

Minutes of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum committee

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6.30pm 5 November 2019

Present: J. Griffis (chair), A. Nicoll (communications), S. Taylor (secretary), C. Whittaker (treasurer), L. Chung, Cllr M. Higson, O. Froment, M. Gold, V. Harding, A. Haslam-Jones, N. Sinclair

Apologies, minutes of last meeting

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Apologies: D. Castle, Cllrs Marcus Boyland, Oliver Cooper, Jenny Mulholland, Henry Newman, Andrew Parkinson, Lorraine Revah and Gio Spinella

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Matters arising

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Tree survey is ongoing.

Action: VH to pursue.

Financial pledges: we need approximately \$600 to maintain the NationBuilder (NB) website, and will solicit it as donations from members. We can manage this process with the NB website itself. Locality might have funding for us.

Actions:

- CW to ask Locality about funding
- CW to open a bank account for the Forum
- JG/ST to prepare website for appeal

Affiliate membership:

Action: AHJ to list contacts to whom to offer affiliate membership

Planning and conservation

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The local Conservation Area Statement is overdue for revising. We submitted comments to Camden three years ago and await a response.

Developers are contacting us for pre-application advice, referred by Camden Planning. JG is dealing with inquiries. We have reservations about our comments possibly being distorted by applicants.

Action: JG to provide advice in writing, with a copy to Camden Planning

Current proposals:

- An application for a garden shed at 9 Thurlow Rd is opposed because the property is in a biodiversity corridor designated by the Neighbourhood Plan. Reference to this had been omitted from the briefing document, but was restored by Cllr Higson.

- Abacus proposes to use the former Hampstead Police Station as a school. The Forum has objected. Councillors will judge the application on 14 Nov. The planning officer in charge is David Fowler. He will publish his report on 7 Nov. He is expected to recommend approval. The meeting will be at 7pm in the main council chamber at the Crowndale Centre at Mornington Crescent, and open to the public. Forum members are asked to attend if possible.

Meetings with Camden officers

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JG, ST and CW met Cllr Adam Harrison (Executive Member for Sustainability) and transport planners Sam Margolis and Louise McBride. Camden's Transport Plan aims to reduce vehicle noise and pollution. Our NP has similar goals. We want Camden to make faster progress towards these goals, and not be frustrated by campaign groups that appear when it announces a project, claiming to speak for "the community".

Camden invites us to follow the model of the Neighbourhood Plan, hold consultations and develop a Neighbourhood Transport Plan. Our scope should be larger than the Forum Area, and we should collaborate with RedFrog and Church Row NFs, and possibly others.

The Transport Plan (TP) is not backed by statute. Its development is primarily a collaborative exercise with planning officials in the interest of achieving our common goals sooner, and ensuring their work is not wasted on projects that fail. We need to communicate this difference clearly to our members to avoid unrealistic expectations from the exercise.

The Forum has had three meetings with planning officers regarding enforcement, with no satisfactory results.

#### Community Infrastructure Levy

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The Forum will conduct local consultations on how to spend the remaining approximately £200,000 of CIL money. In Jan 2020 we shall hold a workshop meeting with stakeholders. In Feb 2020 we shall hold a public consultation.

#### Communications

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AN will publish an update on the Forum's work by around 19 November:

- A reminder of what the Neighbourhood Plan is, and how it is implemented
- How the CIL money is being spent, and an invitation to suggest more projects
- Re-opening of The Magdala pub
- Traffic changes
- Monitoring of other developments, such as Queen Mary House
- Re-designation of the Forum
- Opposition to the Abacus school application

#### Mission statement

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With the Neighbourhood Plan adopted, it is time to review our mission.

Action: JG, AN, ST & CW will draft a mission statement for discussion.

#### Any other business

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The Heath & Hampstead Society (HHS) has an initiative to increase footfall along Heath St with heritage markers.

A group of residents will meet Camden tree officers at the Crowndale Centre on 6 November. VH will attend.

Next meetings

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7 January, 17 March (AGM), 5 May, 7 July, 8 September, 10  
November 2020