

**FITZROVIA WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
OFFICES OF NEW WEST END COMPANY  
WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 6PM**

**NOTES OF MEETING**

Present: Nick Bailey (“NB”), Yoram Blumann (facilitator) (“YB”), Tony Burton (consultant) (“TB”), Barbara Corr (“BC”), Gwilym Harbottle (notetaker) (“GH”), Julia Haythorn (“JH”), Vivien Hughes, Dan Johnson (NWEC), Chris Shaw (“CS”)

Apologies: Sharon Banoff, Wendy Shillam

1. **Declarations of interest.** There were none. It was agreed to remove this item from future agendas but noted that members were still obliged to declare relevant interests.
2. **Bank.** YB reported that we have £8,469 in the bank comprising £6,775 from Tesco for the Corner project (see below) the remainder being unrestricted funds.
3. **Progression and funding of the neighbourhood plan.** GH presented a funding paper and TB reiterated the detail of some of the steps involved. TB stressed the need to record any consultations which might take place from now on.
  - a. **Progression.** NB noted that the structure of the Mayfair plan was much simpler than ours and suggested that we might wish to simplify our structure, possibly focusing on fewer main issues without losing the detail. TB said that less is more but we must not lose the golden thread of the original priorities. It was agreed that a sub-group (NB, BC, JH, GH), working with TB, would work on a simplified structure analogous to Mayfair’s, and factor in WCC’s and TB’s comments on the previous draft (first meeting of the sub-group was later fixed for 6pm on 7 March at

BC's flat). YB mentioned that Knightsbridge was also well advanced and CS that Camley St had been approved. We would need to tweak the plan to take account of later developments in London wide and Westminster plans. **Action: NB, BC, JH, GH.**

**b. Funding.**

- i. NVEC. It was agreed to accept NVEC's generous offer of £5,000 from 1 April 2018 on terms that we would use best endeavours to match that sum over a 12 month period.
- ii. GH reported on a meeting with Anna Doyle of Soho NF. It was agreed that NVEC would (if possible) make its rating list of commercial organisations in the area – and contacts where possible - available to CS who would establish a shortlist of potential contacts.
- iii. It was agreed that we would also have an event ideally at the same time as the Fitzrovia Festival in June to raise money from residents. NB would speak to Daniel about this. BC would ask Edward Kellow about using the chapel.
- iv. It was agreed that we would apply to Locality as soon as possible.

**Action: NB, BC, GH, CS.**

4. **Greening.** BC and GH reported on the "Corner" project (corner Gt Titchfield St and Clipstone St) which still awaits details of the forecourt loadings and presented a draft plan by Rebecca Heard for the "Pavement" project (W side of Gt Titchfield St between Carburton St and Clipstone St). Subject to various detailed comments (to be relayed to Rebecca) the plan was approved and it was agreed to hold an exhibition at the Fitzrovia Centre on 19 March 12-2pm and 6-8pm. GH to seek volunteers and to ask Rebecca if she can attend. Draft flyer approved with amendments. Expenditure of a total of £2,000 on plan and consultation (as per budget) was authorised. **Action BC and GH.**

5. **Ginkgo trees.** CS reported that he was still chasing Westminster ("WCC") on this. Action would probably be taken in the Spring.

## 6. AOB.

- a. **Rubbish.** CS reported that WCC had still not removed unnecessary signs or confirmed that there would be a review within 6 months. He was chasing them. **Action: CS.**
- b. **Air quality.** It was agreed that Fitzwest would respond positively to the consultation on this and encourage others to do the same. It was agreed to consider including plans to close off streets (in whole or part) where appropriate. **Action: GH and sub-committee.**
- c. **Constitution, expiry of designation etc.** GH to consider and report to next meeting. **Action: GH.**
- d. **Oxford Street “transformation”.** YB presented on WCC’s 8 pledges. It was agreed that there was no need to respond specifically to these pledges at this time. It was agreed to send our response to the consultation to the local candidates once known. BC to send GH details of Labour candidates. **Action: BC, GH.**
- e. **Question for the forum.** Roger Allen had asked whether we would ask Robert Davis to step down. It was agreed that we would await the results of the investigation by WCC’s monitoring officer.

## 7. Next meetings:

- a. 7 March cancelled. To be used for a meeting of the plan sub-group.
- b. Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 6pm at NVEC (address above).
- c. Monday 14 May 2018 at 6pm at NVEC.

GH 22.02.18