

FITZROVIA WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

FITZROVIA CENTRE, THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2019 AT 6PM

Present: Nick Bailey, Sharon Banoff, Yoram Blumann, Tony Burton (assisting with the plan), Barbara Corr, Anne Goodburn (resident), Gwilym Harbottle, Julia Haythorn, Ian Johnstone, Chris Shaw, Wendy Shillam

Apologies: Timothy Barnes, Jonathan Glanz, Dan Johnson, Pancho Lewis

1. **Minutes of the last meeting.** Agreed.
2. **GDPR registration.** Gwilym will register the Forum.
3. **Neighbourhood plan.**
 - a. **Current position.** Nick reported we were waiting for an informal response from WCC officers. The WCC draft city plan will be published in early May and we should make any amendments this makes necessary before embarking on a formal “R14” consultation. Accordingly, we need to continue with the existing informal consultation. Tony warned that WCC’s plan may be delayed and we should not allow our timing to slip as a result. Also, to avoid confusion we should ensure we don’t consult at the same time as WCC.
 - b. **Current informal consultation.** Nick and Tony reminded us that the purpose of this was to ensure that the main points in the plan accord with what local residents and businesses want. Once the R14 consultation starts, major changes cannot be made. Responses will be recorded in a statement of community involvement. Tony suggested that when engaging with local people we focus on three or four main points. We should not limit consultation to those entitled to vote.
 - c. **Local businesses.** Wendy is working on obtaining from WCC (if necessary by a FOI request) lists of all (i) business rate payers and (ii) business rate payers who have registered to vote on the plan. Wendy will also contact the Electoral Reform Society if necessary.

- d. **Communication with WCC.** There have been extensive reorganisations at WCC. Lukas van der Steen remains the main contact for the Forum, with support from Michela Leoni.
- e. **R14 consultation.** Tony explained that there are prescribed consultees. It is for a minimum of 6 weeks. We will need to record comments, our response and any changes and this record will be a public document. With WCC's help we will need to carry out a Site Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment in parallel. We will produce a consultation statement and a conditions statement. After concluding the R14 consultation we will need a health check from someone appropriately qualified. This will require funding.

4. Funding

- a. **Ward funding application.** Yoram had produced a draft. It was agreed to add the cost of a health check for the plan and of obtaining the electoral roll and any business voting list. Yoram will circulate a revised draft for comment by Sunday night.
- b. **Community Infrastructure levy ("CIL").** This might be another funding source. There is a committee which meets twice a year. The last meeting was in December 2018. We will be consulted in relation to the neighbourhood portion of CIL. We will be able to bid (from October 2019) for expenditure of the neighbourhood portion of CILL from April 2020. It was noted that £400k had been allocated from the central CIL fund to make Riding House Street into a play area. Yoram will speak to Jonathan Glanz about how we could identify the officer managing the project and be consulted once we have seen a copy of the plans.

5. 13 May 2019 event and AGM

- a. **Wendy summarised.** It will be at the Sainsbury-Wellcome Centre 25 Howland Street. There will be an exhibition of the plan all afternoon with panels/boards, leaflets and a questionnaire. We will also ask those who attend how they would like CIL money to be spent. We have started to publicise.
- b. **Order of business of AGM.** 6pm start. Members only (people will be able to join on the day). Gwilym will chair. Nick will summarise the plan and our achievements so far. A short session on air quality and/or healthy streets (Barbara will liaise with Pancho on finding a speaker). 30 minutes of quick fire comments/suggestions from the floor (no debate). Wendy advertise walking for health (30 seconds). Yoram will present the accounts. Nick, Sharon and Barbara would stand down and present themselves for re-election. Lukas van der Steen (above) has

indicated that he will be able to come. We should also invite the WCC officer who leads on CIL.

6. **Market Place.** Yoram reported that the committee had met and chosen the permanent design option with the maximum amount of space.
7. **Oxford Street.** According to the *Evening Standard*, despite having promised ongoing consultation on the Oxford Street District, WCC appear to have approved the alterations to Oxford Circus and the section at the junction with Tottenham Court Road, as set out in their proposals. The Forum will participate in traffic modelling and respond to the specific proposals once made available.
8. **Date of next meeting.** 1 April is not suitable to many. Gwilym to circulate a Doodle with alternative dates.

GH

08.03.19