

Minutes of FitzWest Executive Committee

Date: Thursday 24th October 2019

Time: 6pm to 7:50pm

Venue: Fitzrovia Community Centre, 2 Foley Street, Fitzrovia, London W1W 6DL

In Attendance: Yoram Blumann (YB) - Acting Chair
Ian Johnstone (IJ) – Minutes
Julia Haythorn (JH)
Sharon Banoff (SB)
Gwilym Harbottle (GH)
Nick Bailey (NB)
Christopher Shaw (CS)
Barbara Corr (BC)
Dan Johnson (DJ) NWECC
Linus Reece (LR) FNA
Thomas Maxime (TM) WCC/OSD
Tom Rimmer (TR) NRP/OSD

Apologies:

Wendy Shillam (WS)
Pancho Lewis (PL)
Jonathan Glanz (JG)
Timothy Barnes (TB)

1.0 Welcome, introductions and apologies.

2.0 Cycle Route (OSD Team)

Presentation from OSD team for 'Sustainable Streets Scheme' (work in progress) including proposed new connections for walking and cycling routes on quiet streets, plus overall street improvements (pedestrian crossings, greening 'parklets', electric charging EV, seating). Draft presentation document plus larger scale map illustrating impact on Fitzrovia. Scheme is sensitive towards FWF greening strategy and follows Mayor of London healthy streets plan. Existing trees will remain. Followed by a 50-minute open discussion.

As part of pre consultation phase OSD will share drawings with FWF.
YB is the FWF contact liaison for OSD.

Time scale for phased introduction TBC. Estimate statutory and stakeholder consultation early 2020 (Jan), design detailing phase (6-9 months), physical works late 2020/ early 2021. Additional information for planning will be provided by OSD.

3.0 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted (23rd July 2019), available on FWF website.

4.0 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Update from NB. FWF at draft 13 of the plan. WCC have submitted 50-60 points that require addressing/amending to bring in line with the Westminster plan. FWF is in general conformity. NB applied for a health check at the next stage.

WCC will be publishing revisions to their draft city plan in November and it will then go to an examination so is unlikely to be fully adopted until sometime next year. NB will ensure that our Neighbourhood Plan remains in general conformity with the most recent draft.

FWF added a note of thanks to NB for all of his hard work in getting the plan to this stage.

5.0 Application for renewal of the FitzWest Forum

Requirement to renew the FitzWest Forum, providing details for:

Aims and goals of the forum.

What we have achieved to-date.

What we wish to do next by adopting a neighbourhood plan (consultations with residents and businesses, greening strategy, rubbish collections, street improvements, air quality / pollution, general improvements to the Fitzrovia area).

Contacts for the FWF executive committee.

Number of residential to commercial members.

Requires a map of FW area – NB make available.

Review of constitution – GH send to YB.

6.0 Feedback from recent meetings

YB outlined feedback from several recent meetings.

Note: an additional document with details for each meeting was circulated prior to the meeting, YB.

Oxford St. Meeting

Finalising the plan with detailed analysis of traffic grid in FW area. Date for meeting in Jan 2020 TBC. Concerns with accidents involving buses on Tottenham Crt Rd.

Meeting with Crown Estates

Greening is high on the agenda (reducing traffic, air quality, improved environment).

DJ 5-year plan at NWECC for promoting initiatives on improving air quality.

Oxford Street Busking

WCC proposals reference Busking in Oxford Street. Licensing regime trial- to commence in May 2020

YB reported that WCC proposes that busking would only be allowed in three areas in Oxford Street - west of FitzWest area.

The area covered by the Oxford Street Busking trial includes every side street going right up to East Castle Street, Margarett Street and Charlotte Place.

YB asked the trial area would be extended to include the whole of Market Place.

7.0 Riding House Street and Market Place greening.

Riding House Street

CS met with school and UCL who are both in favour of green wall idea.

Air cleaning statistics of green walls are favourable (air scrubbing).

Some concerns and resistance from local neighbours (closing the road, noise from school children), CS and YB will meet with residents to explain the plan.

Resident contact details are available through Cllr. Pancho Lewis.

CS will report back at next meeting.

Market Place

Update from DJ (NWECC)

Design options to be made available at next meeting. DJ circulate drawings and outline what the costs are outside of the CIL.

Aim to be traffic free at North part of Market Place.

Timescales – 6months for final design. Jan 2020 for provisional drawings and approval from NWECC board.

8.0 AOB

GH will respond to Denise Julien's email and website post about greening strategy. JH will update website with response.

GH advise on ward budgets/small grants, these are meant for local projects/grants.

The application process is explained on the WCC website, and whoever wishes to apply need to contact their ward members first.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/ward-budgets>

Wendy Shillam has resigned from the FWF, a note of thanks from the FW committee is given to Wendy for all of her hard work.

As a result, we will need to change the hosting of the website and sort out the database. JH will look into this and liaise with WS about the changeover.

It was agreed that the website could benefit from a redesign to archive some of the older information and to make the current information more accessible.
JH will get a quote from a web designer.

9.0 Date of next meeting

*Proposed date change to suit majority of members as the original date would clash with the forum of forums meeting.

Thursday 5th December at 6pm, Fitzrovia Community Centre

Facilitator: JH

Minutes: YB

JH will distribute the agenda prior to the meeting, please notify of any items to be added.

Note: FWF committee all agree the meeting room at Fitzrovia Centre is inadequate for the volume of committee members. Executive to advise on alternative venue location from mid-February 2020 onwards.