

Fitz West Neighbourhood Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2026

Chair: Julia Haythorn

Notes & Minutes: Julia Haythorn / Robert Gorczynski

Attendees

- Julia Haythorn (JH)(Chair)
- Mark Gazaleh (MG) (Portland Village Association)
- Faye Sandler (FS)(Resident)
- Yoram Blumann (YB) (Resident)
- Robert Gorczynski (RB)(Local Resident / Guest Member)

Apologies: Ian Johnstone, Gwilym Harbottle, Nick Bailey, Marcos Gold (Fitzrovia Partnership), Denise Julien, Kate Boothman Meier (New West End Company) and West End councillors (attending a Conservative Party meeting).

1. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- YB: The new administration intends to return the handling of CIL to a model that gives the neighbourhood forum a central role.
- Members debated the scope of CIL funding; it was clarified that funds must be directed toward specific, tightly defined local projects (e.g. planting in a specific area) rather than broad neighbourhood beautification or general traffic calming.

2. University of Westminster Development (Section 106)

- YB: The Forum together with Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association and Cllr. Patrick Lilley previously secured an agreement for greening on Cleveland Street and Hanson Street.
- MG: However, the drafted 468-page Section 106 agreement currently lacks the explicitly promised schedule detailing the public space work and tree planting. The committee expressed deep concern that verbal agreements have not been formalized.

3. Tower Tavern Licensing

- The University of Westminster has applied to change the Designated Premises Supervisor for a legacy premises license (from 2017) at the Tower Tavern on Clipstone Street.
- Members suspect this is to protect the commercial value but plan to make further enquiries with the university.

4. Oxford Street Traffic Management Order (TMO)

- MG: The proposed bus displacement to Great Portland Street and Margaret Street will route approximately 50 buses an hour to the edges of the area, creating severe pedestrian safety hazards and blocking access for emergency and Blood Services HQ on Margaret Street.
- The Forum agreed to strictly focus their arguments on safety and terminal management rather than protesting lost bus routes that fall outside their boundaries.
- Constructive preliminary meetings have taken place with John Fulcher (Head of Public Realm, OSDC).

5. E-Bike Parking Enforcement

- E-bikes abandoned in resident parking spots are causing chronic issues on streets including Bolsover Street, Marketplace, and Tottenham Street.
- The current policy relies heavily on corporate goodwill, which the forum feels is unsustainable without financial penalties.

6. Ward Budgets & Administration

- The forum needs to apply for approximately £2,500 in ward budget funding to cover essential administrative costs.
- This includes £1,000 for website management and costs related to CIC annual accounting/reporting for greening projects.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

- Clipstone Mews Safety: Two CCTV cameras have finally been installed to monitor severe anti-social behaviour and drug dealing around Clipstone Mews and Great Titchfield Street.
- School Merger: The planned local Church of England school merger is cancelled due to diocese objections. Additionally, previously allocated funds for school playground improvement remain unused by the school.

Action Items

Assignee	Action Item
Robert Gorczynski	Develop and propose specific, focused CIL project ideas for discussion at the next meeting.
Faye Sandler	Speak with Liz Kershaw the manager at Fitzrovia Court garden regarding lost trees, furniture, rubbish removal and maintenance issues.

Assignee	Action Item
Julia Haythorn / Committee	Draft a pre-email to local councillors (Tim Barnes and Paul Fisher) expressing concern over missing Section 106 greening details prior to the July 8th meeting.
Yoram Blumann	Enquire directly about the University of Westminster's legacy premises license for the Tower Tavern at Monday's exhibition.
Julia Haythorn	Circulate Mark's 2-minute Oxford Street TMO video to the committee for approval before sharing it on social media.
All Members	Use the council's "report it" service with photos to build a 7-10 day evidence log of chronic e-bike parking issues to present to Councillor Sargent.
Mark Gazaleh / Julia Haythorn	Connect with and invite Elaine (an active resident representative) to the next meeting to discuss safety and anti-social behaviour at Clipstone Mews.