

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Forum

EXECUTIVE/CIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Fitzrovia Community Centre 14th September 2023 at 6pm

MINUTES

Present: Nick Bailey, Yoram Blumann, Gwilym Harbottle, Julia Haythorn (Chair), Ian Johnstone, Barbara Corr, Mark Gazaleh, Rukhsana Sarwar (resident), Dee Corsi (NWECC), Zac Thompson (Fitzrovia Partnership)

Apologies: Denise Julien

1. Minutes of last meeting:

Mark Gazaleh requested addendum to last notes: he is still awaiting feedback from All Souls Primary school on greening, re locating planters as everything is ready to go and just waiting for confirmation from school of location. He is hoping Alix Ascough (the head teacher) will respond soon.

2. Report on CIL planters:

Gwilym explained there have been problems with getting insurance to cover any litigation with planters. Can be resolved by creating a CIC (limited by guarantee) just to manage this project. This will need directors so all members of the Executive were asked if they would agree to be directors. Several members present signed up.

Address will be Fitzrovia Community Centre.

Dee raised can it be done by BID insuring us? Investigate at a later stage.

Yoram agreed to be treasurer.

Yoram reminded us that as the new CIC will have no funds, we should approve the payment of the insurance as a loan from Fitzwest Forum to the new CIC "Fitzwest Projects CIC". This was agreed.

Gwilym pointed out this is currently only in reference to the planters project and that we have been forced to go down this route due to WCC not wanting to insure the project.

FWF would like to thank Gwilym for all his hard work and endeavours getting us to this stage.

3. Report on other CIL bids:

- *Soho Polytechnic*
Additional contribution required due to time scale lag and cost increases due to inflation (£23k)
Westminster have agreed this.

- *All Souls School*
Ongoing application.
FWF awaiting a fully costed proposal from the school. Can we appoint a contractor to support with the costing? Could Placemaking take it on?

Nick to email Alix Ascough to discuss options and time scale.

Request to also remind Alix about the adopt a planter project.

- *Market Place*

Although Langham Estates are selling off part of their portfolio they are still committed to the Market Place refurbishment project.

- *CCTV*

Mark asked - Can CCTV be installed in the neighbourhood as part of the CIL fund? Due to increase in nuisance in neighbourhood particularly in north Great Portland Street (drugs, shoplifting, gangs).

Barbara raised concerns that this is something the police should be doing – not using CIL money.

Trial scheme running in Mayfair, private company runs and monitors. Dee Corsi chairs the Mayfair Forum and will report back as to how the trial scheme in Mayfair goes.

The issue is that CIL could pay for the capital costs of the cameras but then there is no funding to monitor them. It was decided more information required before we can explore further.

Mark agreed to lead on setting up meeting with 3 forums (Fitzrovia, SoHo and Marylebone) and the police in order to get some more information. Dee offered to help liaising with the police.

4. FWF social media - Anna Johnson

Reminder to keep Anna informed with stories and interest in the FitzWest area. Forward any content to Anna to keep social media feed refreshed. Particularly photos and videos.

5. Ward Funding

We have paid Anna Johnson for social media and Stephanie Connell for web site work from the funding.

Yoram will update at the next meeting and request more time to finalise the payments from the Councillors.

6. Oxford St consultation

WCC have distributed new traffic orders in relation to traffic

Nick forward email to Julia. Julia to send newsletter and update on FWF website.

It was noted no new trees were indicated on the plans for two-way Wigmore-Mortimer Street.

7. AOB

Traffic study in FitzWest area:

Barbara said that an earlier FitzWest meeting months ago it was agreed for FitzWest to apply for CIL funding to commission our own traffic study of the FitzWest area in accordance with our Neighbourhood Plan -rather than simply react to the OSD/OSP project.

Barbara said that Cllr Geoff Barraclough agreed this was a suitable project for CIL funding.

Julia asked what streets would be covered and Barbara said all of FitzWest. Nick suggested it would be good if the study covered all of Fitzrovia, including the Camden side and Barbara agreed to investigate this and to ask a traffic consultant she has met. Then fees were discussed and Dee Corsi indicated fees from NRP Ltd. Dee Corsi said if we were going to do this we would need to hurry up as people were keen to start work on the OSP work.

Barbara will report back with the scope of the study and the objectives as it links to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Planning:

Nick said there have been 3 recent appeal decisions in Mortimer Street: a roof-level terrace at No.37-41, redevelopment of No.30-32, Wells St and part of Bywell Place, and alterations to a bow window at No.18. All 3 appeals were refused mainly on grounds of conservation

and their impact on the East Marylebone Conservation Area. With No.30-32, they already have permission to restore and convert the existing building. The Neighbourhood Plan was listed as an important consideration in each case.

Note. The Forum has just been notified of this appeal:

23/00059/TPREF | Use of ground floor as an Adult Gaming Centre (Sui Generis) with external alterations to shopfront including the relocation of access and associated works. | Century House 100 - 102 Oxford Street London W1D 1LL

Trees in Great Titchfield St:

Mark said that he has been told by officers and members that it will be difficult to plant trees on this street as the parking bays are currently at 100% occupancy. It was agreed this would be explored at future meetings.

Thank you go the Fitzrovia Community Centre for hosting our meeting at the last minute after our normal venue was unavailable.

8. Discussion on fixing dates for meetings

- Next meeting Thursday 8th November (Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, 6pm)

IJ 15/09/23