

## **Minutes of the Marylebone Forum Committee and Plan Making Group meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Held at The Howard de Walden Estate Office, 23 Queen Anne St, W1**

### **Present:**

Kevin Coyne (chair), Michael Bolt, Sarah Hume, Steven Dollond, Stephen Evans, Andrew Wilson, Tim Carnegie, Sheila D'Souza, Kirsten Bowers, Lisa Glover, Amanda Feeny, Simon Loomes, Kay Buxton, Hugh Small, Ian Macpherson, Michael Meadows.

#### **1. Welcome**

KC welcomed everyone to the meeting including Lisa Glover who will be helping out while Kirstin Bowers is away on maternity leave.

#### **2. Apologies**

Stephen Quinn, Richard Lovell and Penny Alexander.

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting.**

KC reported that minutes of the meeting held on 3 May had been sent out as well as reports from various sub-groups and a flow chart of the Marylebone Forum Structure. The minutes were approved and signed, although it was noted that Hugh Small is still a member of the group but no longer treasurer and for some reason Sheila D'Souza did not receive any of the papers. KC asked if everyone was happy with the flow chart, which they were and reported that he may have found a new treasurer, Phil Wilson from International Student House. If he agrees he will become a member of the committee and need to be a director.

#### **4. Update on the Progress of Development of Neighbourhood Plan.**

Lifetime Neighbourhood Group – SH said that she would particularly like to direct 'affordable' home to key workers. She also drew attention to the St Ives Neighbourhood Forum formulating their plan against second homes and the banning of Air Bnb in Berlin as food for thought in our area. It was noted that previously short term lets of less than 90 days were banned in Westminster whereas Government policy now pursued liberalization. WCC were seeking an exemption to this legislation but progress was very slow and possibly difficult to police. It was agreed that this group should write to Cllr Heather Acton to support her current work on short term lettings which blight an area and increase the amount of rubbish on the streets, particularly where they are run as a business rather than the occasional letting. SL also emphasized that these landlords don't always comply with safety legislation. KC to send this letter to Heather Acton on Forum headed paper. He will also add this topic to the Forum brochure for the Marylebone Fayre.

Design-conservation area policies: Tim Carnegie reported that they have been looking at all aspects of existing conservation policies in order to distil into a current position. Some

policies need revisiting in order to prioritize. TC agreed to summarize in a couple of paragraphs for the brochure.

On-street/off street parking: HS reported that they were looking at whether WCC should continue with the current policy or should some developments be considered without parking permits or garage spaces. He felt that imposing garages encourages car use. It was felt that it might be possible to take advantage of National policies on this issue. It was also questioned whether we needed Petrol stations protected in our area. British Land were only putting in Blue Badge car parking spaces and that on the whole developers prefer not to have car parking spaces. SL gave as example the old Police Station in Seymour Street which will have 18 car parking spaces underground thus making construction longer and increasing noise and pollution and costs as piling is very expensive. It was felt that unallocated spaces do not add to the value of the flats and indeed often stand empty.

Public Realm and Management Review. Penny Alexander was not able to attend but had sent a note. KC reported that a meeting will be held on 7 June at 2pm. They will be looking at various issues including green space, promoting public realm for all, facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and well as traffic management, in particular encouraging TfL to reduce the number of buses in our area.

This led to a discussion on Oxford St as it was felt that the Forum should have a view on the pedestrianisation of Oxford St, which is gathering momentum. Hopper tickets could improve the situation and help in reducing bus numbers. The new Mayor wants to retrofit the new buses as they are proving too polluting. As Crossrail comes on stream it should mean that the number of buses crossing the Capital can be thinned. They are looking at re-routing and the introduction of electric buses. It was however felt that the driving policy was towards pedestrianisation and air quality was secondary. Sd'S emphasized that as residents we have to bring clean air further up the agenda. MB was concerned that pedestrianisation will simply mean a displacement of congestion and pollution to Wigmore St. Were buses to go down Wigmore St it could drive out the kitchen showrooms and encourage the Zaras to a new location. KB emphasized that deliveries had to be taken into consideration and that Ocado were as important a factor as white vans.

Air Quality: SDS circulated a note setting out the Group's aims. She commented that transport is the biggest single contributor to air pollution. The second biggest contributor is heating systems and to date the emphasis has been more on cutting CO2 emissions rather than NO2. We should encourage the right specification for replacement boilers. No wood burners.

In relation to planning policies – we need to consider how we deal with the demand flowing from population growth – as population increases, water usage increases and heating and

energy demand also increases. We also need to consider whether there is a need for high energy features in new housing, eg, swimming pools.

Baseline studies for air quality are needed to identify concentrations of polluted and cleaner air as well as provide the basis for measuring changes in the future. The BIDs have joined together to do their own air quality measuring and produce a pollution map.

#### **5. Finance and Grants.**

MB reported that he is going through the papers he has taken back from HS and there is a £6,000 grant we can apply for. He is not sure all of this is needed and will clarify with RCOH how much credit remains on the advance fees they have been paid.

#### **6. Publicity and Communications.**

KC reminded the meeting that we need to find a new Chairman for this sub-committee and someone to help run the website. It was queried whether the University of Westminster might have a community group who could assist and this will be explored.

#### **7. Summer Fayre.**

Discussion regarding what is needed for this.

- Brochure – to be produced summarising what the purpose of the Forum is and the ideas it is looking into.
- Banner for the stall showing the Forum logo, contact details, photo of Marylebone – cost c £100.
- Badges “I support Marylebone Forum” cost c £150 for 500.
- Map of the Forum Area – visitors to mark on this approximately where they live. MB to source map (possibly use Westminster’s – HS to supply link).
- Sheets for each topic area setting out the issues being looked at – visitors can put stickers against those they support and as well as add other ideas.

It was agreed that there should be a post Fayre meeting to engage with residents and businesses to follow up on what we are doing. It was agreed this would be held at the Church in October.

#### **8. AOB**

SD reminded the meeting that we need to ensure we have a comprehensive list of members with email addresses. This was agreed and KC reported that he will be updating this.

**9. Next Meetings.**

Forum Coordination Committee - 8.30am on 7<sup>th</sup> June at HdeW Estate Office.

Marylebone Forum Committee and Plan Making Group Meeting – 8.30am on 8<sup>th</sup> June at HdeW Estate Office.

Signed:

Date: