

FITZROVIA WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

EXECUTIVE MEETING

SAINSBURY WELLCOME CENTRE TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6PM

MINUTES

Apologies: Dee Corsi, Denise Julien, Ian Johnstone, Julia Haythorn,

Present: Barbara Corr, Gwilym Harbottle, Nick Bailey (Chair), Yoram Blumann

1. The minutes of the last Executive meeting were agreed.
2. Gwilym explained that the meeting was inquorate and therefore unable to make binding decisions. It was agreed to proceed in the hope that decisions could be ratified at the next meeting.
3. **Denise Julien.** It was agreed to co-opt Denise Julien to the Executive in accordance with the views expressed the (also inquorate) AGM.
4. **Community Infrastructure Levy (“CIL”).** Nick introduced a report from Placemaking about the changes in respect of criteria and applications and for Neighbourhood CIL in Westminster. It was agreed to ask Cat of Placemaking if we could put a corrected version of the report on the website. As to some of the changes:
 - a. The priorities are now:
 - i. Affordable housing (enabling)
 - ii. Green transition
 - iii. Sustainable and active travel
 - iv. Community facilities
 - v. Accessible and inclusive public space.
 - b. CIL can be spent on revenue items and research on infrastructure needs.
 - c. Applicants are now asked to provide three estimates for the work in question. Applications for less than £250,000 would be determined by Councillor Barraclough. The rest would go to committee.
5. **Update on CIL projects:**
 - a. All Souls Primary School. Nick reported that Placemaking are working with the school to develop a bid.

- b. Fitzrovia Community Centre. Nick reported that Placemaking are also working with the Centre to develop a bid.
 - c. Carburton Street Planting. No update. No money received.
 - d. New Cavendish Street Planting. Gwilym reported that Conway are about to carry out a safety survey and report.
 - e. Market Place. No update. Property owners to decide on funding commitments.
 - f. Soho Poly Theatre has succeeded in raising the funding needed from various sources and hopes to pen in March 2023.
6. **Other projects.** Barbara proposed that we carry out a transport survey/study with a view to improving conditions for cycling in the FitzWest Neighbourhood Area. It was agreed that Barbara and Yoram would approach the Westminster Council Member responsible for Transport (believed to be Councillor Barraclough) for a copy of the most recent survey and Adam Harrison of Camden for the traffic report on its West End project.
7. **Admin support.** It was agreed to ask Julia (as chair) to ask Dee Corsi (of NVEC) about whether NVEC would be prepared to assist with this: preparation for meetings, minutes etc. Also we could seek to add a percentage to the CIL funds for large projects if Westminster would agree to cover this. Barbara agreed to ask a neighbour who might be interested in this.
8. **AOB.**
- a. Placemaking funding. Yoram will:
 - i. confirm with Dee Corsi that NVEC are still willing to fund £4,000 of the Placemaking Budget; and
 - ii. confirm with Placemaking that our budget for item (ix) in the agreement with Placemaking is limited to £2,000; that we would like a 10 hour limit on every project within item (ix); and
 - iii. seek an interim invoice.
 - b. Inquorate meetings. Nick reported that Sue Blundell is developing a Facebook page for the Forum. The meeting discussed widening membership of businesses and residents.
 - c. 82-83 Margaret Street. Representatives of the owners (DAO Estate) have asked for a meeting with FitzWest. *Update:* Nick and Yoram are fixing a meeting for Monday 14th/Tuesday 15th November and Nick circulated details on 10 November in case any other Executive member wishes to attend.
 - d. Westminster City Plan Review. Nick will circulate details. *Update:* Nick Circulated details on 10 November.

e. Oxford Street.

- i. Westminster Council's plans. Yoram will attend the Westminster Amenity Societies' Forum meeting with the Westminster Council Leader and ask about any current plans including the timing of any consultation.
- ii. Empty shop buildings in Oxford Street East of Oxford Circus. It was agreed we should survey our members to gauge their priorities (including for the upper floors).

9. Date of next meeting. TBC.

GH
10.11.22