

Fortune Green & West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 18th September at 7.30pm at The Alliance pub

Present: James Earl (Chair), Nick Jackson (Communications officer), Patricia Cook, Linda Sluys, Sue Measures, Brigid Shaughnessy, John Eastwood, Stephen Nathan, Mike Poulard, Miles Seaman, Joan Moffatt, Anglea Ellison, Cllr Flick Rea.

1. Welcome & apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Keith Moffitt (Vice-chair), Mark Stonebanks (Treasurer), David Richards, Jane Evans, Cllr Gillian Risso-Gill, Cllr John Bryant, Virginia Berridge, Mark Hutton, Margaret Willmer.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 26th July:

There were no corrections; other items dealt with below.

3. Update on NDF application:

James said he had made a second application to Camden Council to recognise the Forum and had subsequently spoken to a planning officer, who wanted to clarify details about the boundary and consultation.

(a). Boundary: The Council are happy with the northern boundary (the Barnet/Camden boundary). James said the western boundary will exempt the Cricklewood & Kilburn town centre areas. The Council had asked to clarify the Finchley Road boundary with the residents group on the Frogal side; James said he had emailed them. This leaves the southern boundary, which follows the WH ward boundary and is not very clear. In the process of discussing this with the local residents association, WHGARA it had become clear – contrary to previous understandings – that WHGARA had yet to make a decision on whether or not to support the Forum. James had therefore invited the WHGARA officers (Stephen, John & Brigid) to the meeting to discuss their position.

Stephen explained that WHGARA had discussed the issue briefly previously but had yet to come to decision; this would be made at a meeting on 9th October. He said it was important that members of the group make the final decision. Various views were expressed: Forum members said they thought it would be hard for WHGARA to express its views on the development of the area, particularly the Interchange, if they excluded themselves from the Forum; Brigid said she thought the Forum was pro-development and didn't have much support in the south of the West Hampstead area. James said the issue of the boundary was difficult to resolve as the WHGARA area, the WH ward boundary, the WH town centre and the South Hampstead conservation area all had different boundaries; he said if WHGARA decided not to support the Forum, the southern boundary of the NDF would probably be the railway line. The Forum agreed to await the decision of WHGARA and to respect the decision once made.

(b). Consultation: James said council officers were also keen to encourage more consultation, although he felt most of these issues had been addressed in the Statement of Community Involvement, which accompanied the application. James said he tried a new powerpoint presentation at the previous evening's WHAT meeting; this will be developed and can be presented to other groups. Joan said older people could be involved by Kove and AgeUKCamden. Sue said she would like to use video to involve youth groups and schools.

4. Further comments on first draft of the Plan:

It was pointed out that the preservation and improvement of green space in the area was very important. Mention of green space should also include private gardens. James said a number of people, including those from the WHAT committee, had suggested the Plan have a series of policies; James said these would be incorporated into future drafts. There was a discussion about whether the Plan should seek to detail the particular types of housing in particular areas, eg mansion blocks & rows of Victorian terraces. Flick said there should be a presumption in favour of preserving the look and feel of the area.

5. Future plans:

James said September, October & November would be a second period of consultation for the Forum. He said he or other officers would be happy to talk to other local groups about the work of the Forum and the development of the Plan.

In October there would be a public meeting of the Forum, jointly organised with WHAT. Members said it was important to invite and involve more people than 'the usual suspects'. There was a desire for publicity to be at the new farmers' market; in shops and local businesses; and at other public events. Suggestions for poster locations also included on trees; doctors' surgeries; schools; nurseries; community centres; parks; and cafes.

6. AOB:

James said there is a Camden Council organised Development Management Forum to discuss the redevelopment of 65 & 67 Maygrove Road. This is on Wednesday 3rd October at Sidings Community Centre, 150 Brassey Road, at 6.30pm. The proposed redevelopment of the site involves demolishing the two existing buildings and the construction of approximately 100 residential units over four storeys.

7. Next meetings:

A public meeting (jointly organised with WHAT) will be held on **Monday 22nd October** at 7.30pm, West Hampstead Library.

The next Forum meeting will be on **Thursday 29th November** at 7.30pm, venue tbc.