

Minutes of Fitzwest Executive Committee

Date: Monday 4th February 2019

Time: 6pm to 7:40pm

Venue: NVEC Offices, 3rd Floor, Heddon House, 149-151 Regent Street, London W1

In Attendance: Gwilym Harbottle (GH) - Acting Chair/Facilitator
Ian Johnstone (IJ) – Minutes
Wendy Shillam (WS)
Julia Haythorn (JH)
Sharon Banoff (SB)
Yoram Blumann (YB)
Nick Bailey (NB)
Christopher Shaw (CS)
Barbara Corr (BC)
Dan Johnson (DJ)

Cllr, Pancho Lewis (PL)
Cllr, Timothy Barnes (TB)

Apologies: Cllr, Jonathan Glanz (JG)

1.0 Welcome and introductions. The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Cllr. Lewis and Barnes were welcomed.

2.0 QUESTIONS FOR THE FORUM

No Questions on this occasion

3.0 COMMENTS ON DRAFT 8 OF THE PLAN

3.1 YB requested specifically adding the points:

Policy 6.2 - add galleries and showrooms.

Policy B2 – use of vacant floors.

3.2 CAZ increased to include local retail clusters.

3.3 CS requested a greater emphasis on Air Quality, can this be highlighted as a separate section in the plan – add to paragraph 8.4. We should align ourselves to the same aspirations as Westminster and Camden. NB will discuss this with WCC and include as aspirational.

3.4 WS can we have an environmental checklist for new planning applications.

3.5 Timings of the plan. NB sent draft to Lucas Van Der Steen for review. Executive should look at feedback on 7th March and agree a formal consultation at the 1st April meeting.

3.6 FWF thanked NB for undertaking the draft plan.

ACTION:

NB to revise plan re 3.1 to encourage new usage, and discuss with Westminster.

WS offered to produce new diagram to identify new retail clusters.

4.0 ACTIONS ON THE PLAN

4.1 We need to fix a date and venue for the public consultation. YB suggested Sainsburys Welcome Centre @25 Howland St (Contact: Alexandra Boss)
We should tie this into the AGM. Date suggestion w/c 13th May 1pm – 8pm

4.2 Employ a graphic designer (from local business) to produce information boards.

4.3 NB produce a summary of draft plan to distribute in libraries and issue to local media (evening standard, Metro, Local paper etc).

4.4 TB door to door flyers are a good engagement with local community. Suggestion to include a simple survey: agree/disagree with actions.

4.5 Do we need a project manager? Request Tony Burton advise on direction for project management.

WS it is reasonable to request professional assistance as FWF has to be as professional as the local authority.

4.6 GH suggested setting up a consultation subcommittee (GH/NB/YB/WS/JH) to establish a key list of tasks, establish next steps and agree timing. Tuesday 12th Feb 6pm @ Almost Saturday Cafe, Foley St.

4.7 PL/TB the forum can apply for ward funding from WCC to support projects.

4.8 DJ NWEAC have a graduate trainee who could assist FWF activity

4.9 DJ NWEAC informed FWW that they will contribute £1,500, and the executive thanked them for this contribution.

5.0 MARKET PLACE GREENING TRIAL – UPDATE

5.1 YB gave an update from meeting with steering group 10/01/19 (Great Portland Estate/NEWC/NRP Westminster/TFL/ARUP).

5.2 YB proposed that the chosen scheme (combination of options 1 and 2) should include Margaret Court to the North.

5.3 DJ informed FWF the consensus of the steering committee was to put resource into a permanent scheme rather than temporary. The Executive welcomed this development and thanked Dan and NVEC for their continual support and hard work on this project.

5.4 DJ CiL funding is available to support the scheme with quality surfacing materials. Executive requested materials to be of a quality appropriate to both conservation and non-conservation areas.

6.0 DISCUSSIONS WITH WESTMINSTER AND CROWN ESTATE - UPDATE

6.1 CS proposal, remove vehicles from Oxford St. (except buses and maybe taxis) between peak pedestrian times 11am-8pm, to reduce congestion and improve pedestrian safety. Servicing of retail and deliveries can happen outside of these times. Zero investment solution.

6.2 DJ referenced NVEC traffic modelling, introduction of clean fuel vehicles with zero emissions. TFL are reviewing bus routes and have removed approx. 1/3rd of busses

6.3 WS referenced congested stairs and access to Oxford Circus tube station at the 4 quadrants, plus lack of lifts. Possible solution to have stairs and lifts to tube station inside department stores.

6.4 YB observations on recent redirecting of some bus routes – gridlock and increased pollution. Tests with diffusion tubes showed an increase measurement of 70 (standard level is 40).

6.5 It was agreed the Executive would not support the diversion of buses around Oxford Circus and instead would suggest point 6.1. DJ said NVEC would not be able to support this suggestion as they support the Crown Estate and WCC's plan.

ACTION

YB raise alternative bus routes suggestion with WCC.

7.0 AOB

No new items were raised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th March 2019 at 6pm

Facilitator: NB

Minutes: GH

Venue Note: NEWC have been extremely generous hosting the FWF meetings over the last few months, however given the growth in size of attendees, DJ has suggested we may wish to find alternative arrangements with larger capacity.

NB will distribute the agenda on 04/03/19 please notify of any items to be added.

Executive to advise on alternative venue location by mid-February.

Future Meetings Structure:

[Monday 1st April](#) F:SB M: NB

[Thursday 9th May](#) F:WS M SB