

Minutes of the Fitzwest Executive Committee

Date: Wednesday 12 June 2019 @ 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Dylan Room, Fitzrovia Centre, Foley Street, W1

Attending: Nick Bailey
Barbara Corr
Julia Haythorn
Ian Johnstone
Yoram Blumann
Henry Gregg
Chris Shaw

Apologies: Wendy Shillam
Sharon Banoff
Gwilym Harbottle

1 Welcome and Introductions

Nick welcomed all and chaired the meeting. Chris took notes. Henry Gregg introduced himself as representing NVEC with Dan Johnson's departure. A vote of thanks was extended to Dan for his help and assistance to Fitzwest.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes for 01 May 2019 were agreed.

3 AGM 13 May 2019 - Review and Discussion

Minutes of the AGM are on the Fitzwest website. The survey taken at the AGM is also on the website for members to complete. We discussed also putting the PowerPoint presentation material on the website for information purposes. Presentations such as Arup's proposals for Market Place and Westminster City Council's (WCC) presentation on Air Quality are both useful information.

It was agreed that the venue for the AGM was excellent as were the services provided. IJ has written on behalf of Fitzwest thanking Wellcome Sainsbury for this facility. All agreed we would use this venue next year if possible.

4 City Plan, Neighbourhood Plan Update and Next Steps

WCC have announced that their draft City Plan is due to be released on 17 June 2019. The City Plan is subject to public consultation. NB will incorporate the relevant bits of the new WCC draft plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be put out to public consultation (Regulation 14) in the next couple of weeks. The City Plan consultation will end at the end of August/beginning of September. The City Plan will probably not be adopted until next year. The draft Neighbourhood Plan requires a public consultation and to be considered by WCC and finally to be subject to scrutiny by an appointed Inspector.

5 Oxford Street Project

YB took the Executive through an update on Oxford Street and WASF. Attached to the meeting notes is a copy of the email from YB dated 06 June 2019 which is a precis of meetings that YB has attended.

The Oxford Street proposals are subject to consultation and to formal Traffic Order being approved by TfL. YB advised that there was a very substantial amount of information provided at the consultation meeting and that there was as yet no agreement from TfL to the proposals. It was his belief that the latest proposals will increase traffic congestion and therefore traffic pollution, both on Oxford Street and Regent Street and the principal Fitzwest streets.

Concerning WSF, there are four meetings scheduled per annum. WCC has some 87 projects for Oxford Street and no identified or fixed timeframe.

6 Market Place/Greening/Riding House Street – Closures, Timing and Funding

The position on Market Place concerning CIL funding has not been approved although YB questioned Richard Beddoe and the Leader of WCC as to why Market Place was not coming forward when matched funded and roundly supported by major local landowners and NWECC. Apparently, the Market Place proposals cannot be reviewed for funding until such time as detailed assessment of the statutory services infrastructure in the area of Market Place has been fully considered. Accordingly, a full utilities survey is required and it is understood that this will be completed by September 2019 being led by Arup.

The expectation is still that the improvements to Market Place will proceed next year and that CIL will be available for this once the overall cost has been identified following the detailed utilities survey as this will also identify which utilities have to be moved as part of the proposed works. Traffic rearrangements will also be required for Market Place and will require WCC and TfL approval before any works can be progressed.

It is understood that CIL funding has been allocated for the closure of the eastern end of Riding House Street although no timeframe has been fixed as yet for the permanent closure nor has a scheme for this been designed. The eastern end of Riding House Street has, however, been temporarily closed for some time so that when this work is undertaken permanently it should make no significant difference to the traffic flows in Fitzrovia.

7 Any Other Business

- (i) Ward Funding: Fitzwest thanked NWECC for providing a £1,500 contribution towards Fitzwest and the Neighbourhood Plan.
- (ii) YB confirmed that Fitzwest funding application to the West End Ward had been approved by WCC for £5,250.
- (iii) A discussion took place on air pollution. It was noted that WCC are becoming more supportive of controls being placed on certain types of vehicles to reduce air pollution with an increase in electric charge points for electric cars but that this needs to be extended to white vans and other service and delivery vehicles. Much greater consideration should be given for pooling deliveries and restricting Amazon type deliveries to the workplace. Concern was raised by problems arising from the rerouting of bus movements turning right from Mortimer Street into Great Portland Street and the fact that buses take up a large proportion of the vehicles.

- (iv) YB reported that the West End Community Network was planning a meeting in early July to discuss Oxford Street.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 23 July 2019 @ 6.00 p.m. and will be held at the offices of Shaw Corporation, 42 Langham Street, London W1W 7AT.

Facilitator: GH (to circulate agenda beforehand).

Minutes: YB.

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.