

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

3 March 2016

The Annual General Meeting (“**AGM**”) of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum (the “**Forum**”) was held on 3 March 2015, at St Stephen's Church, Rosslyn Hill. Approximately 50 persons attended.

Janine Griffis (JG), the chair of the Forum and of the AGM, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes from the last AGM

JG noted that the minutes of last year's AGM (5 March 2015) had been posted on the Forum's website and was available for review at the meeting. Upon a motion that was duly proposed and seconded, the minutes of the last AGM was approved by a show of hands.

2. Approval of Accounts

Stuart Flude, the Forum's Treasurer, gave a presentation of the Forum's income and expenditures during the past year. Upon a motion duly proposed and seconded, the accounts were approved by a show of hands.

3. Election of the Committee

JG noted that there were 15 nominees for places on the Forum's Committee, for election for the 15 available slots, and that the names and brief biographies of the nominees had been circulated with the notice of the AGM and posted on the Forum's website. As there were the same number of nominees as available slots, JG suggested that the 15 nominees be considered for election en bloc. Upon a motion that was duly proposed and seconded, the 15 nominees were elected by a show of hands. JG thanked those members who were retiring from the Committee for their hard work while on the Committee: Bob Buhr and Eileen Neilson.

JG also noted that the Committee intended to co-opt Nicola Sinclair onto the Committee, replacing Bob Buhr (both residents of Downshire Hill) who had decided not to stand for re-election after the last date for submission of new nominees.

The elected Committee, plus co-opted and ex officio members, consists of the following individuals:

David Castle
Linda Chung
Stuart Flude
Oliver Froment
Janine Griffis
Vicki Harding
Andrew Haslem-Jones
Alex Nicoll
Sowmya Parthasarathy
Fiona Reeve
Melissa Remus Elliot

Nicola Sinclair
Stephen Taylor
Ben van Bruggen
Clyde Whittaker
Jeremy Wootliff

Ex officio members:

Cllr Siobhan Baillie (Frognal & Fitzjohns)
Cllr Theo Blackwell (Gospel Oak)
Cllr Oliver Cooper (Hampstead Town)
Cllr Tom Currie (Hampstead Town)
Cllr Maeve McCormack (Gospel Oak)
Cllr Lorraine Revah (Gospel Oak)
Cllr Stephen Stark (Hampstead Town)

4. Overview of Forum Activities

JG presented a brief summary of the activities of the Forum during the past year. Of particular note were the following:

- Drafting of the Plan, in particular converting the Plan's aims and objectives into planning policies
- Updating the Hampstead Conservation Area Appraisal
- Conducting a public consultation on potential projects to be funded by Community Investment Levy receipts
- Identifying, and making applications for, pubs and other community facilities as Assets of Community Value
- Designing and implementing an air quality survey in the Forum area
- Mapping of local trees, open areas, water courses and other natural features

5. Character Area Statements

Sowmya Parthasarathy gave a presentation on the draft character area statements that had been formulated by the Committee. When finalised, the character area statements would form part of both the Forum's Plan and the Hampstead Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Strategy.

6. Plan Update

JG gave a brief update on the preparation of the Forum's Plan. JG noted that the Committee had been working with outside consultants to turn the Plan's aims and objectives into planning policies. JG mentioned that it was necessary that the Plan's policies not contradict, or just repeat, existing planning policies. Two initial drafts of the Plan had been submitted to Camden Council's planning department and the Committee was actively working with Camden planning officers on shaping the Plan and its policies.

7. London Planning

Andrew Dismore, Member of the London Assembly for Barnet and Camden, gave a presentation on certain issues regarding London planning. Among other things, he noted that local planning must adhere to certain London-wide policies, including protection of “view corridors,” support of the Mayor’s targets on affordable housing, and support of social housing schemes.

8. Conservation Area Review

David Castle discussed the Forum’s current actions in updating the Hampstead Conservation Area Appraisal. He noted that, following a street-by-street review of the Conservation Area, an updated Appraisal was now in its second draft, which ultimately would be submitted to Camden Council. David pointed out that, while the Conservation Area Appraisal is and would continue to be important as planning guidelines, the Forum’s Plan when adopted would have superior force and could make improvements or enhancements to the Appraisal guidelines.

9. Assets of Community Value

Cllr Tom Currie presented a summary of the Forum’s work in identifying pubs and other community facilities for potential designation as Assets of Community Value, and in working with owners and managers to apply for ACV status. He noted that four Hampstead pubs already had obtained designation as ACVs, and it was expected that ACV applications would be made in the upcoming year for several other pubs and community assets.

JG also thanked John Graham and other volunteers who had been actively working on the ACV projects.

10. Community Investment Levy

JG presented a summary of the Community Investment Levy: that the CIL would be appraised on new developments, with at least 25% of received CIL funds would be available to fund infrastructure projects within the relevant ward. She noted that the Forum had taken a leading role, with Camden councillors, in identifying potential infrastructure projects through public meetings and consultations. Approximately 230 local residents had responded to the Forum’s online survey. JG noted that it was expected that a final list of CIL projects would be approved by the Council later in the year.

11. Air Quality Survey

Stephen Taylor briefly presented the air quality survey that the Forum had designed and organised. In prior Forum consultations, residents had identified air quality as a significant concern. Many local residents had volunteered to place and collect air quality measuring devices. Stephen gave a summary of the study’s results, identifying particular spots within the Forum Area where high levels of particulates had been measured.

12. Green Spaces, Corridors and Trees

Vicky Harding presented a summary of the Forum’s work in mapping green spaces, corridors and significant trees in the Forum Area. She noted that the Plan could give some protection for designated green spaces, corridors and trees.

13. Q & A

There were several questions raised by members from the floor. These included questions relating to air quality, school runs, basement policies and CIL matters.

14. AOB

There not being any other business, the meeting was ended.