

FitzWest Neighbourhood Forum – minutes of the Executive Committee meeting 07 Sept 2022

Present: JH Julia Haythorn (chair)
NB Nick Bailey
IJ Ian Johnston
YB Yoram Blumann
BC Barbara Corr
WS Walid Sheikh
AG Ann Goodburn
TM Teresa Marin, Langham Estates – Invited Guest

Apologies JT Jace Tyrell, NWEC
DC Dee Corsi NWEC
WS Walid Sheikh
AG Ann Goodburn
Councillor P Lilley

Minutes taken by YB

A) Apologies – as recorded above

B) Minutes of the previous Exec Committee meeting: Approved

C) Market Place Project Update

The committee welcomed TM- from Langham Estate;

TM said that she is the head of communications and Marketing at Langham Estates;

Langham Estates took some interest in the Market Place refurbishment, she got in touch with NWEC,

and was referred to YB.

She said that an additional landlord of a building situated between Market Place and Oxford Street- by Market Court- was also interested in the Project.

YB circulated a summary of the Market Project attached to the agenda– how it came about, what the steering committee did, how the final design concept was chosen, the public consultation process, the CIL application and where we stand today.

YB said that Mr Howard Brecker of RIB estate agents – who is a member of FitzWest- is interested in the project, so between Langham Estates, Great Portland Estates and with the good help from Howard, we can get in touch with all the landlords and the business operating in and in the immediate vicinity of Market Place.

In the discussion that followed, some key points were raised:

C1. We have a ready-made and stand-alone project;

It has been through the process of design, a WCC-OSD approved traffic flow study, we have been through the process of consultation, including a public meeting, it was approved by our councillors, businesses, residents and the local Amenity Society [the FNA].

C2. FitzWest submitted a CIL bid to fund the costs of completing the chosen design, & pay for some structural and utilities survey. This work was suggested and agreed with OSD team, FitzWest agreed to fund this work from CIL on the understanding that on completion, WCC would take on the project, fund and complete it as part of the OSD project. The CIL funding application was approved on 02 Oct 2019.

The CIL funding is still valid and funds available;

C3. The OSD project was frozen in 2020, and then cancelled in May 2022.

C4. At the WASF meeting in late May 2022, YB raised Market Place with the new Leader and with the cabinet member responsible for Oxford Street- Paul Dimoldenberg.

Cllr Paul Dimoldenberg expressed his interest, asking to see some details, suggesting a meeting when we are ready.

The Leader has stressed at this and other meetings that WCC expect some financial contributions from those businesses standing to benefit from any project carried by WCC.

C5. It was agreed that we reconvene the Market Place Steering Group, invite possible interested parties, and we will try to identify long term residents if there are any in the immediate vicinity of Market Place, inviting them as well.

The Steering Committee would meet Cllr Dimoldenberg in due course- including a walk about the area.

C6. ****Update****: the Steering Committee will be meeting on 26th Sept.

D) AGM:

Date: the date has been fixed for **13 Oct 2020** ****update****

Venue: Sainsbury Wellcome Centre 25 Howland Street London W1T 4JG. **[to be booked by IJ]**

Time: 18:00

Items for Agenda:

Formal matters:

does any EC member need to stand down and re-elected? [GH to determine]

Ask for volunteers to join the EC

Accounts for the past year- YB to provide

Guess speaker, update on what we have been doing:

Guest Speaker: *Clr Paul Dimoldenberg* [accepted the invitation on 8/9/22]

What have Fitzwest been doing in the last year?

CIL: brief update on Market Place [YB], Soho PlayHouse [NB to invite somebody from Soho playhouse], Greening

[JH/GH] , future projects: work with the school [NB]

Arup: if possible – invite them for the AGM – Market Place and other matters [YB to provide contact name to NB]

Suggestions for future projects? Ask the audience

Venue Booking: IJ to book the venue

Refreshments: IJ to explore if the welcome centre can provide this- as they did last time.

Invitation and publicity:

GH said that the invitations must go out at least 21 days before the AGM.

JH/GW to co-ordinate the sending of invitations to members and interested parties.

YB to provide JH with a list of invited guests- members of the Market Place Steering Group

Publicity: Fitzrovia News: JH to invite Linus Rees to the meeting, and ask for it to be advertised in Fitzrovia News.

Further details and information to be sorted out before the AGM:

It was agreed that those can be addressed by emails, and if necessary – an informal meeting.

E) Projects/CIL- Greening project update:

Greening/Planters

GH said that some progress has been made: WCC has approved some of the locations for planters, some locations were not, and it was hoped that what has been approved would be in place by the end of 2022.

All Soul School:

NB said that the headmistress returned to work in early September for the new year, and has been in contact with a school in Marylebone for advice and support on the Green Wall project- as this school has completed such a project.

Gardening Project:

JH/NB/YB mentioned that following the Award of £1,000 for a gardening project run by Ms Denis Julian, WCC explored whether they may transfer £1,000 so we would pay Denise her expenses directly.

JH said that Denise already forwarded her some invoices for payment.

Following discussions, it was agreed that FitzWest would be pleased to act as a paying agent for WCC;

YB said that he would respond to WCC agreeing to their proposals, asking for further details and requirements from us, making clear that we will be acting as paying agents only.

F: Traffic management orders- TMO:

YB mentioned the TMO for work in Great Portland Street and New Cavendish Street;

The committee agreed to support the scheme.

YB mentioned a TMO for Little Portland Street:

This was a revised scheme as agreed with residents. No comments were made

G. PlaceMaking:

NB said that we are about to appoint Placemaking subject to finalising the contract with them.

H: future meetings and venue:

To be determined