Day-to-day business will be managed by an elected Executive Committee which will report regularly to the Forum*
3. *The Executive Committee will be elected annually by the Forum, on a rotating basis to ensure continuity, aiming for an equal balance of business and resident members.*
4. *All meetings of the Executive Committee and Forum will be publicised on the website and will be open to the public to encourage maximum participation.*
5. *The Executive Committee will aim to reach decisions by consensus but as a last resort issues will be decided by majority vote.*
6. *In all our work, through our actions, policies and employment, we will seek to promote equal opportunity in terms of race, (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin) religion, belief or lack of religion/belief, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, whether someone is or is becoming a transsexual, whether someone is married or in a civil partnership and whether someone is pregnant or has a child. We seek both to be representative of the community and to represent the community fairly and equitably, drawing our membership from all parts of the Area and all sections of the community in the Area and reflecting in general terms the character of the Area.*

Mission

Our mission is to ensure that Fitzrovia develops as a habitable, sustainable and neighbourly community through all means available including planning, collaborative working and community enterprise.

Objectives

- To promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of Fitzrovia, collaborating with Westminster Council and other relevant bodies;
- To produce, and help to implement a Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Development Plan that delivers the vision of the Forum and the wider community;
- To help foster community spirit and encourage local democracy and civic pride.

1. The Area

1.1. The Area shall be the area shown in the map in Appendix 1.

1.2. As defined, the Area falls solely within the London Borough of Westminster.

2. Membership

2.1 Membership of Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum is open to:

- Any resident over 16 living within the Area, each of whom shall have one vote at any General Meeting of the Forum;
- Any individual, partnership, company or other legal entity which carries on a business trade or profession within the Area and is a non-domestic rate payer (“Business”); each Business will have one vote at any General Meeting of the Forum and may nominate up to two members to exercise that right on its behalf.
- Individuals over 16 who work within the Area, each of whom shall have one vote at any General Meeting of the Forum, subject to a maximum of 5 votes per organisation
- Any elected member of any Council any of whose ward falls within the Area, each of whom shall have one vote at any General Meeting of the Forum
- Any religious, charitable or non-profit organisation, which operates within the Area (“Organisation”); each Organisation will have one vote at any General Meeting of the Forum and may nominate up to two members to exercise that right on its behalf.
- For the avoidance of doubt, an individual who qualifies for membership on more than one of the grounds set out above shall have only one vote at any General Meeting of the Forum

2.2 So far as reasonably practicable, Forum Membership will be representative of the whole community, with an equal balance between businesses and residents..

2.3 The Forum shall have a minimum of 21 members.

2.4 Those wishing to be members should notify the Executive Committee or, prior to formal designation of the Forum, the Fitzrovia West Steering Group, with their contact details and information on their qualification to be a member. The Executive Committee or as the case may be the Steering Group will consider the notification and if satisfied that the person who has given the notification is qualified to be a member, will enter that person on the list of members, whereupon they will become a member. The Forum shall maintain an up-to-date list of members’ names and contact details for the purposes of involving them in the work of the Forum.

2.5 The Executive Committee, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, may terminate or suspend the membership of any member, if in its opinion his/her/its conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objectives of the Forum, PROVIDED THAT the Business, Organisation or individual member (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be the right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.

2.6 The Executive Committee, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, may terminate the membership of any member if that that member has not responded to

repeated (at least three) written requests to confirm his/her/its membership over a six month period.

3. Executive Committee

3.1. An Executive Committee comprising 10 members will be elected by the Forum at its first AGM to carry out the day-to-day work of the Forum.

3.2 Elections to the Executive Committee will then take place each year as follows. Each elected committee member will serve on a rotating basis so that at the second and third AGMs at least three members will stand down and at the fourth AGM the remaining members will stand down, and elections will be held to fill the vacant spaces, which three-year pattern will be repeated in subsequent years. No member shall remain in post for more than three years without standing down in this way. Members may stand for re-election.

3.3 The Executive Committee will be composed and representative of the area's business and residential community, including large and small business, organisations or associations, workers and residents. Subject to the decision of any general meeting, the committee shall be composed of equal numbers of business/organisation members and residents. A balance should also be maintained in co-options and among the officers of the committee. Co-options may also be used to redress any imbalance.

3.4. The quorum for the Executive Committee shall be 6 members.

3.5. Between GMs the Executive Committee may co-opt, by resolution of a majority of the Executive Committee, up to 3 additional/replacement members so that the committee may never exceed 13 members nor contain more than 3 co-opted members. Co-opted members will have the same voting rights as other members of the Executive Committee.

3.6 Any member who has been co-opted shall stand down at the AGM immediately following their co-option but may stand for election at that AGM in accordance with para 3.2 above.

3.7 The Executive Committee will elect the following officers of the Forum from its number: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If the Chair is a Business/Organisation representative or worker, the Vice-Chair will be a resident, and vice-versa.

3.8. The Chair (or the Vice Chair when acting as Chair) will

- have a casting vote at any Executive Committee or General Meeting
- be responsible for the presentation of a report of the work of the Forum and the Executive Committee to each General Meeting of the Forum.

3.10. The Secretary will make minutes of General and Executive Committee Meetings available to the members of the Forum within three weeks of the meeting unless impracticable.

3.11 The Treasurer shall

- Be responsible for maintaining the accounts of the 'Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum' and presenting the annual accounts to the Forum at the AGM
- Be responsible for presenting an annual budget for the following year to the Forum at the AGM
- Submit a detailed summary of the accounts at every Executive Committee meeting

3.12. Any member of the Executive Committee may call a meeting of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly to carry out the work of the Forum. Members of the Forum may attend meetings of the Executive Committee as observers.

3.13. Sub-committees or working parties may be appointed by the Executive Committee to carry out specific tasks, to consider policies and to advise the Executive Committee. Such bodies may be appointed from within or outside the membership of the Forum but will be responsible to the Executive Committee and report to the Executive Committee as required by it and to the next Annual General Meeting.

3.14 In furtherance of the Forum objectives, but not otherwise, the Executive Committee of the Forum may exercise the power to:

- Invite and receive contributions and raise funds where appropriate, to finance the work of the Forum, and open a bank account to manage such funds.
- Publicise and promote the work of the Forum and organise meetings, training courses, events or seminars etc
- Work with groups of a similar nature and exchange information, advice and knowledge with them, including cooperation with adjoining Neighbourhood Forums such as Marylebone, Soho and Fitzrovia East and with other voluntary bodies, charities, statutory and non-statutory organisations
- Employ staff (who shall not be members of the Executive Committee) and volunteers as are necessary to conduct activities to meet the objectives
- Incorporate and run a Community Interest Company
- Take any form of action that is lawful, which is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Forum, including taking out any contracts which it may see fit.

3.15 The Executive Committee shall at all times work under a duty to represent the whole community in their decision making process. In particular the Executive Committee should have regard to the demographic mix of the population in the Area

and the differing views of Business, large and small, Employees, Residents and Local Organisations.

3.16 A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:-

- Is disqualified from holding office by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory modification or re-enactment of that provision) or
- Becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing his or her own affairs,
- Is absent without the permission of the Executive Committee from all its meetings held within a period of six months and the Executive Committee resolves that he/she shall cease to hold office
- Is subject to a vote of no confidence from a General Meeting of the Forum
- Notifies the Executive Committee in writing of his/her resignation

4. Meetings

4.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Forum will be held initially within 3 months of designation of the Forum by Westminster City Council, and annually thereafter within 10-14 months of the previous AGM.

4.2. A General Meeting may be called by decision of the Executive Committee, or by 10 members of the Forum or 10% of members whichever is the greater delivering a written request signed by each of them to the Secretary.

4.3. General meetings of the Forum will be held at least twice a year

4.4 For all General Meetings, a notice of the meeting and details of any resolutions to be put to it will be sent to all Forum members at least 21 days before the meeting.

4.5. At any General Meeting each member present in person or by a representative (except for the Chair's casting vote) will have one vote. Where practicable, arrangements will be made to enable members unable to attend to appoint a proxy.

4.6. Decisions of General Meetings will be by simple majority except where this constitution provides otherwise.

4.7 The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 21 members.

4.8. Forum meetings are open to all residents, workers and businesses in the area whether members or not and to observers from interested stakeholder groups including all statutory bodies and other appropriate organisations/bodies, none of whom will be entitled to vote unless they are members of the Forum according to the terms of Section 2 above.

4.9 A General Meeting has the power to remove by a vote of no confidence any member of the Executive Committee.

5. Notices

5.1. Notices to members will be deemed delivered if sent to the member's last notified email address or, where no email address is given, sent by post to the last notified address.

6. Finance

6.1. The Forum will have the power to raise funds as necessary for its activities, by grant, donation or any other appropriate means. All funds and other assets held by or on behalf of the Forum (whatever their source) shall be held by or on behalf of the members of the Forum for the time being and shall be applied solely in accordance with the terms of this Constitution.

6.2. The Executive Committee will open one or more bank accounts as necessary in the name of the Forum. All funds raised for the Forum will be held in such accounts. The Executive Committee will nominate bank signatories.

6.3 Cheques and other financial transactions of the Forum require two signatories.

6.4 Any resolution which will involve incurring liability of £5000 or more shall be approved in advance by a General Meeting of the Forum.

6.5. The Executive Committee will where appropriate insure any assets held by the Forum, and where appropriate by insurance or otherwise indemnify its members against liabilities arising from their work for the Forum.

6.6 A member of the Executive Committee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the Forum or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Forum.

6.7 A member of the Forum who is not a member of the Executive Committee may be paid a reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the Forum. Subject to that and paras 6.6 and 8.3, none of the income or assets of the Forum may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to any member of the Forum.

7. Register of Executive Committee Members' Interests and Forum Members' conflict of interest

7.1. The Secretary will maintain a Register of Executive Committee Members' Interests setting out any financial interests in the Area or any other interest that could be deemed to have an influence on decisions likely to come before the Executive Committee and the Forum.

7.2. Executive Committee members will abstain from voting on any matter in which they have a financial interest.

7.3 Other members of the Forum must declare any conflict of interest before partaking in discussion of, and potentially voting on, any matter. By majority vote of the Executive Committee, an individual may be asked not to participate in said discussion or vote.

8. Amendments and Dissolution

8.1. Amendments to the body of this Constitution will be by decision of a General Meeting carried out in accordance with section 3 above, with the exception that such a vote will only be carried if supported by 75% or more of those voting.

8.2. The Forum may be dissolved by decision of a General Meeting specifically called for this purpose and carried out in accordance with section 3 above, with the exception that such a vote will only be carried if supported by 75% or more of those voting.

8.3. In the event of dissolution, any property or funds held by or for the Forum will be, subject to the agreement of the Members at General Meeting, allocated to one or more nominated organisations set up to continue the work of the Forum, or, in the absence of any such organisation and subject to any statutory regulations, distributed equally to the constituent local organisations who are its members (but not to individual members).

8.4. The Forum will carry out a formal review of its functions and achievements four years after its designation as a Neighbourhood Forum.

8.5. Following such review, and consultation with its members, the Forum will decide to continue, amend or dissolve itself as considered appropriate at the end of the five year term as laid down in the Localism Act.

NOTE ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION

The Area and the Forum. The Fitzwest Area can be seen on the map at <http://fitzwest.org/wordpress/fitzwest-area-map/>)

On 28 March 2014, the Area was designated as a neighbourhood area: file:///C:/Users/gh/Downloads/Fitzrovia%20West%20Designation%20Notice.pdf

On 5 February 2015 the Forum was designated as a Neighbourhood Forum: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhood-forums#neighbourhood-forum-applications>.

Having been designated, the Forum can create a neighbourhood plan for presentation to residents and businesses in the Area in a referendum. See <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning-2>.

Mission and objectives. The mission of the Forum is to work towards a habitable, sustainable and neighbourly community. The objectives are to promote Fitzrovia's wellbeing, produce a Neighbourhood Plan and foster community spirit, local democracy and civic pride.

Key principles. The Forum is open to all who live and work in the area or are elected council members. Day to day business is to be run by an elected Executive tasked with promoting equality and representing the area fairly and equitably. Meetings are to be publicised on the website and open to the public.

Membership (section 2). Membership is open to over 16s who live or work in the area, businesses and organisations in the area and relevant council members. Section 2 also deals with the mechanics of joining and leaving.

Executive (section 3). There must be 10 members but extra members can be co-opted (3.1, 3.5). There is provision for compulsory standing down and re-election (3.2, 3.6). There must be a balance between residents and business (3.3). The Executive has a duty to represent the whole community (3.15).

Meetings (sections 4 and 5). There must be regular general meetings of the Forum (4.1, 4.3). Either the Executive or 10% of members can call a general meeting (4.2). The quorum is 21 (4.7). Notices of meetings are to be by email or post if no email address is given (5.1).

Finance (section 6). The Forum has the usual powers to raise and hold funds.

Conflicts of interest (section 7). Provision is made both in relation to the Executive and to the Forum.

Amendments, review, dissolution (section 8). Amendments to the constitution have to be supported by 75% of the vote at a general meeting, as does dissolution of the Forum (8.1, 8.2). The Executive is to review the position 4 years after designation (8.5).

The Executive Committee

Nick Bailey Secretary

I have been a member of the executive committee since designation as I have worked for the University of Westminster for many years in the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. The University has been established in the area for over a century and plays an important role in the life of the local community. The Vice-Chancellor has asked me to represent the University on the Forum. I have also lived in Goodge Street for 30 years and continue to be an active member of local organizations such as the Fitzrovia Trust.

I am strongly in favor of the Forum as the legitimate and representative voice of local residents and businesses. I can bring enthusiasm, a good knowledge of housing, planning, and transport, all of which will assist in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan.

The priorities of the Forum should be to ensure as far as possible that Fitzrovia remains a mixed community providing a safe and affordable place to live and work for all with an environment and facilities to meet all needs

Sharon Banoff

I've lived and worked in Fitzrovia for more than 30 years – moving from East to West. I worked at the BBC in Broadcasting House until 2014, and know many of the local residents and businesses well. I can't imagine leaving this area with its perfect location and a history to be proud of. The lovely small streets, squares and buildings – along with our homes and businesses – need to be treasured and protected. New developments should enhance rather than destroy the ambiance and appearance of Fitzrovia West. Fitzwest Neighbourhood Forum is working to preserve our area, and I'm very pleased to be part of it.

Yoram Blumann Finance

Fitzrovia is undergoing a major change, due to the property boom and the expected arrival of Crossrail. Those who care about Fitzrovia – those who live and work here – can play a role in this process through the FitzWest Neighbourhood Forum. FitzWest aims to preserve & enhance the special character of the Fitzrovia, working with residents, developers, businesses, and Westminster City Council.

Formally, this would be done by developing a Neighbourhood Plan, and at the same time, the forum should also take active part in the planning process ensuring that the principles guiding the NP are implemented in practice. The Neighbourhood Forum should also be commenting on various policy proposals that might affect Fitzrovia.

I have been living in Fitzrovia for over 20 years. In the past 15 years, as a volunteer, I was dealing with Westminster's planning and licensing matters, not just individual applications, but also commenting on Westminster's, Mayoral and government policy consultations.

Working closely with our colleagues in neighbouring Soho, Marylebone, St James, Covent Gardens; reflecting the special character of the West End, we campaigned successfully for stronger protection for residents, and pressed for better enforcement. I also served as a member of various liaison committees over the years. I have some solid experience in running the finances of a small charitable company.

Why am I standing for elections for the Executive Committee? FitzWest is a new organisation; I believe that I can make valuable contribution thanks to my experience, and my familiarity with the planning process, the councils and their officials, and of course, knowledge of Fitzrovia and the issues we face.

Barbara Corr

Resident

Gwilym Harbottle Membership

I have lived in Fitzwest for over 20 years. I believe it has a unique character and atmosphere which results from a combination of architecture on a human scale, a good proportion of high quality independent shops and businesses, a relatively broad and diverse social mix and a very friendly atmosphere. I believe that character is under threat.

I am a barrister. I now work mainly in Intellectual Property but trained in planning and local government law and used to work in property law. Over the years I have gained a good deal of experience in running small organisations and believe I can contribute legal and organisational skills.

I think the main priority of the Forum should be to develop the Fitzwest area in such a way as to maintain its character. That does not mean preserving it in aspic but does mean so far as possible providing an environment where future development occurs on a human scale, good independent businesses can continue to flourish and social diversity is maintained.

Julia Haythorn

Julia Haythorn has lived and worked in Fitzrovia for four years. Even in that short time she has become aware of the many changes that have taken place with building development and shop usage - some of these changes for the good, but some that have adversely affected the neighbourhood's varied and vibrant character. She is keen to support the development of a thriving community and contribute to making Fitzrovia a safe, clean and attractive place to live. She has been working as part of the FitzWest Neighbourhood Forum for the last two years and is keen to support the development and completion of the Neighbourhood Plan. This will help to make sure that new developments are in keeping with the character of Fitzrovia West.

Dan Johnson

Director of Placemaking, New West End Company

Chris Shaw

Resident and Business

Wendy Shillam

I have been active in the FitzWest Forum from its foundation, helping to write our applications, liaising with Westminster City Council and acting as an ambassador for our cause with other community groups. I set up the website, the email and the membership system.

I am an architect and town planner, living and working in Great Titchfield Street. I am also a trustee of the Fitzrovia Chapel Foundation and a Director of Set in Modern the social enterprise set up to support writers and writing.