

Fortune Green & West Hampstead Neighbourhood Development Forum

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 31st May at WHCC

Present: James Earl (Chair), Keith Moffitt (Vice-chair), Mark Stonebanks (Treasurer), Nick Jackson (Communications officer), Jill Hood, Jane Evans, Ian Cohen & Claus Thierback.

1. Welcome & apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Virginia Berridge, Mark Hutton, Joan Moffatt, Sue Measures, Cllr Flick Rea & Cllr Gillian Risso-Gill.

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

James said a draft application had been submitted to Camden Council to recognise the Forum and the Area we have designated.

James had been sent census data for the two wards from 2001. It was felt this was probably out of date and we would await the 2011 census data, which is due later this year.

156 West End Lane – Keith said the lease held by Travis Perkins was about to expire; they're trying to extend it, but it's unlikely they'll get much more than a year from Camden Council. The Council staff working in the building will move to a new building in King's Cross, once it's built.

3. Update on NDPs:

James & Nick had attended an event on 15th May organised by Urban Design London. This was attended by various groups either working on NDPs or about to form NDFs – some cover very small areas; some are very well advanced; some are going into great detail. Some London boroughs are supportive of the process, others less so; CC appear to be one of the better ones. Nick also attended a 'design surgery' – he said this was useful and we could make a number of comments on the design of new buildings in the area; once we are designated as a Forum by CC we will have considerable potential power over planning in our area; it will be a challenge to draw up a Plan in a year. Mark went to a workshop on urban planning; he said it was important to get people submitting ideas about design/planning. Ian suggested that future events could be attended by other members of the Forum.

There was a discussion about how much detail our Plan needs to go in to. There are differing views on this; we will need to look at the existing plans and areas such as the Interchange.

Keith said the next on Area Forum on Tuesday 19th June would have the NDP on the agenda.

4. Initial consultation:

James said that he was proposing an initial period of consultation during June & July to see what people living and working in the area want from the Plan. He proposed some questions to be circulated to members of the Forum and local groups.

It was suggested there could be an online survey (with either yes/no or agree/disagree answers) that could be circulated. It was agreed to keep such a survey fairly short and quick to complete. Keith said he would draft some questions.

Suggested questions included what people like about the area; future development; height of new buildings; provision of shops/amenities etc.

Such a questionnaire could form the basis of our Jester Festival stall; it could also be circulated via the library/shops/businesses/local groups.

5. Jester Festival stall:

Volunteers and help will be needed for both days (Saturday 30th June & Sunday 1st July, 12-6pm).

Ian said BAM might have a gazebo they could lend us; Nick said he could provide a table.

Mark said a display would be important; he will start work on a photographic project to document good/bad developments in the area – suggestions welcome.

James said he would circulate a rota for the stall and ask for volunteers for hourly slots.

The stall will also have information about the Forum; contact details etc. Mark said it was important that people filled out information (eg email addresses) at the stall, rather than take blank forms away to fill out later.

6. Funding/bank account:

Mark had the application for an account at Barclays Bank; he and James will be the joint signatories. Once the account is opened, details will be circulated for donations from individuals and groups.

7. Future plans:

James outlined a suggested timetable for the work of the Forum for the rest of the year.

June/July will be focused on the initial consultation, which will lead to a first draft of the Plan being written and presented to a meeting at the end of July. Feedback will lead to a second draft to be discussed at a meeting in September. October/November will see a second consultation and a public meeting, leading to a final draft being published in December/January. The aim would then be to formally submit the plan in early 2013.

It was agreed that this was an ambitious timetable, but that most of it was possible to achieve with enough willing volunteers.

8. Any other business:

Mark suggested a walkabout of the Area to discuss issues of concern and to give people an idea about existing developments. This could happen on a Saturday morning.

There was discussion about the West End Green Conservation Area and how this could work into the Plan.

There is also a conservation area for South Hampstead which covers the south-west corner of our Area.

Nick suggested a 'skills audit' of members of the Forum to see if particular members could help with particular issues.

9. Next meeting:

James said he would hold a drop in session on **Monday 25th June** for anyone interested in discussing any aspect of the Plan. The will be at the Alliance pub on Mill Lane from 7-9pm.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 26th July** at 7.30pm – venue tbc.