

## Minutes of the Marylebone Forum and Planning Focus Group Meeting- 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Held at Streathers, Baker Street, W1

#### **Present:**

Kevin Coyne (chair) (KC), Tim Carnegie (TC), Michael Bolt (MB), Steven Dollond (SDD), Sarah Hume (SH), Hugh Small (HS), Shelia Dsouza(SD), Ian Macpherson (IM) , Amanda Feeny (AF), Stephen Evans (SE), Richard Lovell (RL),Paul Agwu (PA), Niall (from Baker Street Quarter), Steven Medway (SM) and Andrea Merrington (AM).

#### **Apologies**

Neil Homer (rcoh), Andrew Wilson, Michael Meadows, Penny Alexander, Stephen Quinn, and Kay Buxton, Phil Wilson, Simon Loomes, and Yael Saunders

#### **1. Introduction**

KC welcomed all attendees mentioned that meeting notes had not been received from the previous meeting and read through a review of the letter received from Neil Homer with regards to the decision to halt the work with the Neighbourhood Forum at this time.

#### **2. Details of Meeting**

Discussions focused initially on how the forum group would remain active while not meeting monthly and working within sub-groups. KC mentioned that MB and himself and any other forum members who were interested could join a meeting with Barry Smith from WCC scheduled to take place later in the summer (date and time to be confirmed) to discuss the forum moving forward. Anyone within committee could join this meeting.

KC stated that essentially there were not enough comments from the neighbourhood engagement events and not enough interest from the business section of the forum. He stated that the Neighbourhood Forum would be "moth-balled" until the AGM in January 2018. All agreed they did not like the term "mothballed"

KC also stated that Parking would still be supported within the neighbourhood plan, but the plan could not continue forward on just this one area of interest.

With regards to funding, more would be understood in September 2018 with Westminster City Council. In addition to this, Phil Wilson will be stepping down and Steven Medway would be leaving the New West End Company.

KC stated that there is still £975.00 in the bank, however rcoh have stated that we should not continue paying them when they cannot advise any further.

MB stated that he had a meeting with Barry Smith after the last forum meeting and stated that may other neighbourhood forum groups like Soho have done the same and have dissolved essentially until more is known about the new WCC City Plan.

MB went back to the point on engagement and stated that what has been done to date cannot be considered a good representation of neighbourhood views. MB also went on to say that there was not enough business representation and this has brought the forum down. AM and others disagreed on this point as Howard de Walden Estate for example has been a very active member and discussion carried on, on this point.

With regards to the emerging Westminster City Plan the question will be who knows what policy will be included however the forum could lobby ideas into the emerging City Plan.

Previous to this meeting MB had sent through a timetable through with regards to the emerging City Plan.

KC mentioned that the Forum still needs to follow the constitution with conducting a certain amount of meeting and the AGM in January.

KC also mentioned that Barry Smith from WCC has suggested that possibly the area is re-designated into smaller areas and that the Forum start again, however it was agreed within the committee that this would not be the way forward.

Discussion then focused on the 2 past engagement events and that the results from both were not impressive. MB ran through a quick summary of responses which were received and it was agreed that MB would produce a summary of these responses for the rest of the forum committee to view.

KC stated that going forward the forum committee would need to engage more online as well with surveys etc to try and capture a larger audience.

KC and MB stated that the committee should agree the all the wording of the policies (Mary's) to date and that these policies should stand as they are and be adopted, AM strongly disagreed and said that Howard de Walden Estate would not agree this point!

After some discussion it was agreed that the policies would remain as they are to date but would not be formally adopted as they are still work in progress.

SD had some further commentary on air quality and suggested that this become an area that falls within the current policies as sub categories- all agreed.

Discussion then moved on to handling how the message would be delivered with regards to the Forum halting at this point in time and it was all agreed again that this was because of the emerging City Plan.

SE stated that the political climate at WCC was changing and the that the Marylebone Association already speaks on behalf of the Mbone community, therefore the general public do not view the forum as representative.

SE also went on to say that someone should write to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to say that that this is a very difficult area of London to create a neighbourhood plan as it is already covered by many local plan policies. SE agreed that he would write to the DCLG on this point.

KC stated that the forum would slow down, carry on with small meetings when and if required and would the forum would be communicate by –mail.

MB stated the forum would not want to lose the forum as it stands because of the access to CIL monies however the total CIL amount was unknown and MB was waiting to hear from Barry Smith on this point and would pass on to the committee once this was known.

TC stated that it may been seen as a failure of the forum group if the boundaries were changed and the forum group became smaller.

SB questioned if anyone knew what was going with West Edgeware Road and could we work collectively with them? All agreed this is something that should be addressed moving forward.

Discussion was then had on how the suspension of the forum group (for the time being) would be presented as it was agreed this needs to be relayed to the public and WCC as a positive decision in relation to the pending new City Plan.

SD stated that he was concerned about the suspension of the committee as a whole and if certain committee members carried on, how would this be controlled by using the forum name?

It was decided that any information discussed between now and the next forum committee meeting could be sent to committee members via e-mail.

KC proposed that the committee agree the following:

- 1) Suspend the forum for the time being with wording and formal letter to be agreed;
- 2) Agree to leave the NP policies to date where they are (not adopted);
- 3) Support SD's work on air quality

All agreed

MB agreed that he would maintain contact with neighbouring forums and SB stated that she would engage with Bayswater and SD stated she would like to help within this area as well.

SE would like to see all information received from previous meeting with Barry Smith.

MB suggested that the Forum committee make a Regulation 18 representation to the City Council and KC suggested that MB could write to WCC to give clarity on where they might be space for neighbourhood planning moving forward and especially within the new City Plan.

KC suggests the follow dates for the next meetings (at Streathers) prior to AGM in January 2018:

- 1) 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- 2) 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017
- 3) AGM- January 2018

All agreed.

Please note attached is Shelia's information on Air Quality which was presented during this meeting and she requested this was included as information passed on to the whole committee.

Excerpt from WCC Report from Task Group on Air Quality (2017) pages 29-30:

#### **8.4 Recommendations**

WCC's main areas of influence regarding emissions from buildings can be summarised as:

- Our role as a planning authority, through the City Plan, which determines the standards for new development and refurbishment of buildings in Westminster;
- Our leadership, by getting our own stock to meet the highest environmental standards;
- Our role as a large district heating operator /supplier of heat and our ability to coordinate heat network opportunities in Westminster provides opportunities around expanding district heating systems and diversifying into low/zero-NOx technologies; and
- Our role in communicating the significance of the harm from building emissions and working with stakeholders to reduce it.

There is further work that would enable us to achieve improvements in building performance, as follows:

1. The Council should consider further work to identify the feasibility of different funding models to help accelerate the improvement of the current building stock.
2. Consider lobbying landowners regarding the boilers they fit, using learning from the Portman Green Club.
3. Promote more widely the Mayor's 'London Boiler Cashback Scheme' in Westminster to enable local people who qualify to access financial support to buy more efficient, lower polluting boilers.
4. Review how we manage the built environment to ensure that the best outcomes for air quality are built into City Plan revisions with the aim of leading the way in reducing the air quality impact of new development.
5. Undertake City Plan revisions to target new development so that it makes a positive contribution to the surrounding area e.g. district heating systems can negate the need for old boilers in surrounding buildings leading to a net positive impact
6. Promote best practice guidelines for retrofitting heritage buildings.
7. Raise awareness about the significant contribution of emissions from buildings to air pollution.
8. Ensure that we have sufficient resource/powers to enforce the policies within the City Plan and Code of Construction Practice both on construction sites and in refurbishments/new developments. There is a potential gap for smaller sites which are not covered.

9. The Council's response to the Mayor's Environment Strategy should take account of the findings from this Task Group.
10. The Council should work with others to stop the use of diesel generators as part of commercial demand management other than for emergency use only during power cuts.
11. New development should encourage the use of car clubs rather than car ownership.
12. Lobby the Mayor to specify that all boilers in new developments must be ultra-low NO2 specification.
13. Consider whether WCC could use its carbon offset fund for upgrades especially if targeting large older boilers or even oil-fired boilers.
14. The Council to ensure that its own building stock, including housing stock, reduces impact on air pollution, through retrofits and ensuring that new buildings are of the highest standards.

Regul<sup>n</sup> 18 Gns for City Plan closes end July