

## EXECUTIVE/CIL COMMITTEE MEETING

Sainsbury Wellcome Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6pm

### MINUTES

Present: Nick Bailey (minutes), Yoram Blumann, Barbara Corr, Mark Gazaleh, Julia Haythorn (Chair), Ian Johnstone, Lee Lyons (Fitzrovia Partnership),

Apologies: Dee Corsi (NWEC), Gwilym Harbottle, Denise Julien

1. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were accepted.

2. Report on NCIL Projects:

Nick circulated a summary of income and expenditure on NCIL to date. We have £254,262 available.

- *Planters*

The planters are all in place with two WhatsApp groups to coordinate activities. One plant may need replacing. Topsoil is still awaited for the Hanson St planters. All Souls school may take over some planters in the spring.

- *Soho Poly Theatre*

Work has been completed on the theatre and some events have taken place. They are hoping to take over a classroom space opening onto Riding House St to provide a bar and reception area. The forum may be able to use the space for meetings in future. An opening event is likely in May.

- *All Souls School*

WCC has recently awarded the school £100,000 from our NCIL for preparatory works on the drainage under the playground. So far there has been no response from Alex. Nick will contact her to find out her intentions and whether she is able to get technical assistance from Arup's or elsewhere.

- *Market Place*

Yoram reported that there had been a meeting of the freeholders. There are still interested in carrying out the improvements although WCC will expect them to provide 50% of the cost. The freeholders are also forming a new company to manage the project. Nick & Yoram reported on an Oxford Street Advisory Board meeting where it was suggested work on the south end of Great Titchfield St has

been programmed. Nick had contacted the WCC Highways Dept to see if Market Place might be included at the same time.

- *Street trees for Great Titchfield Street (GTS)*

Nine trees have been planted outside All Souls school. Trees may only be possible if there is space for them in build-outs on the road. It's a challenge as there is much competition from other uses and the bays are currently at 100% usage. The value of the street's varied architecture was also mentioned – and the risk that this may be obscured by trees. There is a possibility that space may be found on GTS if some of its bays/uses are moved close-by to adjacent streets.

- *CCTV*

There was a discussion about the use of CCTV in Fitzrovia and in the Oxford St project. Yoram agreed to raise this with the OSP team. Mark raised the issue of pedestrian safety in Great Portland St and what more could be done to monitor activity and increase police security.

### 3. GTS Traffic Proposal

There was a discussion about the proposed junction improvements with Langham St. Full consultation is expected in February.

### 4. Traffic Study

Barbara reported on discussions with Cllr Adam Harrison regarding Camden contributing to a traffic study on both sides of the borough boundary. Yoram will apply for CIL funding on behalf of the FNA. The aim of the study will be to define traffic flows through the area, to identify intersections requiring changes and to identify streets and parts of streets which could be redesigned for pedestrians only or shared use. Indicative schemes in the Neighbourhood Plan would be a start and Lee mentioned a focus on Charlotte St and Chitty St on the Camden side. Cleveland St is also important because it forms part of the boundary between Camden and Westminster. Barbara agreed to write a draft brief by the next Forum meeting which could then be notified to the 2 boroughs, NRP consultants and fully costed.

### 5. Financial Report

Yoram said everything is in order and that there was nothing further.

### 6. Any other business

Yoram raised the issue of the Seymour Centre where WCC was using NCIL funding from the Marylebone Forum to meet a shortfall at the Centre. There had not been any consultation about this and the Forum wanted to use the funding for a new community centre in the Moxon St development.

7. Date of next meeting: 20 March (Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, 6pm)

Many thanks to the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for hosting this meeting and refreshments.