

Fortune Green & West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2013 at West Hampstead Library

Present: James Earl (Chair), Joan Moffatt, Sue Richards, David Richards, Mila Tanya Griebel, Brigid Shauhnessy, Stephen Nathan, Carlton Johnson, Tom Smith, Richard Burdett, Patricia Cook, James Little, Ian Cohen, Claus Thierbach, Jane Evans, Nick Jackson, Cllr Nancy Jirira & Sue Measures.

1. Welcome & apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from: Mark Hutton, Virginia Berridge, John Eastwood, Cllr Flick Rea, Mark Stonebanks, Linda Sluys, Cllr Gillian Risso-Gill, Richard Loftus & Cllr Keith Moffitt.

2. Minutes of the last meeting – 22nd April:

We now have more than 100 people on the mailing list and more than 340 Twitter followers.

We can't request an all-postal referendum; the vote has to be like a local election.

Another S106 meeting had been held on 16th May. James had subsequently written in to say most NDF members support giving £50,000 to the proposed Post Office centre on Sherriff Road; the NDF wants all community centres in the area to benefit from payments; and the NDF doesn't support an expanded computer centre in the Library for the students from the Blackburn Road development.

3. NDF application decision:

Camden Council has now formally recognised the Forum and the Area we cover. James thanked all the individuals and groups who'd written in supporting the application. Now the NDF is an official body, it means we can now go ahead with our engagement plans.

4. Logo competition winner:

This had been announced on our Twitter account. The winning design was by Purni Gupta, a locally based freelance graphic designer. A couple of people thought the blue on the logo gave the impression that the NDF was a Conservative Party group; however there was no agreement on a colour not being used by a political party.

5. Engagement plans for May, June & July:

A draft schedule of engagement had been circulated.

There had been an article about the NDF in the Ham & High last week; it's hoped there'll be an article in the CNJ too.

Work needs to be done on schools engagement; volunteers are needed. Mila said Beckford had a summer fair we might be able to attend. Emmanuel might have a summer event too.

An event with the Sidings youth group will be organised; their 'community reporters' could be used. We can also have an event with the early years group and parents.

A workshop for under 45s, organised by the West Hampstead Life blog, had been held at the Alice House the previous evening. James had given a short presentation and answered questions along with Jonathan & Flick; the event had been useful in hearing from a different set of voices with different attitudes. A number of issues had been discussed including housing, shops, traffic, parking & public transport. A full report will be published on the blog. Another event might be held later in the year.

A draft leaflet to go to all homes had been circulated; comments welcome.

Volunteers will be needed to deliver the leaflets; it was suggested each member could be allocated a street. It was suggested there should also be a poster, which could be attached to trees & lamp posts; as well as for local noticeboards; newsagents, estate agents, cafes, pubs, medical centres and community centres.

We've asked for a mention in the Camden Magazine.

Events are planned for every Saturday during June, starting with the lunch/film on Fortune Green on Sat 1st. Street surgeries are due to take place on Sat 8th; locations could include Templar House & Lithos Road – surgeries could take place in the evenings too.

More could be done to target ethnic minority groups, including via the three community centres.

Businesses in the Area will be targeted w/b Monday 3rd – Nick offered to lead this; volunteers are needed.

Walkabouts will take place of both Fortune Green & West Hampstead wards on Sat 15th; suggested routes had been circulated; comments welcome.

There will be a stall at the Farmers' Market on Sat 22nd & Sat 29th.

There will be a stall at the Jester Festival on Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th July.

James stressed it was important that as many people as possible volunteered for these events; even volunteering for one hour at one event would be useful. Weekly emails will be sent out to keep members informed and aware.

6. Funding application:

Members of the committee have been working on a grant application for £7,000 from Locality. This will be submitted later in the week. It's hoped this will, in part, pay for the engagement work listed above; as well as paying for outside professional help with future drafts of the Plan.

7. 4th draft of the Plan:

This had been circulated and published on the website; comments are welcome until 31st May.

James said the purpose of drawing up drafts was to provide a framework for discussions; nothing in the draft is set in stone; text can easily be amended, deleted or added to.

Members of the committee had met Camden Council planners earlier in the day for detailed discussions on the 4th draft; they were broadly supportive of the content. They are also working on a document about the West Hampstead Growth Area (WHGA), which we will work with them on – details to follow.

A 5th draft – mainly an update taking in the Camden officer comments, along with some rewording of policies – will be published in mid-June, so we have a fully up to date document in time for the Jester Festival.

A number of comments were raised, including:

- Does the document treat the area as a whole? We can't change the WHGA boundaries.
- Dave said he opposed the spread of Conservation Areas.
- There were questions about working on drafts of the Plan while still engaging with residents and business – is it possible to do both?
- Height is still a key issue, especially for the WHGA – can we limit at six storeys?
- We are still awaiting detailed evidence from the 2011 Census; this will be included when available.
- Camden planners are happy with the new Vision & Objectives.
- We're told we can't limit basements to one storey; members disagreed.
- Camden planners want Policy 4 (roads/traffic) removed; members disagreed.

8. Any other business:

None

9. Next meeting:

The next NDF meeting will be on **Thursday 20th June**, 7.30pm, venue tbc.