

Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum

Executive Meeting 12 December 2017

At the Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association

Minutes

Present:

Chris Shaw (CS)
Julia Haythorn (JH)
Sharon Banoff (SB)
Yoram Blumann (YB) - notetaker.

Apologies:

Gwilym Harbottle (GH)
Nick Bailey (NB)
Vivien Hughes
Jace Tyrrell
Wendy Shillam

Documents circulated by email prior to the meeting:

- Rubbish pilot scheme: results of consultation (circulated by CS on 7th December)
- Draft FitzWest response to Oxford Street West consultation (circulated by YB 11th December)
- Summary of FitzWest public meeting held 21 November re: Oxford Street West consultation.

Rubbish – Pilot Scheme - project report

CS referred to the report for Waste Collection in Fitzrovia prepared by WCC.

There were 31 responses; 78% thought that there was an improvement or no change.

The scheme has not changed the amount of waste recycled (76%) or led to an increase (14%).

However, 53% found it more difficult to comply with the new collection time bands.

Most learned about the scheme from a letter (62%), sign (10%) or through door knocking (17%).

WCC regards the pilot scheme as successful, and wishes to make the scheme permanent (a possible date for decision/implementation: 8 January 2018).

We discussed some of the issues highlighted during the pilot:

It has been observed that there is no coordination between collecting the rubbish, and dealing with the left overs by road sweepers. A coordinated approach would see to it that on a regular basis road sweepers would deal with any left over rubbish - or report large items left over from the collection.

The new contracts for cleansing are due to be reviewed in early 2018. It was suggested that we ask WCC to consider writing co-ordination between rubbish collection and road sweeping into the contract. *CS to write to WCC.*

Signs:

We now have the permanent signs and the temporary signs sited in the pilot area.

We prefer that the new signs be made permanent and the old signs be taken away.

There should be another review in 6 months time.

FitzWest website update on this project:

FitzWest understands that WCC decided that new collection times and arrangement would come in into effect post 8/1/18 and would be reviewed six months later.

This was based on a survey conducted by WCC [as detailed above].

Greening Project:

No Update

Fund Raising and further updates on NP drafts:

As per GW's email dated 10th Dec:

“Just to report that with Tony Burton and Yoram's help I have put in a ward funding application to both wards for a total of £10k to cover the two stages which Tony recommended.

Ultimately Tom Kimber did not wish to quote for this but Tony did.

The applications have to be decided by 22 December. If we don't get the money we'll have to look further afield.

I should add that Locality who previously funded us only have £1,000 available before April but will have more after that.”

Ginkgo Trees:

As FitzWest raised the issue, others around WCC picked up the theme, and have been in contact with WCC.

CS reported correspondence with the Tree officer at WCC and some support received from J Glanz-West End Ward Councillor.

WCC promised to source a mature evergreen tree to replace the Ginkgo tree, and J Glanz agreed to meet the costs from the ward budget.

Oxford Street West Consultation:

YB reported that the deadline for responses has been extended from 17th December to 3rd January 2018 - following representations made by WASF members.

The draft response was circulated on the 11th Dec; YB explained that he composed the draft, GH edited the initial draft, producing a clearer and focused response.

This was in line with the notes produced by NB recording the views agreed by our public meeting on 21st Nov.

YB added that TFL had not begun examining their plans for Oxford Street East (“OSE”), and the earliest date quoted for the consultation was mid-June 2018.

Work on the project would start in mid January, and we were asked to be involved.

In particular, the road modelling team asked us to provide a list of streets for measuring traffic flows etc.

YB mentioned Goodge Street - it is much narrower than Mortimer Street, and, if converted to a two way street, pavements would have to be narrowed. There is a legal requirement that pavements should be at least 1.80m wide - this may well be impossible to achieve if roadspace is widened again.

That, in turn would impact any possible routing of route 390. At this point, London Buses have not even thought of their bus plans for OSE.

YB reported that a further meeting would be held the following day with London Buses, saying that he will try to find out whether London Buses have some thoughts on the impact of OSE and West One [TCR/Gower street road scheme] on bus service and interchange at TCR, maintaining a bus link between Oxford Street, Holborn and the City.

YB also highlighted the case of low earning workers [cleaners, security guards, shop/catering workers] who can only afford the much cheaper bus fares.

Future meetings:

With reference to the dates listed in NB's email dated 11th Dec:

It was suggested that the January meeting would be postponed to 23rd January – Tuesday,

The February meeting would not take place, unless sub groups wish to meet.

The March meeting would be put forward to the week starting 6th March - a preference was expressed for 7th March:

Future meetings of the exec committee:

Tuesday 23rd January

Tuesday 7th March

Thursday 17 April

Monday 14 May

all at 6pm.