

HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

15 May 2014

- Attending:** Bob Buhr (BB)
Carissa Bub (CB)
David Castle (DC)
Linda Chung (LC)
Stuart Flude (SF)
Janine Griffis (JG)
Alex Nicoll (AN)
Melissa Remus Elliot (MRE)
Fiona Reeve (FR)
Kimry Schlacter (KS)
Ellen Solomons (ES)
Ben van Bruggen (BvB)
Sebastian Wocker (SW)
- Also Attending:** Robert Stephenson Padron (NW3 Business Group)
Peter Kohl (Adviser)
- Apologies:** Vicki Harding
Chris Knight
Simon Marcus
Stephen Taylor
Jeremy Wootliff
- Location:** Magdala Pub, South Hill Park

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING; MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the Committee meeting of 8 April 2014 were approved without amendment.

As a matter arising, the co-option of SW as a member of the Committee was approved, in accordance with the authority granted to the Committee by the Forum's constitution. It was noted that SW's co-option also had been proposed and approved at the Forum's AGM held on 6 March 2014.

JG reported that Camden Council had now approved the Forum's area application and application to become a designated forum, and that the Council expected to begin public consultation on the applications in June. The public consultation would be for a six-week period.

JG thanked all those who had helped with the "Community Tea" event held on 27 April 2014 at St. Stephen's Church, and in particular to CB and Margaret O'Keeffe for organising the consultation exercise. JG reported that there had been approximately 120 people attending the event, with approximately 75 signing up as new members of the Forum.

JG also reported that she recently had attended the annual general meetings of the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum and the Redfrog Neighbourhood Forum.

2. **SUMMARY OF FIRST THREE ENGAGEMENT EVENTS**

AN gave a summary presentation of the themes that had arisen from the Forum's first three engagement events. AN noted that he was still working on distilling the themes and would be preparing a written summary to circulate to the Committee. Broadly, AN noted that the themes fell into a few categories, including the High Street, Conserving & Renewing Hampstead's Environment, Trees & Open Spaces, Building a Local Community and Traffic & Transport. AN suggested the following as a methodology for identifying and developing the themes: that themes be identified on the basis of frequently recurring suggestions from various residents (thereby excluding "one-off" comments) and that the themes should be those that are supported by evidence from various sources, so that the themes generally should be based on more than just residents' opinions. The Committee then extensively discussed potential methods for gathering evidence in regard to various topics.

3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING REVIEW**

Prior to the meeting a paper prepared by KS had been circulated to the Committee, which summarises the key elements of neighbourhood planning and the role of a neighbourhood forum in developing a neighbourhood plan. KS addressed several questions from Committee members, including issues relating to evidence gathering (such as community views, Council-generated data and other objective evidence), the requirement for a neighbourhood plan to establish objectives and policies, the possibility that a plan can address specific sites and the ability of a plan to include both planning and non-planning items and whether there was scope within the plan to address single issue concerns such as redundant phone boxes. DC and LC commented that Camden Counsel's planning policy document was now up for review, so the timing was good for the Forum to potentially influence Camden's evolving plan. JG thanked KS for all of her hard work in preparing the paper and addressing the Committee's questions.

JG reviewed with the Committee a draft timeline (which had been circulated in advance) for further community engagement and preparation of the neighbourhood plan. JG suggested that the next step could be to establish a working sub-group to define "visions" for the plan, based on the input that had been received from the Forum's community engagement activities thus far. After consultation on these vision items, more specific themes could be developed by particular topic sub-groups formed at a later stage. It was agreed by the Committee that these and other steps set forth in the timeline was a useful guide to moving forward. DC commented that, although the neighbourhood plan's legal authority will be in its planning policies, that it was also very important that the plan contain non-planning objectives and that the Forum hopefully will be an active body in non-planning issues as well as planning policies. JG reported that a planning expert who spoke at the Highgate AGM had noted that it was hoped that localism legislation will be changed to allow greater flexibility for neighbourhood forums to implement changes to plans after they had passed a referendum, which could give more flexibility to adapt plans on an on-going basis.

JG suggested that she consult with members of the Committee as to who may be interested in participating in the vision sub-group and report back to the Committee. DC also suggested that he produce a paper to summarise Camden Counsel's current planning policies, for future use and reference by the Committee and its sub-groups.

4. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBGROUP REPORT**

JG suggested that, in light of the three successful large community engagement events that had been completed, it was now appropriate to concentrate on smaller engagements with targeted community groups. These would be further considered at the next meeting of the community engagement sub-group to be held on 9th June.

JG noted that upcoming community events included the South End Green festival on 29th June and the Hampstead summer festival on 6th July. BvB noted that Gayton Road's street party would be on the 6th of September.

5. **FINANCES**

SF gave a report on the Forum's finances. The initial £960 grant had been mostly expended, and KS reported that the further grant of £6,040 from Locality had now been approved. SF said that he was in the process of opening a bank account for the Forum.

CB suggested whether the Royal Society of Arts might be a possible source for additional funding, and she volunteered to explore this further and report back to the Committee.

6. **WEBSITE**

AN gave a brief report on the status of the Forum's website. He noted that the website should be a living (non-static) medium for communication. As an example, AN suggested that perhaps a community blog may be a website feature that could be explored.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for 18 June at 6:30pm, to be held at the Magdala Pub.