

## **Minutes of the Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum committee**

6.30pm 10 November 2020. Video conference.

Present: S. Taylor (chair), A. Nicoll (vice-chair), C. Whittaker (treasurer), D. Castle, L. Chung, J. Griffis, Cllr O. Cooper, O. Froment, V. Harding, Cllr M. Higson, Cllr S. Stark, G. Wingate

Apologies received: A. Haslam-Jones, S. Kon, G. Robinson

### 1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting of 8 September 2020 were approved.

### 2. Planning and conservation

JG noted the outcome of some recent planning applications. Camden's refusal of a large telephone mast on Spaniards Road has been appealed. The proposed new house at 4b Hampstead Hill Gardens was refused. (Up-to-date lists of Forum comments and Plan-related outcomes are kept in Outcomes document in Dropbox and on Planning Watch page of website.)

LC raised the issue of applications for alcohol licences and asked whether the Forum should develop a policy. She noted that applications were not so accessible but required timely responses. GW, CW and OC raised the application from Heath House on Heath St to sell alcoholic yoghurt. (OC on 16 Nov circulated news that the application had been refused). There was agreement that it would be useful to develop a policy and LC agreed to draft an initial document. ST said the Forum's policy would need to be clear and publicly available.

**ACTION:** LC to begin drafting policy on alcohol licensing.

### 3. CIL

There were no major developments. SS reported that completed and projects in progress more than accounted for the £779,000 local CIL for Hampstead Town ward. New developments could lead to the addition of £30,000 and £70,000 to the pot. AN noted that the list of projects on the website was not quite up to date because spending on streateries etc in the summer was not included, which he would do.

### 4. Transport/South End Green

JG & SS submitted to Camden a list of candidate locations in for cycle storage and parking facilities. Some abandoned bikes had been removed by Camden from existing facilities. MH reported Camden was offering to hold, without charging, a pop-up cycle repair event.

OC reported the licence for South End Green streatory had ended. The sliproad had been restored and the 168 bus stand would return there. The hope was to reopen the streatory in the spring but there was a need to find a permanent solution to the 168 bus stand issue, as temporary solutions were costly. The 168 bus route must not be put at risk.

### 5. Planning White Paper

AN reported he had sent the Forum's comments on the White Paper, previously circulated to the committee, to MHCLG. He thanked members who helped to compile the response. The White Paper was of poor quality, presenting ideas that were neither well-developed nor coherent. Conservative MPs had already criticised it heavily. AN suggested it could take some years before reforms reached legislation. The effect of the proposals would be to remove planning policies from Local Plans. The Forum supported some proposals on transparency and digitalisation, but overall had strongly opposed the proposed reforms.

OC said the paper was more like a green paper, ie an earlier-stage consultative document. He agreed opposition from Conservatives meant the process would be slow, and suggested revised proposals could later emerge.

## 6. Camden's Climate Action Plan 2021-2025

ST noted the pandemic has jump-started Camden's action on climate commitments, which had previously been slow. But actions to introduce cycle and pedestrian lanes had provoked pushback from residents. Most people expected that, for example, their travel would return to previous levels once the pandemic was over. Therefore, there was a big disconnect between climate commitments and what people actually expected and wanted. This presented Councillors with a big responsibility. The Forum, ST said, could have a role in facilitating the changes that would be needed in order to meet climate goals.

He proposed the Forum conduct a second round of Air Quality Monitoring, more sophisticated and detailed than the first. Equipment would be placed in fewer locations, for example near schools, but would produce better readings, including for particulates.

OF related his experience of technology for tests done near the former police station related to the Abacus school proposal. There was discussion of costs and funding sources.

**ACTION:** ST to draw up project plan and submit it to CW for budget analysis, and bring back to committee. CW to put to Locality for potential grant, tying proposal to Neighbourhood Plan commitment to improving air quality and to future iterations of Plan.

## 7. High Street Future

AN reported a small group had been formed, as agreed, to consider the future of retail centres, consisting of ST, LC, CB and AN. This would involve public consultation in whatever manner was feasible in the months ahead. Initial discussions had divided the project into five areas: 1) Create vision statement involving different post-pandemic scenarios 2) Establish facts about retail make-up/costs etc and changes under way 3) Consider practical issues about needs, potential sites for change etc 4) Transport changes needed to meet vision 5) Engagement with Camden and many other parties.

MH noted the work done by the Hampstead Transport Partnership. There was to be a Camden Council meeting on high streets.

**ACTION:** Group to hold further meeting to chart future work.

## 10. AOB

JG said Camden indicated renewal of ACV status for Duke of Hamilton, Hollybush and King William IV pubs required stronger evidence. JG said, as previously done for Magdala, this needed mobilisation of local expressions of support to demonstrate pubs' community role. OC said there was a misunderstanding that renewal was difficult given pubs had been closed for parts of 2020. In fact, Camden wanted evidence of a pub's role over past ten years.

JG said evidence could be sought via Forum newsletter to members, and that in any case an update to members about Forum's activities was due. It was agreed this should be put together.

ACTION: ST/AN to initiate newsletter to be sent out asap.

Meetings in 2021: 12 January, 9 March, 11 May, 13 July, 14 September, 9 November