

Hyde Park Paddington

Minutes of General Meeting held on 19 June 2019

	Actions																
<p>1. Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>AZ welcomed everyone to the meeting and said how important it was for members to attend and let their views be known.</p> <p>A number of apologies had been received by the Secretary which were tabled and agreed to be reported in the Minutes. Apologies received were as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Marisa Barrocas</td> <td>Sally Martin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sergio Chiquetto</td> <td>Stephen Mason</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Will Clayton</td> <td>Catherine McDowall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Antonia Cox</td> <td>Bernie McKernan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kate Flitcroft</td> <td>Susan Quinn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matthew Lindsay</td> <td>Andrew Scrivener</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ian Lush</td> <td>Vaughan Smith</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heather Acton</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Marisa Barrocas	Sally Martin	Sergio Chiquetto	Stephen Mason	Will Clayton	Catherine McDowall	Antonia Cox	Bernie McKernan	Kate Flitcroft	Susan Quinn	Matthew Lindsay	Andrew Scrivener	Ian Lush	Vaughan Smith	Heather Acton		
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<p>2. Agreement of minutes of last General Meeting held on 26 February 2019</p> <p>AZ asked for any comments on the minutes of the previous meeting which were provided to those present in hard copy. No comments were received and the minutes were duly agreed.</p>																	
<p>3. Updates since last meeting</p> <p>AZ presented the updates and actions since the last General Meeting. The Steering Group has met 3 times and done the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAQs have been produced and published on the website • Reviewed a project brief for a new strategy for Praed Street • Received a presentation from Westminster City Council (WCC) on a new Paddington Place Plan • Attended a workshop with other Forums from across Westminster <p>Other updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC has published the neighbourhood bidding process for CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) • WCC has published the new City Plan 																	
<p>4. Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>AZ described the Neighbourhood Plan as the purpose of the Forum. The Steering Group has minuted its intention to proceed with preparing a Plan; the Forum is more relevant and has a more powerful impact if we have a Plan. The Forum has a say on a higher proportion of Neighbourhood CIL if there is a Plan in place (25% as opposed to 15% and no cap) and this argument is compelling. There is a</p>																	

<p>serious engagement consultation process for adopting a Plan which would take 2-3 years.</p> <p>KB reported from the workshop of Westminster Forums that Knightsbridge already has a Plan in place, and Mayfair have nearly completed the process. Both organisations outlined the statutory hurdles and thresholds which need to be met.</p> <p>There was also some information provided at the workshop about potential sources of funding for the preparation of a Plan, and these were listed in the presentation. Although volunteer input can be used as much as possible, some consultant expertise will always be required on legal and planning matters. The HPP Forum has so far received a small grant (£7,500) in order to establish the Forum.</p> <p>KB further reported that WCC released (on the morning of the meeting) the City Plan 2019 – 2040 for statutory consultation. It was previously issued in draft in November 2018. The HPP Forum will provide formal comment to the statutory consultation process. Previously, individual organisations locally would have responded to such a consultation but a collective response as a Forum will be more impactful.</p> <p>A resolution had been proposed in the presentation, which was to ask the Steering Group to make a formal response on the new City plan on behalf of the Forum, by the deadline of 31 July, and to highlight changes to policies, or identify additional policies, that support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. In the light of the fact that 17 people were recorded as attending at the start of the meeting which was one below a quorum for voting, the resolution was not put forward for formal vote.</p> <p>Actions: Steering Group to continue to explore the process and funding for the preparation of a Plan.</p>	<p>Steering Group</p>
<p>5. Neighbourhood CIL priorities for submission</p> <p>AZ outlined the Neighbourhood CIL application process which was very recently issued. There is £623,000 available for the HPP area. The Forum had requested along with the other Westminster Forums that WCC should be more transparent with the process for allocating CIL funds. WCC had presented to WASF (Westminster Amenity Societies Forum) before it formally issued its guidelines.</p> <p>KB added that there are very set criteria for the applications and they must be forward-looking, not simply seeking to address pre-existing problems. The CIL applications are not grant applications, rather it is a suggestion of how WCC should spend the CIL funds. Any successful applications must have the support of Ward Councillors.</p> <p>KB highlighted the areas where expenditure had previously been agreed by WCC for CIL funds, being: public realm/transport (50%), health/community services (10%), education (5%), parks/sport/leisure (5%), utilities/waste (10%), other</p>	

(20%). A member commented that this could be seen as funding the Council's core provision of services; it was clarified that WCC are obliged to consult and take input on the neighbourhood portion of the CIL.

AZ said that the Steering Group would like to put forward ideas and projects. Previous meetings and discussions have confirmed the following:

- Praed Street public realm
- Connecting the old and new parts of the ward
- Tackling gateways and connections – especially in relation to transport
- Better walking routes through the area, pedestrian safety and traffic calming
- Green infrastructure and sustainability
- Tackling vice and short lets (outside the scope of CIL)
- Security (outside the scope of CIL)

AZ highlighted the areas which are outside the scope of CIL funding, namely vice, short lets and security. He invited members to input into a discussion on how the Forum should focus priorities.

The following is a summary of the matters raised:

Traffic calming and pedestrian safety

A member asked whether the pedestrian crossings previously promised were already covered by funding – AZ believed that this was the case although noted that a pedestrian had been knocked down on Hyde Park Street on the day of the meeting.

A member suggested that the Kendal Street/Connaught Street junction is a priority for traffic calming. The Church Commissioners would be ready to contribute some funding to a potential scheme to block off the end of Kendal Street and create a piazza.

A member asked that the unofficial taxi rank outside the Paddington Hilton should be removed by widening the pavement. This would make the area more pleasant as well as forcing the taxis round to the official pick-up point. KB reported that this was included in the Paddington Place Plan although the timing for action is not known.

Gateways and connections

KB outlined an example which was to improve the “St Mary's Bays” cobbled area between the hospital and the station, leading onto the canal towpath. There was general support for this.

Air quality and noise pollution

A member raised the issue of noise pollution at Lancaster Gate where motorists are constantly tooting because of the poor signage on the junction. AZ reported that the Hyde Park Estate Association (HPEA) have been campaigning to restore another turning lane as well as to make the signage clearer.

KB raised the issue of the impact of buildings on air quality and asked Chris Peers of Paddington BID to outline the current air quality pilot being carried out by 8 hotels in Paddington. The hotels will be tested in order to produce recommendations for improvement which will then be carried out for a 6-month period and evaluated.

A member asked about the synchronisation of traffic lights which would surely improve air quality and reduce idling. Chris Peers reported that Transport for London (TfL) have a new technology tool called Scoot which should improve traffic flows.

Chris Peers also reported that the Paddington BID has carried out an experimental deep cleanse of some areas of pavement on Praed Street which not only repels oil and grease from the pavement but also acts on the surrounding air and reduces carbon particles. Mark McKeown of the Church Commissioners reported that their buildings in the Hyde Park Estate were carrying out green energy initiatives.

Waste and black bins

KB reported that Marble Arch BID had been looking at the waste and black bins on the corner of Edgware Road and Connaught Place with a view to proposing a better and less unsightly way of managing the space. The same issue applies on the corner of Edgware Road and Sussex Gardens.

Community space and amenities

A member reported that there were local initiatives to support lonely elderly people but there is no community meeting place. Mark McKeown mentioned that there is a shop unit on Porchester Place which the Church Commissioners have made available for community events and meetings. AZ reported having spoken to Paddington Basin developers about the lack of amenity space.

A member asked about a community library. KB reported that it was possible that the Seymour Leisure Centre may eventually be the site for Marylebone Library, and although not in the HPP area it is very close.

Vice

AZ raised an issue on behalf of Sergio Chiquetto on the steering group, who had sent apologies as he was not able to be present at the meeting. He and other residents of Southwick Mews would like to put gates across the mews overnight, to prevent vice activities. The mews residents would fund the work but WCC would be unlikely to grant consent. This led to a general discussion on vice in the area and the desirability of private security to supplement the police activity. A member raised a concern about blocking up the mews, which was that this might lead to blocking up every mews on the estate as the activity became displaced from gated mews.

A member asked whether Sky TV had yet aired their programme about short lets, as there is a link between short letting and anti-social behaviour including prostitution.

<p>Next steps</p> <p>KB said that a note would go to Forum members asking for further input to the ideas and proposals. The Steering Group will consider these on 3 July and then publish a collection of proposals which will be drawn up by the Forum.</p> <p>This action was not put to a formal vote but the meeting was generally in favour of the proposed timetable.</p> <p>A member asked whether this Neighbourhood CIL process would recur annually. KB said that this was not yet known but she thought it was likely.</p>	<p>Steering Group via AZ and KB</p>
<p>6. Any other business</p> <p>AZ asked for any other business to be raised.</p> <p>A member suggested that the Forum should publicise its work more widely through marketing, which would increase attendance at the general meetings. The community notice board at the junction of Kendal St and Connaught Street could be used to advertise forthcoming meetings.</p> <p>AZ agreed and replied that a good number of ideas had emerged during the evening, with a very positive discussion, and he thanked everyone for coming.</p> <p>KB announced that after the end of the formal meeting, a representative from TfL would be available to explain the proposed changes to the junction of Edgware Road and Harrow Road (Marylebone Flyover) which are currently out for consultation.</p>	
<p>7. Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next General Meeting will be held after the summer, probably in October.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:15.</p>	