

HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, 9 October 2014, 6:30 pm

Attending: David Castle (DC)
Councillor Tom Currie (CTC)
Melissa Remus Elliot (MRE)
Stuart Flude (SF)
Janine Griffis (JG)
Alex Nicoll (AN)
Fiona Reeve (FR)
Kimry Schlachter (KS)
Stephen Taylor (ST)

Also Attending: Oliver Froment (OF)
Peter Kohl (PK)
Sowmya Pathasarathy (SP)

Apologies: Councillor Siobhan Baillie
Councillor Theo Blackwell
Carissa Bub
Bob Buhr
Linda Chung
Andrew Haslem-Jones
Vicki Harding
Andrew Parkinson
Councillor Stephen Stark
Ben Vanbruggen
Laurie White
Jeremy Wootliff

Location: 14 Denning Road NW3 1SU

1. Minutes of Last Meeting; Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of 10 September 2014 were approved with minor amendments.

DC reported that he had received from Camden Council (Nicola Tulley) a demographic report relating to the Forum area, from data derived from the last census. DC noted that this information could be useful evidence to assist the development of the Forum's plans and policies. It is hoped that additional population data will be available from Camden Council. It was agreed to circulate this report to all Committee members.

DC reported on initial efforts to review and update the Hampstead and South End Green Conservation Area Statements. He noted that the existing Conservation Area Statements were very detailed but needed to be updated, and asked for volunteers who may be willing to assist. He also was intended to contact neighbourhood associations to seek volunteers. FR and ES said that they were willing to ask for volunteers from their neighbourhood associations. [Query: is Fitzjohn's Netherhall CA statement being updated also?]

2. Vision Document Consultation

JG reported that approximately 280 responses to the questionnaire had been received thus far, and that information from hard-copy responses had mostly been transmitted into the Survey Monkey online system.

The working sub-group (consisting of DC, FR, SF, AN, SP and KS) agreed that they would assemble and analyse the data from the questionnaire responses, following the end of the consultation period on 17 October. The results would be presented at the follow-up public event, scheduled for 20 November at the Community Centre.

3. Brief for Planning Consultant

DC and SP reported on their work in preparing a written brief for the purpose of engaging a planning consultant to assist with the preparation of the Forum's plan. It was noted that at this stage the Forum had budgeted up to £3,000 for a consultant. SP noted that it likely would be necessary to limit the work performed by the consultant in order to fall within this budget, unless or until further funding may be obtained. It was discussed the possibility of establishing milestones for the work to be performed by the consultant with payments to be staggered upon completion of work performed at each stage. DC suggested that perhaps the best approach may be to first request from potential consultants, who had relevant experience with neighbourhood plans, what they could provide within the budget. It was agreed that DC and SP would approach potential consultants (four of whom had been identified so far) on this basis and report back to the Committee.

KS also noted that additional "in-kind" support may be available from Locality. JG agreed to explore this option.

4. South End Green Development Strategy

JG and ST reported on their meeting with business traders in the South End Green area, and noted that those who had attended all expressed interest in being involved in the Forum's working group to draft a development strategy for South End Green.

JG noted that Camden Council had allocated £90,000, over two years, to review traffic patterns around South End Green/Fleet Road/Constantine Road as part of the Gospel Oak development project. In addition, JG noted that there may be possible additional funding from the Mayor's High Street Fund for developing high streets.

It was noted therefore that there was an opportunity for the Forum to work with the Council and various constituents in South End Green (including local traders, residents, the Heath

management, the Royal Free, etc) in considering future development plans for the South End Green area, which could become part of the Forum's plan.

5. Camden Residents [Association] Action Committee

OF reported on the establishment of a separate new action group, the Camden Residents Association Action Committee (CRAAC), that had been formed by interested residents in various parts of north London for purposes of reviewing and advocating changes to Camden's policies on basement developments. He noted that, at this initial stage, CRAAC was focusing on three priorities: to promote enforcement and transparency of Camden's existing Basement Impact Assessment policies, to review permitted development issues relating to basements, and to promote the requirement that detailed construction arrangements be consulted and agreed with local neighbours. OF said that, among other matters, CRAAC would be attempting to assemble various evidence relating to basement developments, including new policies that are being adopted in other boroughs of London. It was agreed that the Committee should continue to interact with CRAAC and monitor its activities and evidence gathering, as these may be helpful in assisting with any basement policies that the Forum may develop.

6. Communications

JG reported that on 7 October Camden Council had approved the designation applications for the Forum and the Forum Area, subject to a Council call-in procedure. CTC noted that the Council's call-in process would last for seven working days. It was agreed that the approval for designation would be publicised by the Forum after the termination of the call-in period.

7. Finance

SF reported on finances. There were no material developments, although SF noted that the funding that the Forum had received thus far (£6,400) was required to be spent by the end of 2014. Reference was made back to the engagement of a planning consultant (see item 3 above) with the hope that currently budgeted amounts for a consultant could be structured so that it could be spent within the year-end deadline, even for work that may continue in the future.

8. Any Other Business

DC noted that he had come across an organisation that was involved in pollution impact assessments, and suggested that perhaps they or another similar organisation may be useful in obtaining Forum area air pollution information. DC agreed to contact Camden Council to inquire whether they were studying air pollution issues in the area.

Dates of future meetings:

Thursday, 13 November 2014

Proposed Committee dates for 2015:

Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Wednesday, 4 February 2015

Thursday, 5 March, 19.00 (AGM)

Wednesday, 1 April 2015

Wednesday, 6 May 2015
Wednesday, 3 June 2015
Wednesday, 8 July 2015
Wednesday, 9 September 2015
Wednesday, 7 October 2015
Wednesday, 4 November 2015

Date of next Community Engagement Subgroup meeting: Thursday, 23 October 2014