

FitzWest

Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum

www.FITZWEST.ORG/wordpress

MEETING: Annual General Meeting
DATE & TIME: Monday 25th June 2018, at 6.00PM
LOCATION: Fitzrovia Centre, Foley Street, W1

Those present:

Councillors from West End and Marylebone High Street wards

Executive Committee:
Nick Bailey (Secretary)
Sharon Banoff
Yoram Blumann (Treasurer)
Barbara Corr
Gwilym Harbottle (Membership)
Julia Haythorn
Vivien Hughes
Wendy Shillam

A total of about 30 people representing local businesses and residents attended the meeting.

1. Chair for the Meeting

Gwilym Harbottle agreed to chair the meeting and he welcomed all present.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

It was agreed that there was no point in seeking to agree these given the passage of times. There were no matters arising.

3. Presentation of the Accounts

Yoram Blumann circulated a copy of the accounts and explained the key points. There were no questions.

4. Approval of the draft Constitution

Details of the constitution and the proposed changes had been circulated to the meeting. Below is a summary:

NOTE ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION The Area and the Forum. The Designated Area can be seen on the map here: <http://fitzwest.org/wordpress/fitzwest-area-map/>)

On 28 March 2014, the Area was designated as a neighbourhood area:
<file:///C:/Users/gh/Downloads/Fitzrovia%20West%20Designation%20Notice.pdf>

On 5 February 2015 the Forum was designated as a Neighbourhood Forum:
<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhood-forums#neighbourhood-forum-applications>

Having been designated, the Forum can create a neighbourhood plan for presentation to residents and businesses in the Area in a referendum. See
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning-2>.

Mission and objectives. The mission of the Forum is to work towards a habitable, sustainable and neighbourly community. The objectives are to promote Fitzrovia's wellbeing, produce a Neighbourhood Plan and foster community spirit, local democracy and civic pride.

Key principles. The Forum is open to all who live and work in the area or are elected council members. Day to day business is to be run by an elected Executive tasked with promoting equality and representing the area fairly and equitably. Meetings are to be publicised on the website and open to the public.

Membership (section 2). Membership is open to over 16s who live or work in the area, businesses and organisations in the area and relevant council members. Section 2 also deals with the mechanics of joining and leaving. **Executive (section 3).** There must be 10 **[subsequently changed to 6]** members but additional members can be co-opted (3.1, 3.5). There is provision for compulsory standing down and re-election (3.2, 3.6). There must be a balance between residents and business (3.3). The Executive has a duty to represent the whole community (3.15).

Meetings (sections 4 and 5). There must be regular general meetings of the Forum (4.1, 4.3). Either the Executive or 10% of members can call a general meeting (4.2). The quorum is 21 (4.7). Notices of meetings are to be by email or post if no email address is given (5.1).

Finance (section 6). The Forum has the usual powers to raise and hold funds. **Conflicts of interest (section 7).** Provision is made both in relation to the Executive and to the Forum.

Amendments, review, dissolution (section 8). Amendments to the constitution have to be supported by 75% of the vote at a general meeting, as does dissolution of the Forum (8.1, 8.2). The Executive is to review the position 4 years after designation (8.5).

The meeting agreed:

1. To reduce the minimum number of members of the Executive;
2. To enable the Executive to seek charitable status if thought appropriate as this might attract more donations;
3. To make clear in the Constitution that all meetings (including those of the Executive) should be open and all agendas and minutes should be accessible on the FitzWest website (as stated in the constitution).

With those amendments the constitution was agreed.

5. Election of the Executive Committee

The following agreed to stand and were duly elected:

Nick Bailey R+B
Sharon Banoff R
Yoram Blumann R
Barbara Corr R
Ian Johnstone R
Gwilym Harbottle R
Julia Haythorn R
Dan Johnson B
Chris Shaw R+B
Wendy Shillam R+B

R = resident

B + business representative

6. Updates and Discussion

Neighbourhood Plan: Nick gave a brief update. A working group is expanding and revising the previous draft plan with advice and support from Tony Burton, a consultant with much experience in the field. An application has been made for ward funding to pay consultants, Urban Movement, to undertake a comprehensive study of how the green public realm might be enhanced with shared use of streets, partial closures and better use of paved areas. This is particularly important because FitzWest has no public open space or designated play space for children. The results of this study will be incorporated in the neighbourhood plan.

Oxford Street East: we were informed that WCC has decided to undertake its own study of Oxford Street over the summer and has promised extensive public consultation.

Greening: The Forum is promoting its own green project for the paved area at Carburton St/Great Titchfield St.

The meeting then broke into three groups to identify priorities in the following areas: Oxford Street East, greening and cycling, walking and public transport. Each group reported back as follows:

Oxford Street East

All should be consulted

Uses – keep the cachet and reputation as an international retail centre

Improve the environment

Keep bus services on the street

Allow electric taxis

Develop greening linked to the street

Have a clear strategic plan

Keep buses and taxis on Oxford St

Link green pockets on side streets

Consider the future of shops and retailing in general

Consider the impact of the Elizabeth line

Greening

Narrow and close streets

Create new spaces

Develop a master plan in phases

Pedestrianize some streets

Allow temporary, 'meanwhile' uses

Need for tree pruning

Make a play street by All Souls' school a priority

Do something with paved area at S end of Great Titchfield Street

Greenwalls

Guerrilla gardening

Support the National Park City project

Use planning gain, GLA grants and CIL to fund greening

Good example: greenwall of moss in Glasshouse St

Cycling, Walking, Public Transport

Promote 20 mph speed limit for all area

Pedestrianize whole area

Traffic calming through an integrated approach

24 hr parking restrictions

Make area pedestrian and cycling-friendly

Stop delivery drivers running engines and rationalise deliveries

- see NWECC scheme in Bond St (70% reduction)

Stop cars idling around BBC
Define E – W cycle route
Promote shared space, e.g. Bond St and Exhibition Road
Contra-flow cycle lanes needed

Barbara concluded with a short look at our use of streets, recommending that the Mayor's 'Healthy Streets' approach be applied to the streets of FitzWest. We could take the Barcelona 'Superblocks' model as a guide. We must ensure that children are safe walking and cycling to school in all the streets of FitzWest.

7. Any other Business

None

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting at 7.45 p.m.

Nick Bailey
Secretary