

Fortune Green & West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22nd April 2013 at St James' Church

Present: James Earl (Chair), Cllr Keith Moffitt (Vice-chair), Nick Jackson (Communications officer), Mark Stonebanks (Treasurer), Stephen Nathan, John Eastwood, Carlton Johnson, Cllr John Bryant, Stella Tysall, Linda Sluys, Janet Crawford, Tim Byrne, Cllr Gillian Risso-Gill, Sue Measures, Tibor Gold, Jonathan Isaacs & Alice Hutton (Camden New Journal).

1. Welcome & apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from: Mark Hutton, Virginia Berridge, David Richards, Joan Moffatt, Michael Poulard, Angela Ellison, Margaret Willmer, Ian Cohen, Patricia Cook & Dean Langston.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 25th February:

Copies of the NDF Q&A are still available for those who are new to the Forum and its work. There have been several volunteers to look at the 2011 Census statistics for the area.

3. Elections:

Chair – James Earl was nominated by Nick Jackson, seconded by Linda Sluys. There were no other candidates; James was re-elected.

Vice-Chair – Cllr Keith Moffitt was nominated by Cllr John Bryant, seconded by Stephen Nathan. There were no other candidates; Keith was re-elected.

Secretary – there were no nominations; the position remains unfilled.

Treasurer – Mark Stonebanks was nominated by James Earl, seconded by Nick Jackson. There were no other candidates, Mark was re-elected.

Communications Officer – Nick Jackson was nominated by James Earl, seconded by Linda Sluys. There were no other candidates, Nick was re-elected.

Untitled officer posts – Stephen Nathan & Sue Measures were nominated; both were elected. A third position remains unfilled.

4. NDF application & decision:

The deadline for comments was 15th March. In all there were 125 responses, 120 (96%) of which were in favour. One objection came from Kingsgate Community Centre, but has now been withdrawn. The other objectors complained about a lack of engagement; they had been invited to the engagement workshop. Officers are now preparing a report on the consultation; a decision is due to be made on 9th May.

5. Prince's Foundation workshop – 13th March:

This had been a very useful event; the presentations given had been circulated and are on the website. The main advice was that we needed to rework the Plan – setting out a vision and objectives at the start, and separating policies and recommendations for action. It's clear that Housing and the West Hampstead Growth Area (WHGA) will be the main issues to discuss. It was suggested we could have another workshop on these issues later in the year.

6. Engagement workshop – 15th April:

This had also been very useful in outlining what more we can do. Work done so far has been good – 180 responses to our survey last year; nearly 100 people on the mailing list; and 270 Twitter followers – but more needs to be done to spread the word about the Forum. It was agreed to have an “engagement campaign” over the next few months in the run up to the Jester Festival in July. A list of possible actions had been circulated. This will start with a competition for a logo for the Forum. We will also plan to leaflet all the whole area; have

a number of walkabouts and street events; have a stall at the Farmers' Market; engage businesses in the area – as well as schools, parents and under 40s.

Other suggestions were:

Stephen stressed the importance of working with the West Hampstead Life blog

Gillian said we could use www.streetlife.com

We should also work with the CNJ and Ham & High.

We could ask for an article in the Camden magazine distributed by the Council.

Mark said he had contacted Beckford primary school; Keith would contact Emmanuel primary school.

Sue said we would work with parents and children at the Sidings under 5s events.

It's important to work with all businesses, not just shops – Gillian will pass on to the Business Forum.

We could also engage with Housing Associations in the area.

Printing around 10,000 leaflets will cost several hundred pounds; we will need volunteers to deliver them – possibly one person per street (there are about 80 streets in our area; full list on the website).

7. Funding application:

We currently have around £150 in our bank account. Most of the money is currently used to pay for meeting venues. From 1st May, NDFs can apply for up to £7,000 of funding from the government. We will make an application, but need to have estimated costs.

Suggestions are for: printing/flyers; expert advice; maps; workshops; pull up banners; advertise on buses, bus stops; bin lorries and billboards; we could pay for adverts in newspapers; big maps of the area (maybe 3D); plus money for the referendum campaign.

Mark will make an application in early May, as we need the money sooner rather than later.

8. 3rd draft of the Plan – further comments:

This had been extensively discussed at the last meeting. James said a number of responses had been received; most suggestions would be included in the 4th draft. The deadline for comments is 30th April. Camden Council had also made outline comments, which had been circulated and posted on the website.

Linda said she would like to more environmental policies, particularly relating to housing.

Nick said it was important that policies are clear and concise, particularly for when applications go to appeal.

9. 4th draft of the Plan:

Following advice at the workshop, the document will be restructured. The 12 core policies will become a Vision statement and 6 objectives (covering Housing, Design & character, Transport, Community facilities, Economy & Environment). The Plan will cover the period 2014-2031 (the end period for the growth targets in the WHGA). James said work on the 4th draft was nearly finished; it will be circulated in early May, with comments until the end of month; it will be the focus of discussion at the May NDF meeting.

10. Proposed timetable:

James outlined a future timetable, with an aim of having a final draft of the Plan by the end of the year. The first half of 2014 would involve the two 6 week consultations and inspection; the referendum would then be in the second half of 2014. There were varying views about whether this amounted to going too fast or too slow.

11. Any other business:

John asked if we could request an all-postal ballot for the referendum; James will ask council officers.

12. Next meeting:

The next NDF meeting will be on **Wednesday 22nd May**, 7.30pm, Venue tbc.