

Hyde Park and Paddington Neighbourhood Forum

Public Consultation Meeting

Tuesday 22 March 2016 - 6 30 to 8 30 p.m.

Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street London W2 2HF

Attendees:

Meira Burton

Sheila Davies

Michael Hayman

Nia Ingman

Lynda King Taylor

Mark McKeown

Sally Martin

Susan Quinn

Fay Sandler

Norman Shirlaw

Carola Westerham-Smyth

Paul Williams

Reet Wiseman

Paul Charalambous

Pat Fidó

Hugh Holland

Tom Kimber

Jane Low

Bernadette McKernan

John O'Neill

Laura Royae

Andrew Scrivener

Chris Walton

Stephen Westerham-Smyth

Randy Wiseman

Kay Buxton – The Paddington Partnership

Nick Johnson – Hyde Park Estate Association

Chris Peers – PaddingtonNow BID

Stuart Woodin – AECOM (Govt. funded consultant)

Introduction

Nick Johnson, Chairman of Hyde Park Estate Association, and Kay Buxton, CEO of The Paddington Partnership, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Nick gave a brief explanation of why a Neighbourhood Forum was being formed and the steps taken so far.

In April 2013 Hyde Park Estate Association (HPEA), PaddingtonNow Business Improvement District (PBID) and The Paddington Partnership (TPP) jointly applied under the 2011 Localism Act to create a Neighbourhood Area which encompassed the Paddington Opportunity Area of new developments along the canal basin, the HPEA area and that part of the PBID area not falling within the neighbouring South East Bayswater Residents Association area. After considerable deliberation by Westminster City Council (WCC) the Hyde Park and Paddington Business Neighbourhood Area was formally designated.

Creating a Neighbourhood Forum

Nick explained that the next step in this process is to establish a Neighbourhood Forum as the 'qualifying body' to represent this area and ultimately to lead on developing and submitting a Neighbourhood Plan which would then be one of the planning policy documents which WCC would have to refer to when considering planning applications and changes to public realm within the Neighbourhood Area.

There will be another public meeting in a few months to update on progress with drawing up a Constitution and the structure of a Steering Group. Then in the Autumn proceed with applying to WCC to establish the Neighbourhood Forum.

Get Involved

It is important that the views of local residents and business representatives help to drive this process and everyone living or working in the area is encouraged to get involved – to register as members of the Forum through the website and to then take the online poll to input their views on the pressing issues and needs of the area.

The website address is www.hydeparkpaddington.org

Discussion

Randy Wiseman commented that it was good to hear that the Forum would welcome investment and the initiative sounded positive. He said that it sounds like we have a place to go that brings all three strands together. (sic: residents, businesses and developers)

Susan Quinn queried that with three different parts and potentially three different views, how would the voting be weighted – would one resident's vote equal that of one business' vote. Answer: To create a Neighbourhood Plan there will be two parts to the referendum – businesses will vote in one referendum and residents will vote in a separate referendum. Both must be in favour for the Plan to go through.

Fay Sandler observed that the NHS site at St Mary's is in the heart of the area and hoped that the Forum will seek to influence an appropriate development of the site when plans come forward.

Norman Shirlaw asked how proactive can we be in planning terms. Nick Johnson responded that the Plan should be proactively seeking to set out our collective vision for investment and development in the area. Stuart Woodin said that change happens spatially so the Plan will seek to identify potential sites and set the briefs for them, for instance it could identify a potential cultural quarter. The plan has to have conformity with the London Plan and WCC's Local Plan but can be proactive in its approach.

Mark McKeown stated that our area has many buildings from the 1960s which are not fit for modern day purpose and have to be developed to be brought up to standard.

Paul Charalambous asked how much weight does the Forum have with Westminster City Council. Stuart explained that WCC will have to consider every application with regard to all of the statutory plans – London, Local and Neighbourhood – and strong imperatives will have to be established by the applicant to obtain any exception to these.

Conclusion

Nick Johnson brought the meeting to a conclusion with a reminder of how to get people involved, what the next steps would be and encouraged all present to spread the word to neighbours and colleagues.