

## **Minutes of the Marylebone Forum and Planning Focus Group Meeting- 9<sup>th</sup> March 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), Phil Wilson (PW) Simon Loomes (SL), Stephen Evans (SE), Richard Lovell (RL), Yael Saunders (YS), Paul Agwu (PA), Nigel (from Baker Street Quarter) and Andrea Merrington (AM).

In attendance: Neil Homer (rCOH)

#### **Apologies**

Andrew Wilson, Steven Medway, Michael Meadows, Penny Alexander, Stephen Quinn, and Kay Buxton.

#### **1. Introduction**

KC welcomed all attendees and raised the approval of minutes from the previous meeting. One change noted by RL which will be made and then minutes to be signed off.

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

SH stated that not everyone is getting all the information which is being sent through via e-mail as it doesn't seem that the Marylebone forum committee e-mail is working for all committee members.

KC stated that he would contact to David Unwin to rectify the situation.

KC stated that he and a few other committee members including NH attended a meeting with neighbouring forum committee members and it was evident that all neighbouring forum groups are having similar issues with putting together their plans and that many issues raised by local residents are issues on traffic etc. and are not always considered to be relevant to the plan.

It was discussed that although this is evidently going to happen when consulting with neighbours as they will use any outlet to vent frustrations.

SE stated that there still needs to be meetings and a way in which people can issues concerns even if they are not neighbourhood plan related so until there is another way to do this, it should still be forum business. This was agreed.

KC indicated that there would be continued structured engagements with members of the public and that the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum group would still with the other forum groups as well.

TC indicated that by continuing the meetings with the other forum groups it keeps all forum groups within the loop of information and helps to keep wording of proposed similar for instance. MB agreed with this point.

SL stated that as this is quite a large group creating a passive document, the committee/group could do everything possible to more active at lobbying for items of importance like the library before a proposed policy is finalised.

MB stated that aspirations for the wider area and discussions of this nature can be very beneficial. This was agreed by the group.

### **3. Review of Westminster Council's Initial Comments**

KC asked NH to summarise and make comments on the initial feedback received from WCC.

NH stated that WCC has been consistent with the comments to other forum groups and these are also very similar comments that in his experience other parish Councils have received in the past. NH also went on to say that many of the comments made by WCC were trying to be helpful in some areas but some were also wrong.

NH also stated that he felt that WCC's comments have come a bit late after version 5, however NH's advice to the group was to get each sub group to go through their relevant comments from WCC in detail.

SL questioned when this version of policies had been sent over to WCC?

NH stated around 3 weeks ago to get WCC's initial observations.

NH also mentioned that WCC's comments were a reminder that the forum needs to find space within the Council's existing policy to create our own policies.

TC stated that on this point he thinks we should be giving some regard to the new strategic plan expecting to be emerging in 2018 and that we think about some of the planning policies would like to influence. All agreed.

NH however stated that the forum group should proceed on the basis that we have something to say about the existing plan.

SB added that the meeting at the meeting with Barry Smith (WCC), he indicated that there will be a shift in policy that the forum group should be taking that into consideration.

SE asked whether Ward Councillors should be involved and KC stated that they will be invited to the next April meeting and that a set a policies to date should be sent to them ahead of time. All agreed.

It was agreed that the Ward Councillors will be asked to observe and comment on the policies to date.

MB stated that according to the Constitution as a forum group we are expected to invite them to every meeting, but that has appeared to have gone by the way-side.

NH suggested that a more formal meeting be arranged with Barry Smith (WCC), Rachel Ferry-Jones (WCC) and Ward Councillors to discuss version 6. Discussion continued on what form of meeting this would take. However KC agreed he would action this point.

A discussion was ahead on the future April meeting dates and it was agreed that the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting would be held in the diary with MB chairing the meeting and that an additional public engagement meeting be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, all agreed.

NH gave an indicative timeline:

- Review version 5 at the moment;
- Complete policy ideas by beginning of April;
- Formal engagement activities in May; and
- Time between April and May could also be used for public engagement activities.

Discussion was had by all that more information and background will need to be added to the policies and the policy objective will need to be clearly presented to the public to get a view.

KC gave an outline of the next meetings:

- 6<sup>th</sup> April- Committee meeting as normal with Ward Councillors invited;
- Public Engagement Event held 20<sup>th</sup> April; details to be decided by a sub-committee;
- Separate meeting for WCC sometime in May (no date decided)

NH indicated that it would be up to each sub-group leader to identify relevant stakeholders to invite to the 20<sup>th</sup> April event.

KC asked for volunteers to form a sub-committee group to organise the community engagement event- (KC, TC, MB, AM, SD and HS volunteered).

Small discussion was then held on what would be the best expected response from a public engagement and how this could be achieved.

#### **4. Sub-Group Reports**

Design and Conservation

TC stated that a group of 5 people met a fortnight ago and little progress was achieved as this group includes challenging areas including rear extensions etc. Further policy text would be drafted by the next meeting.

### Special Policy Areas

KC stated that as Andrew Wilson was not present at the meeting there were no comments, however this information would need to be passed over to KC as soon as possible. AM agreed she would action this to Andrew Wilson.

A brief discussion was then had on other special policy areas including Edgware Road and Oxford Street and that there needs to be clarification if these areas are included with this section of policy. It was agreed that AM would speak to Andrew Wilson on this point and SB would speak to Kay Buxton with regards to Edgware Road.

### Lifetime Homes

SH stated that she understood that the old British Homes Store site (Baker Street) was looking for a community use and the Neil Wilson was meeting the owner. Further discussion was had on this point and that it was agreed this would not be a potential location for future community use.

SH stated that draft policy Mary1 will be deleted but it was agreed that aspiration for a library should still be included as a lobbying item and included somehow within the plan.

SH discussed shaping the policy around protection of community assets and that specific pubs would need to be identified for protection. NH stated that any policy around this need to work with existing WCC policy.

SH also stated that she felt a bit unsure about all the text written within the policies in this section especially the affordable homes section as she believe this was not written entirely by her. It was agreed she would have a meeting on this with NH as he mentioned he summarised discussion from the previous lifetime homes meeting.

### Public Realm

SL stated that due to the comments that have come through from WCC, the two policies formed within public realm need to be reviewed that they might need to become aspirations rather than form policy.

### Parking

HS stated that he disagreed with WCC's comments on the policy relating to parking permits and the comments relating to minimum and maximum parking standards. He doesn't believe that what WCC currently has as policy is very complicated and not compliant with the London Plan.

NH indicated that the comments from WCC should be reviewed again and that it was important to get the evidence base to back up the proposed policy. NH also stated that it is important to stay positive when creating policy and find a solution to back the policy up.

## Finances

PW gave a review of current funds in the account (£10,000) and that the forum group was still financially sound.

PW stated that a tax form needed to be submitted and that there are still two invoices from rCoh that needed to be paid and a cheque for St. Marylebone that need to be issued.

NH gave a small financial summary on what was left till bill including travel until the end of the contract.

## 5. Future Meetings

The next meeting will be held at Streathers offices at 44 Baker Street on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 8.30am.

Further meetings as follows:

20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 (Public Engagement) - 12noon-19:00 venue TBA

11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – 8.30

8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – 8.30

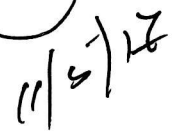
13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 – 8.30

**Meeting Adjourned**

Signed

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, possibly reading 'NH' or similar, enclosed in a large circle.

Dated

Handwritten date '11/5/17' in black ink, with a large 'Z' or similar mark to the right.