

# Hyde Park and Paddington Neighbourhood Forum

## Public Consultation Meeting

Wednesday 22 June 2016 - 6 30 to 8 30 p.m.

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

### Attendees:

Peter Bell  
Meira Burton  
Will Clayton  
David Clifford  
Sarah Clifford  
Sheila Davies  
Martin Freeman  
Michael Hayman  
Nia Ingman  
Phil Kelvin  
Lynda King Taylor  
Anne Mallinson  
Anastase Moros  
Fay Sandler  
Niki Shah  
Mark Smith  
Diana Towell  
Penny Wigram  
Geraldine Wong-Smith  
Yolande Yates  
Alan Zimble

Kay Buxton – The Paddington Partnership  
Nick Johnson – Hyde Park Estate Association  
Chris Peers – PaddingtonNow BID  
Stuart Woodin – AECOM (Govt. funded consultant)  
Marisa Barrocas – Paddington BID  
Bernadette McKernan - HPEA

### Introduction

Nick Johnson, Chairman of Hyde Park Estate Association, and Chris Peers, BID Manager of the PaddingtonNow BID, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Nick gave a brief explanation of why a Neighbourhood Forum was being formed for the benefit of new attendees.

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.

This meeting is one of the next steps in the process whereby Forum Members can be updated on progress and consider the proposed governance structure for the Forum.

Nick said that although the area has been designated as a Business Neighbourhood Forum this simply means that the business and resident interests in the area must be fairly represented in the decision and policy making process. Nick talked the meeting through the proposed structure for the Forum's Steering Group which would have sixteen places on it. These were to be filled from the following sectors or parties – eight Residents who are currently living in the Forum area, one representative from PaddingtonNow BID, one representative from Marble Arch BID, three representatives from Local Businesses and three representatives from Property and Landowners or their appointed Developers or Agents. Thus the balance between residential and business interests is equal – this structure and its allocations has been written in to the draft Constitution. The Chairman and Vice Chairman roles will be filled each year by a residential candidate and a business candidate with the Chairmanship rotating each year between the two interests. It is expected that the first Chairman will be a resident with a Vice Chairman from the business community which will then swap for year two.

The Constitution will also lay out the processes and safeguards that will ensure that no one group or lobby can unfairly dominate on issues.

### **Online Poll**

Everyone who has registered online to join the Forum has received a login password which enables them to input their views on the local area into the online poll – once submitted they can then see the latest poll results. Members can log back in at any time to see the current position in this ongoing poll.

Nick showed the meeting the most up to date position, noting that 'Improved Public Realm for Pedestrians' and 'Reducing Crime and Anti-social Behaviour' were the highest scoring with 'Measures to Improve Air Quality' and 'Attracting Investment' close behind. 'More Affordable Housing' was currently the lowest scoring issue.

### **Discussion**

Nick asked Stuart to expand a little on the nature and process of a Neighbourhood Plan to be accepted. Stuart explained that the draft plan would be subject to an examiner's inspection who would consider things such as the appropriateness of the applying body to lead, consider why it went down certain routes with its policies and what the justifications were for those policies. There are three layers of planning policy that WCC have to defer to when determining an application – the London Plan, WCC's own Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan. Proposed development must address the policies set out in all three plans to be accepted. Stuart noted that the Plan cannot reduce the WCC view but can increase or broaden it.

Anastase Moros asked if WCC would not be able to approve an application without the Forum's consent. Nick responded that this was not the case as the Forum and the Plan set policy and not determination of individual cases.

David Clifford asked as to how big a consensus does the Forum need to proceed. Kay Buxton responded that a minimum of 21 Members is needed to make the application but we need to demonstrate that a wide audience has the opportunity to be involved. The examiner takes this very seriously and will expect to see a good website that encourages people to think and get involved.

David also asked why we should have Developers on the Steering Group? He agreed with their involvement and partnering with them but didn't see the benefit of them being on the Steering Group. A number of people responded with views which included demonstrating the engagement and support of an influential body of businesses and of maintaining the balance on the SG of a Business designated Neighbourhood Forum. Stuart noted that a Developer, Owner and Agent associated with a particular development could not occupy more than one place on the SG and it was agreed that the Constitution needs to define what 'Developer' actually means.

Geraldine Wong-Smith asked if the NF can influence policy on usage – Nick responded yes through policy and strategy but not as a statutory requirement. Kay Buxton said that the Plan can flesh out planning policy for instance on the active frontage of developments to create more flexible retail units on Praed Street.

### **Qualifying Body**

Stuart announced that one key item for this meeting was to agree whether the Hyde Park and Paddington Neighbourhood Forum should apply to be the designated 'Qualifying Body' for this Neighbourhood Area. It is the QB that will handle the legal and fiscal management requirements of the process through to the successful adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan.

The meeting was asked to vote on the following resolution:

**This meeting proposes that the body known as the Hyde Park and Paddington Neighbourhood Forum apply to Westminster City Council to be the designated Qualifying Body for the designated Neighbourhood Area.**

The resolution was unanimously carried.

### **Conclusion**

Nick Johnson brought the meeting to a conclusion with a reminder that 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. They should register as members of the Forum through the website and 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](http://www.hydeparkpaddington.org)