

# Hyde Park Paddington

## **Draft Minutes of Inaugural General Meeting held on 26 February 2019 at the Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF**

### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

Allen Zimbler, Chairman of the Hyde Park Estate Association, welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how pleased he was at such a good attendance. 26 people were recorded as attending at the start of the meeting. Another 15 people joined over the course of the meeting.

Allen confirmed that the slides presented at the meeting would be uploaded onto the Forum's website.

### **2. Establishment of the Neighbourhood Forum**

Kay Buxton set out the development of the Forum to date, explaining that the Hyde Park Estate Association and Paddington BID submitted a joint application to designate the area as a neighbourhood Forum to Westminster City Council in 2013 and, after a series of public meetings and another submission to the City Council, the Hyde Park Paddington Forum was formally designated in 2017. The designation lasts for five years, at which point the Forum needs to apply to the City Council to renew the Forum. The area matches the boundary of the Hyde Park Ward except where the SEBRA area overlaps the boundary and comes east of Eastbourne Terrace.

### **3. Adoption of the Constitution**

Bernadette McKernan explained that the draft constitution now needed to be formally adopted. Membership of the Forum was open to anyone who lived or worked in the area, anyone who owned land or property and also Paddington and Marble Arch BIDs as statutorily established bodies. Membership currently stood at 103 members, although the constitution requires a minimum of only 21. Full public meetings should be held twice a year for all members to attend, and there needs to be a quorum of 18 members at such meetings for decisions to be formally made.

The meeting being quorate, the members present were asked to agree to formally adopt the constitution and this was agreed by all the members with one abstention and no votes against.

### **4. Election of Steering Group**

Bernadette McKernan explained that the constitution allowed for the creation of a Steering Group to be made up of 9 residential members and 9 business members to lead the work of the Forum. There were 8 nominations for the residential members and these were:

- Sergio Chiquetto
- Sarah Clifford
- Matthew Lindsay
- Bernadette McKernan

- Sally Martin
- Rev Stephen Mason
- Nikhil Shah
- Allen Zimble
- Vacancy (resident north of Praed Street)

The members present were asked to vote to agree these nominations in a single vote, and this was duly agreed, with one abstention and no votes against.

There were 9 nominations for the business members and these were:

- Kay Buxton, The Paddington Partnership
- Paul Charalambous, Stylotel and Sussex Arms
- Will Clayton, PaddingtonNow BID
- Mike Fairmaner, Marble Arch BID
- Isabel Jeans, British Land
- Ian Lush, Imperial Health Charity
- Mark McKeown, The Church Commissioners
- Andrew Scrivener, European Land
- Vaughan Smith, Frontline Club and Restaurant

The members present were asked to vote to agree these nominations in a single vote and this was duly agreed with no abstentions and no votes against.

Bernadette McKernan explained that there needed to be elections to formally establish officer positions on the Steering Group to oversee its proceedings and the nominations for these positions were:

Chair	Allen Zimble
Vice-chair	Kay Buxton
Secretary	Sarah Clifford
Treasurer	Andrew Scrivener

The members present were asked to vote to agree these nominations in a single vote and this was duly agreed with no abstentions and no votes against.

## **5. The Forum's Remit**

Kay Buxton explained that the Forum has a commitment to shape the vision for the future regeneration of this historic quarter of London and ensure it maintains its status as a prime location in the heart of Westminster. It is the only body that can produce a neighbourhood plan for the area and represent the whole area in discussions with public agencies. It is within the Forum's remit to:

- Enable the community to have stronger role in shaping area;
- Consider new development proposals;
- Create relationships between residents, businesses and property owners in the area;
- Require the City Council to consult and engage Forum on 15% of value of CIL generated in Forum area;
- Create a Neighbourhood Plan.

Kay explained that the shadow Steering Group had met in September for a workshop to begin the process of identifying the priorities for the Forum and had highlighted five particular topics of priority:

- Praed Street – improving public realm and retailing
- Short-term lets – joining forces and acting together
- Vice – being a much stronger lobbying voice
- Gateways and connections – promoting schemes to link old and new Paddington, and transport nodes (especially in relation to CIL)
- Housing – local policy on key worker housing

## **6. Discussion**

AZ invited questions from the floor on any topic, but particularly on whether there were other issues that the Steering Group should be looking at.

*Question: How is the Forum financed?*

KB replied that PaddingtonNow BID and The Paddington Partnership both generously had a small budget to enable the Forum to hire rooms and hold meetings, but the Forum itself had no bank account or any income as yet. Grants have been secured in the past to help establish the Forum.

*Question: What funding is available?*

KB replied that the City Council may have a small grant available and there were other small scale funding sources to support the development of a neighbourhood plan, but not sufficient to fully fund a plan.

*Question: What is happening with Paddington Green Police station.*

KB explained that the Police station has closed and there is a small neighbourhood police station on Church Street. AZ said that the Police hold a regular ward panel meeting to discuss local policing concerns. Both the BIDs employ Community Safety Teams and ideally the HPEA would like to do the same.

*Question Disappointed that priorities don't include greening and biodiversity as these are much needed.*

AZ replied that this was very good point and would be taken on board.

*Question: Need to address retailing issues, stopping the spread of shisha smoking premises and betting shops along Praed Street and surrounding streets. Also concerned that Star Street was forgotten about, with long term scaffolding at one end.*

AZ replied that this is a shared concern. Cllr Acton stated that the City Council was lobbying to make shisha smoking a licensable activity so that the Council had some control over it. The Council had produced guidance for health warnings to be placed on shisha pipes to help enact the tobacco advertising legislation. Cllr Acton was meeting other Councils the following day to help push for a licensing regime.

*Question: Supported the priority for more greening in the area and was concerned about dumped rubbish, including mattresses, some of which may be used by prostitutes. She thought that the Police would positively support the Forum.*

AZ noted that vice had been identified as a priority.

Noted that the Paddington BID Community Safety Team was now carrying out some night shifts to help tackle the vice issue.

*Question: Can the Forum give greater recognition to the overall historic nature of the area, and the impact of vehicles.*

AZ acknowledged this was a good point.

*Comment: The older buildings in the area need to be retained rather than redeveloped.*

*Comment: Need to grow footfall within Connaught Village to keep retail uses viable.*

*Question: What happens next?*

AZ replied that the newly elected Steering Group would meet to discuss all the points made and reflect on how best the Forum can take on board.

KB said that the Forum has to meet every 6 months, so the next meeting would be in June/July, before the summer holidays, but anyone with an interest or skills would be very welcome to join discussions and assist in the work of the Forum.

*Question: proposals for a new coach station at Royal Oak and this would have a severe impact on the area.*

Cllr Acton replied that the City Council is vigorously opposing the proposal being developed by the Mayor of London and TfL.

AZ said that as the Forum is now formally designated, it could write to object to the proposals once they are clearer.

*Question: Cllr Acton asked if the Forum was aware of changes to flight paths into Heathrow and the current consultation as this would lead to more flights over the area.*

AZ said that the Forum needed more information to make an informed response but that individuals could all separately responded as the consultation closes on 4 March 2019.

*Question: Is there a single big idea that the Forum could coalesce around and really get together?*

AZ replied that several ideas had emerged during the evening for the Steering Group to consider and thanked everyone for coming.

The meeting closed at 19:37.

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