

HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 4 February 2015, 6:30 pm

Attending:

Stuart Flude (SF)
Janine Griffis (JG)
Vicki Harding (VH)
Alex Nicoll (AN)
Fiona Reeve (FR)
Stephen Taylor (ST)
Councillor Theo Blackwell (TB)

Also Attending:

Linda Chung (LC)
Peter Kohl
Sowmya Parthasarathy (SP)

Apologies:

Councillor Siobhan Baillie
Councillor Tom Currie
Councillor Simon Marcus
Councillor Stephen Stark
Bob Buhr
David Castle (DC)
Melissa Remus Elliot
Kimry Schlachter
Ellen Solomons
Ben van Bruggen (BvB)
Laurie White
Jeremy Wootliff

Location: 14 Denning Road NW3 1SU

1. Minutes of Last Meeting; Matters Arising

The minutes of the last Committee meeting, held on 7 January 2015, were approved without amendment.

2. Annual General Meeting (to be held at St. Stephen's Church, 5 March 2015)

- a. Programme – JG reported that two officers of the Highgate Neighbourhood Forum had agreed to be the guest speakers at the upcoming AGM, but they would need to leave early. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the guest speakers should give their presentation at the initial part of the meeting, which would then be followed by the election of the Committee and the conduct of any other business matters, after which there would be table presentations soliciting volunteers for various projects. The projects would include the Conservation Area Statement review, a bat survey, a playstreets campaign and possibly a tree survey.
- b. Committee election – JG reported that, thus far, one person who was not currently on (or an advisor to) the Committee, Eileen Neilson, had submitted a nomination form for possible election to the Committee. It was noted that LC and SP also had submitted

completed nomination forms. Taking into account the number of current Committee members who had indicated that they would not be wishing to be re-elected, JG noted that it was likely that there would be a slate of 15 nominees for election to the Committee at the AGM, which is equal to the maximum number of Committee members (not including ex-officio members or others who could be co-opted by the Committee). Accordingly, if there were 15 or fewer nominees, the entire slate could be elected en bloc at the AGM. If, however, there were more than 15 nominees, then the Committee would be elected at the AGM by written ballot, with the Committee having discretion under the Forum's Constitution to co-opt any additional nominee(s) to the Committee (up to three in number).

- c. Rota – JG noted that she would circulate a rota among the Committee members to allocate tasks for the AGM.
- d. Publicity – FR mentioned that she would create a banner for the Forum's website, and posters, advertising the AGM.

3. South End Green Development Group

ST presented an update on the actions of the SEG Development Group. ST reported that a questionnaire had been circulated among the SEG community (and posted on the Forum's website) asking for responses to possible grant proposals for the Mayor's High Street Fund. Approximately [80] responses had been received, which included a few new proposal ideas. The three ideas that had gained the most support thus far are: (a) to maintain and improve the post office in SEG, (b) to obtain professional advice to improve the design of the SEG [streetscape] and (c) to improve the shop fronts in the area. LC noted the success of Store Street in Bloomsbury as an example of the commercial success obtained from improved shop fronts.

TB noted that traffic issues had been the dominant concern in the SEG area for a long time, and that any development initiatives would need to address traffic in the area. He reported that it was his understanding that Camden's initial SEG traffic review would be completed in the summer of 2015 for consultation with Councillors, with a later public consultation possibly by the end of 2015. TB suggested that, as the SEG area crossed two wards, it would be helpful if the Forum were to request the joint assistance of the Councillors in the Gospel Oak and Hampstead wards on the SEG development initiatives.

4. Conservation Area Statement Review

JG reported that there was still a need for more volunteers to assist with street-by-street reviews as part of the overall Conservation Area Statement review. She noted that a small group of design experts, including DC, BvB and SP, would then add character assessments to the various streets and areas in the Conservation Area Statement review document.

5. Plan Development

JG reported that Camden was proceeding with work on developing a new Local Plan, which would create new planning policies and would combine the Local Development Framework with the Core Strategy. The new Camden Local Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2015/early 2016, which would coincide (or follow shortly after) the Forum's Plan.

SP reported on the recent meeting that a Forum sub-group had held with the Forum's consultants, Fortismere Associates. The Forum had provided Fortismere in advance a list of

"priorities" that had been developed by the Forum over the past few months, and Fortismere had provided initial analysis of: (a) which priorities are "planning" matters and which are "non-planning" matters, (b) what evidence was likely to be needed to support each planning priority/policy and (c) which governmental bodies (in addition to Camden Council) might be the "key partners". This analysis was presented in a spread sheet that was distributed to Committee members.

JG and SP suggested that, as the next step toward developing a Plan, the Committee appoint a leader(s) for each of the five "Vision" areas to assemble and review evidence that may support particular planning policies. [The five Vision areas are Homes & Heritage, Streets & Movement, Local Economy, Open Space & Landscape and Building Community.]

AN expressed his concern that the current list of priorities was not yet appropriate for evidence gathering, and that it first needed to be critically reviewed to eliminate those items that were clearly non-planning items and/or not realistic. SP also described what types of information was likely to constitute "evidence" for purposes of supporting Plan policies. After further discussion on these topics, the Committee decided that evidence leader(s) should be appointed for each Vision area. Initial leaders would be DC and BvB for Homes & Heritage, ST and RP for Streets & Movement, VH for Open Space & Landscape and JG (with assistance from LC and AN) for Local Economy, with leader(s) for Building Community still to be identified. A target deadline of 18 March 2015 was set for reports to be made by each Vision team.

6. **AOB**

Nothing to report.

7. **Dates of future meetings**

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