

# HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

## Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 9 September 2015, 6:30 pm

### Attending:

Janine Griffis (JG)  
Vicki Harding (VH)  
Eileen Neilson (EN)  
Sowmya Parthasarathy (SP)  
Fiona Reeve (FR)  
Stephen Taylor (ST)  
Ben van Bruggen (BvB)  
Alex Nicoll (AN)  
Jeremy Wootliff (JW)  
Linda Chung (LC)  
Councillor Tom Currie (TC)

### Also Attending:

Peter Kohl (PK)  
Oliver Froment (OF)

### Apologies:

Councillor Siobhan Baillie  
Councillor Theo Blackwell  
Councillor Stephen Stark  
Councillor Maeve McCormack  
Councillor Lorraine Revah  
Councillor Oliver Cooper  
Stuart Flude  
David Castle  
Andrew Haslem-Jones  
Bob Buhr  
Melissa Remus Elliot

**Location:** Roebuck, Pond Street

### 1. Minutes of Last Meeting; Matters Arising

The minutes of the last Committee meeting, held on 8 July 2015, were approved without amendment.

### 2. Conservation Area Statement Review

JG gave an update on the progress of the CA statement review, and outlined the proposed organisation of the statement review document. JG reported that a meeting with Alan [Wito] of Camden Council was scheduled in the next two weeks, when the proposed review document would be discussed.

SP raised a question whether it may be possible to address in the CA statement any policy relating to the upkeep of shop fronts during times between tenancies, in order to better maintain empty shop fronts. BvB mentioned that it may be possible to address this issue within the authority to prevent "detrimental impacts" within a Conservation Area. BvB agreed to draft language addressing this issue for both the CA statement and the Neighbourhood Plan.

### 3. Draft Neighbourhood Plan

JG reported that the draft Plan had been submitted to Camden Council for its initial review.

JG mentioned that she had asked Nicola Tulley of Camden to review the Plan's amenity section first, as it perhaps needed the most work and input. JG also agreed to discuss with Nicola the on-going amendments to the Plan.

PK gave a short review of the potential need to obtain a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the Plan. The Council is required to first screen the draft Plan, and to consult with relevant statutory bodies, to determine whether an SEA may be required. JG agreed to discuss with Nicola Tulley the steps and timing for Camden's initial screening of the draft Plan.

VH, SP and FR reported on the on-going work on mapping the Forum Area for purposes of providing evidence for the Plan. FR said that Camden had agreed to give the Forum access to Camden's maps. VH, SP and FR agreed to continue to work on mapping of features, trees, hedgerows, etc.

TC gave an update on the status of Camden's draft guidelines for spending of Community Investment Levy funds. JG reported that she, together with the chairs of the [Fortune Green/West Hampstead and Highgate Neighbourhood] forums, had prepared a letter for publication in the Ham & High and Camden New Journal to encourage Camden Council to amend its guidelines to include an obligation for the Council to consult with neighbourhood forums in the spending of CIL funds, which is consistent with neighbourhood planning legislation. LC noted that the draft guidelines were subject to a single private member's approval and that time was running short to try to influence any amendments to the guidelines. JG noted that it was possible to include into the Plan specific priorities for CIL spending.

The committee then discussed the process for revising the Plan after initial comments from Camden are received. It was agreed that, subject to availability of funds, it would be useful to have a drafting workshop with the Forum's independent consultant in order, among other things, to revise the Plan's policies to be internally consistent and to conform to planning requirements. JG agreed to contact the consultant to discuss the possibility of a workshop.

JW reported that he had circulated the draft Plan within the NW3 business group and would contact NW3 members to see if they had any comments or suggestions at this stage.

EN also agreed to explore the idea of holding a community event to discuss accessibility of the Area's public spaces.

### 4. Update on Projects

- A. Oriel Place Garden – JG reported on a meeting that had been held with Camden officers, Councillor Steven Stark and other local residents regarding potential plans for redeveloping Oriel Place Garden. Options being considered included a "soft opening" with gates to the Garden being opened, initially without any further improvements, to gauge how residents may use or accept the Garden. JG mentioned that there may be a possibility of using CIL funds from the redevelopment of the adjoining Wells Court residence hall to fund a refurbishment of the Garden. JG agreed to contact Steven Stark to further discuss potential options.
- B. Protect our Pubs Campaign – JG reported that ACV applications were to be submitted initially for the [Duke of Hamilton, George IV and Holly Bush] pubs. There was no other news to report.
- C. Traffic/Pollution Study – ST gave an update on the traffic study project. He mentioned that a sub-group exploring air quality was to meet in the next week to further proceed with the project, and that a traffic study from Gospel Oak would be available to the Forum.
- D. Bat Survey – VH said that the bat survey was stalled until a person could be found who would be willing to lead the project. JG agreed to canvas a couple of potential candidates to see if they may be interested in taking on the project.

### 5. Finances

## **5. Finances**

After discussion, it was decided to apply for further grants for up to two drafting workshops with the Forum's independent consultant, funding for Nationbuilder through 2016 and the holding of one or more public workshops.

## **6. Communications**

AN agreed to prepare a brief update on the Forum's activities, which could be posted on the Forum's website.

## **7. AOB**

There was no AOB raised for discussion.

## **8. Dates of future meetings**

Wednesday, 7 October 2015

Wednesday, 4 November 2015