

Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum

EXECUTIVE/CIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, 15th May 2025 at 6pm

MINUTES

Present: Nick Bailey (Secretary), Yoram Blumann (Treasurer), Cllr Paul Fisher, Mark Gazaleh, Marcos Gold, Gwilym Harbottle, Julia Haythorn (Chair), Ian Johnstone.

Apologies: Dee Corsi, Denise Julien

1. Minutes of the last meeting

All were welcomed and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. NCIL Projects

Denise reported by email that the medallions on the entrance to Holcroft Court are under construction, but she had had difficulties in making a payment to the sculptor.

All Souls' School is being assisted by Arup's and a final costed submission is expected shortly.

The FCC bid of £40,436 is likely to be approved this month and will include the cost of a defibrillator to be installed on the outside wall of the FCC.

Other projects:

All Souls' Clubhouse was mentioned as a possible recipient of NCIL and **Paul Fisher agreed to contact the governing body. Contacts:** david.shafik@allsouls.org, Martin Mills is chair of the governors martin.mills@allsouls.org

It was suggested NCIL might contribute to landscaping Cleveland St and adjacent pocket parks, possibly involving contributions from the University of Westminster and WCC. **Mark will contact Cllr Geoff Barraclough to suggest a S106 agreement to fund the improvements.**

The installation of new CCTV cameras was discussed. The council has acquired an additional 100 of these but it's not clear where these will be located and how they will be used by the Met police and WCC. **Marcos will contact the Harley Street BID to find out more about how they are operating in Marylebone.**

There are no cameras directly in our area. The nearest is Cavendish Square. See the map:

www.westminster.gov.uk/leisure-libraries-and-community/crime-and-community-safety/cctv-service/camera-locations

3. **The Mayor's Plans for an Oxford Street Mayoral Development Agency**

The consultation period closed on 2nd May and the Forum and several other local organisations submitted comments as well as individuals. We are assuming a summary of responses will be published in several months' time.

Yoram said there was uncertainty about whether the eastern section of Oxford Street would be pedestrianised especially as it cannot be done in the current term of office of the Mayor but clarification is needed.

The report of the Chair of the GLA Planning & Regeneration Committee was commended and is attached.

4. **WCC report on the Night-time Economy**

www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-after-dark

Yoram said he is attending a WASF meeting on the WCC report and will circulate comments after the meeting. We should note that 3 late-night entertainment zones are proposed:

ED6 - Creating Vibrant Late-Night Entertainment Zones (LNEZ) in Oxford Street, The Strand and Victoria Street. Subject to the outcome of public consultation, we will seek to establish Late Night Entertainment Zones (LNEZ) in the following areas:

- **Oxford Street (between Regent Street and Tottenham Court Road/Charing Cross Road)**
- The Strand (between Villiers Street and Savoy Street)
- Victoria Street (North) (from Buckingham Gate to Buckingham Palace Road, including the Nova and Cardinal Place developments and Terminus Place).

5. **Bollards on Great Titchfield Street**

Public consultation has been carried out and a traffic order issued but there is no sign that WCC is about to install these and there may not be a contract/budget. We should all lobby ward members and contact relevant officers to ensure this project is completed.

Gwilym agreed to contact our 3 councillors and other residents to press the council to take action.

6. **Fitzrovia Sustainability Group**

Marcos reported on several projects organised by the Fitzrovia Partnership. It has set up a working group and has devised a strategy with 7 main objectives and 57 projects to aim to make Fitzrovia the most sustainable neighbourhood in London, under the chairmanship of Prof Peter Bonfield, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Westminster.

Other projects include a Food & Drink trail and Fitz&Sits, a number of specially commissioned seats located in public places.

7. **Social Media**

It was felt that a new look was needed and Marcos agreed to ask if there was someone willing to assist in the FP media group. It was felt we needed someone familiar with PR and use of social media, but we would need to feed them stories and copy.

We should also revamp the website with a separate page for stories and documents about the Oxford Street Project.

8. **Any Other Business**

Nick reported that documents had been submitted to WCC to ensure the Forum was reapproved for a further 5 years. A decision is expected by the end of May.

We were required to revise our constitution in line with WCC recommendations and it was suggested that more could be done to make the forum more fully representative of the very diverse community it represents. Our application said:

Our Strategy for the Future

Our strategy for the next five year period is to do the following to increase our transparency and promote greater diversity in our membership:

- Increase the use of publicity, the website and social media to expand knowledge of the role and activities of the forum amongst residents and businesses;
- Target particular groups to encourage a wider membership, e.g. young people and students, private renters and special interest groups, e.g. pensioners, interest groups, dance classes, groups involved in green issues etc;
- Widen the subject matter of public meetings and consultations to attract different audiences;
- Improve our record keeping procedures to keep membership lists up to date and survey all new applicants in order to collect basic data and to enable us to more accurately target issues of local concern (e.g. theft, ASB, refuse collection and street cleaning, greening, parking etc);
- Increase publicity on the availability of NCIL funding and the benefits delivered to date;

- Establish and apply an overt EDI policy accessible on the website.

Further guidance on an EDI strategy for forums is here:

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/planning-building-control-and-environmental-regulations/planning-policy/neighbourhood-areas-forums-and-plans/neighbourhood-forums/good-practice-edi-principles-governance-policies-and-procedures>

9. **Date of Next Meeting:**

Regular meeting - tba

AGM date 11 September

Nick Bailey