

Minutes: FitzWest Neighbourhood Forum Executive Committee 5th Nov 2025

Held at Sainsbury Wellcome Centre.

Present:

Julia Haythorn, Gwilym Harbottle, Mark Gazaleh, Ian Johnstone, Marcos Gold, Fay Sandler, Barbara Corr, Councillor Patrick Lilley, Yoram Blumann

Agenda items:

1. Apologies:

Nick Bailey, Dee Corsi, Denise Julien, Cllr Tim Barnes, Cllr Paul Fisher

2. Should we set up the Forum as a CIC?

This was suggested by the accountant we engaged to prepare and submit the accounts of the CIC we set up to handle the Greening project administration [payments, insurance].

FitzWest NF is not incorporated, but we are covered by a liability insurance.

As such, we encounter various problems with possible funders, insurance and grant givers. That's why we had to set up a CIC.

Gwilym suggested considering setting up as a company limited by guarantee of one pound- which would be the extent to which members are liable.

Advantages:

This will have one corporate identity as recommended by Locality in the past.

If we decide to do that, membership would have to approve the change at the next AGM or special meeting, and we could drop the CIC created for the Greening project.

Disadvantages:

Legal reporting duties to Companies House, including a set of annual accounts, Company status, and the cost of over GBP1,000pa.

Agreed: to consider the alternatives before the next AGM in 2026

3. Fitzrovia Sustainability Forum- meeting of 19th November 2025.

Nick and Yoram represent FitzWest on the panel/forum.

We would like to present two papers at the forthcoming meeting:

- a. Who we are and what we do- a brief presentation by Yoram
- b. Sustainable Action Plan Workshop- a Thriving Residential Community

This paper would be presented by Nick.

The executive committee discussed the two papers line by line and has ***approved the text.***

Marcus said that according to figures computed by Fitzrovia Partnership there are 140,000 workers in their designated area.

Yoram said that the agenda and sustainable action plan for the workshop would be attached to the minutes, alongside with the two papers.

4. Hanging baskets in Great Titchfield Street

Marcus said that Fitzrovia Partnership has some experience with running similar projects:

The costs to put up a basket, and the hook on which it hangs should come to GBP140-150 per basket.

Then there is the cost of maintenance of the baskets and watering costs.

FitzWest might ask to apply for NCIL covering the costs of the baskets and hooks and Fitzrovia Partnership might contribute the costs of maintenance and watering.

Councillor Lilley said that the project is more suitable for Ward funding – depending on the scope of the project.

The following issues were raised at the discussion:

- a) There has been a long standing wish by residents for trees. Those residents were concerned that the baskets would not be regarded as a substitute for trees.

It was agreed that this is not the case, baskets are regarded as a decorative device rather than as a substitute for trees

- b) ***Consult local residents and businesses in GTS: the following options were mentioned:***

Create discussion groups for specific streets or street segments [incl Grenfell Str]

Asking opinions via email or leaflet drop.

5. Apply for West End Ward funding for website support- GBP1,000.

Julia explained that it would cover the costs of changes to our website, including facilitating a newsletter, and better external linking facilities and clearer design.

This was agreed.

6. University of Westminster development:

Mark summarised the results of the planning application hearing in late October, where permission was granted, and some S106 funding was set aside for the Greening project we had in mind for the Cleveland Street frontage.

The University agreed for some work to be carried on their private forecourt, in addition to the public highway at the corner of New Cavendish Street and Clipstone Street.

The Greening project would be discussed with WCC and the University, after we have sight of the written planning consent.

The former Tavern building:

The University intends consulting on the future of the former Tavern at the corner of Clipstone Street, examining the idea of making it available for suitable community space, as well as University usage.

Update: this will now take place on 20th Nov and the following Monday.

7. CIL application by St Marylebone school

We rec'd an application draft asking for funding for school activities – sport etc.

It was felt that we could not support the application, as some important details were not supplied: How much was requested from us, how many pupils from Fitzrovia attend the school, and how many pupils attend the school. Furthermore, we committed GBP100,000 to our local school, and would be ready to commit more when asked.

Mark explained some of the background to the application, pointing out that funds were requested not only from Marylebone forum and us, but also from Hyde Park, Mayfair as well.

8. AOB: None.

9. Next meeting: to be advised