

Minutes of the FitzWest Executive Committee

Date: Wednesday 10 April 2019, 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Fitzrovia Centre, Foley Street, W1

Attending:

Nick Bailey
Sharon Banoff
Barbara Corr
Gwilym Harbottle
Julia Haythorn
Ian Johnstone
Wendy Shillam

Apologies:

Yoram Blumann
Dan Johnson
Chris Shaw

1 Welcome and introductions

All were welcomed. Sharon chaired the meeting, Nick took minutes

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes for 7 March were agreed.

3 Neighbourhood Plan

Nick reported that feedback had been received from our WCC planning contact officer, Lukas Van Der Steen, that said 'It is encouraging to see that the plan sets out ambitious but achievable policy proposals that help address local issues'. A number of suggestions and comments were made about further possible improvements.

Tony Burton has seen these and added further comments.

Nick said that he will prepare a further draft incorporating the WCC comments which will go on the website before the AGM. We will then wait for the publication of WCC's draft City Plan which will go out for public consultation in June or July. Reference to this document will be made in a final draft neighbourhood plan which will then be the basis for the Regulation 14 consultation which takes 6 weeks.

The final stage before the examination and referendum is set out in Regulation 16 whereby we send WCC a final draft plan, a *Consultation Statement* and a statement setting out how we meet the *Basic Conditions* (how our plan conforms with WCC strategic policies, the London Plan, National Planning Policy Framework and any extant

Human Rights/EU legislation). WCC then sends these documents to an Examiner and ultimately organizes a referendum.

Gwilym and Julia, and possibly with help from Wendy, agreed to prepare drafts of these two documents (with help/advice from Tony Burton)

4 **Ward Funding**

Yoram had notified us that our funding from West End Ward had been agreed in full. The total is £5,300, out of which £3,550 is for our public meeting, and £1,750 is for getting the plan ready [health check], and the cost of printing and mailing 25 copies.

Yoram was thanked for submitting the bid.

5 **Preparations for the AGM on 13 May**

Gwilym will organize an email to notify members 21 days before the AGM

The following timetable was agreed for the meeting at 25 Howland St:

Gwilym agreed to give Ian contact details for the Wellcome/Sainsbury centre who will discuss layout and provision of catering (water, nibbles, juices, wine etc)

Dan will be asked if we can borrow the NWECC easels.

1.30. Exhibition opens. Forum members to be there on a rota basis. Refreshments.

6.00 Gwilym (Chair) offers a welcome, summarises purpose of AGM, reports on the work of the forum since the last public meeting and invites attendees to join the forum;

6.15 Nick summarises procedure and key points of the draft neighbourhood plan. Followed by Q&A.

6.30 Speaker from WCC to talk about how the council is aiming to improve air quality. Followed by Q&A

7.10 Elections to forum: Nominations + Nick, Sharon and Barbara standing down but seeking re-election.

7.20. AOB and further opportunity for Q&A

7.45 Refreshments and further opportunity to look at the display boards.

Jane Bassham (WCC) has agreed to find a speaker for the 6.30 slot.

Publicity for the AGM

1. Pre-Publicity

We agreed to prepare a postcard or similar as an invitation with basic details for

circulation to all residents and businesses and a flyer with a short text based on NB's outline edited by Sharon. Forum members will distribute these as soon as available.

All these to also go on the website.

2. Boards for the exhibition

There will be c.8 boards. Some based on those prepared for previous exhibition, some new. The following are possibilities:

1. Intro to the forum and the Plan
2. Key issues facing FitzWest (policy plan of area with listed buildings, CA's etc)
3. Preserving variety and mixed uses, including housing for all
4. Increasing provision of green and open space
5. Protecting and increasing provision for small businesses
6. Promoting improved environmental standards and air quality
7. Improving mobility and managing transport
8. Ideas for using CIL money to improve the area

Barbara (with Wendy) agreed to locate a graphic designer, brief him/her on what is needed and obtain a price. Displays from the previous exhibition are available on the FitzWest website; Nick will suggest illustrations and text from the Plan. Barbara will co-ordinate and progress-chase with designer.

6 Market Place/Greening

Nick agreed to contact NVEC for an update on this. Dan Johnson later confirmed that the position on funding was unclear because of the recent WCC report on Oxford St which stated that Market Place came under option 4. All streets listed under option 4 could not be funded from the £150m set aside by WCC but would require additional funding.

7 Westminster Forums Meeting

We have been notified of a meeting for all forums in Westminster on 15 May, 6.30-8.00, at 86 Edgware Road, W2. All welcome.

8 Oxford Street Project

Yoram had circulated a Cabinet report dated 8 April that indicated that the original sum of £150m would only cover basic works to Oxford Street and some immediately adjoining streets and not all projects outlined in the consultation document. This appears to suggest that Market Place, Great Titchfield and Great Portland Streets etc are listed under 'option 4' meaning they are dependent on private sponsorship or other funding being raised. The meeting expressed concern and will seek further clarification.

9 Any Other Business

Wendy reported that she will draw up a list of residential electors for the area. She also noted that any business based in the area paying business rates can nominate a voter for the referendum. *[But will WCC have a list of names for the referendum and can we*

get a copy?]

Wendy agreed to write in response to a letter from the Local Government Boundary Commission suggesting a review of the boundary of West End ward in order to include the northern section of FitzWest which is currently in Marylebone High Street ward.

10 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on **1 May, 6.00 p.m.** at the Fitzrovia Centre

Chris Shaw was proposed as Chair, Sharon to take minutes

AGREED: The Facilitator circulates an agenda a few days before each meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.