Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of Committee meeting 6.30pm Wed 18 June 2014 at The Magdala, South Hill Park, NW3

Present Janine Griffis (chair), Carissa Bub, Bob Buhr, Cllr Tom Currie, Vicki Harding, Alex Nicoll, Fiona Reeve, Kimry Schlacter, Ellen Solomons, Cllr Stephen Stark, Stephen Taylor (secretary)

Apologies Cllr Siobhan Baillie, David Castle, Ben van Bruggen, Stuart Flude, Melissa Remus Elliot, Andrew Parkinson, Laurie White, Sebastian Wocker, Jeremy Wootliff

Advising Andrew Haslam-Jones, Sowmya Pathasarathy

1. Minutes of previous meeting

We approved the minutes of our meeting on 15 May 2014.

2. Vision subgroup

The group commissioned BvB, KS and Sowmya Pathasarathy to draft a statement of the Forum's vision. A first draft has gone to Camden Council and to Alex Munro, planning consultant. They have confirmed the draft is on the right lines.

Action: KS 15/7 Present the vision statement for approval at our next meeting.

Action: AN 15/7 Devise plan for publicising our vision statement this autumn.

Action: JG 15/7 Solicit evidence on commercial rents from Jessica Learmond-Criqui and Eva Paccoe.

Action: FR 29/6 Engage volunteers for Hampstead Summer Fair.

BB: Hampstead Police Station has been bought by the Education Funding Agency but it seems that Abacus will not be using the entire site. What will happen with the rest of the site is uncertain. Neighbours are watching for planning applications.

Resolved: The Forum has so far no view on the future of Hampstead Police Station.

3. Community Engagement subgroup

Two impending events:

29/6 Stall at the Hampstead Heath Community Summer Festival Summer Festival in South End Green

6/7 Stall at the Hampstead Big Fair on Hampstead High St

CB: We will have a table with a screen or mural, and a quiz or something eyecatching to provoke questions

SS: Have a container in which to collect business cards; offer a botte of wine as a draw prize.

Resolved: Questions to the public at the fairs about SEG traffic would be apposite but must not suggest the Forum will control this.

SS: New End School (of which he is a governor) will hold a fête this summer. SS will pass information about the Forum to the school's head, if she would be interested in joining.

Action: JG 15/07 Arrange a meeting with local clergy and invite us.

Action: JG 31/7 Meet the NW3 business group in July.

Action: CB ST 30/9 Hold a meeting with SEG traders to solicit support for the Forum's work and to explore possible projects.

JG: The Gayton Road Festival is the 6th September and we can have a table there too if someone would volunteer to run it for a few hours.

JG: The Commonplace web app has offered us a first-year subscription of £1,000, reduced from £3,000.

ST: Commonplace would be of largely cosmetic value unless used as part of a social-media campaign targeted at children and young adults.

Resolved: No action. We will consider proposals from the CE subgroup.

4. Finance

JG: SF and JG have postponed applying for a bank account and will continue to rely on the treasurer of the Pilgrim's to Willoughby Residents Association to handle grant monies for the time being.

5. Communications

JG: Membership is about 450. People join at or following events.

Action: AN FR ST 15/7 Propose visual branding for website and stationery for approval by Committee

Action: AN FR ST 15/7 Review website to improve online engagement

6. Camden's consultation on our application to be designated

JG: Asked Camden what duty we have to publicise our application to be designated as a Neighbourhood Forum. Camden says we have no obligation, but anyone eligible – including committee members – may comment during the consultation period. Positive comments would be taken into consideration. Camden would confer with us to resolve any negative comments. Barring complications, Camden should approve our application within six weeks of the close of the consultation period (26/7).

Action: JG 30/6 Write to members asking them to respond favourably to the consultation.

7. Proposal to appoint Linda Chung as an adviser to us

Action: JG 29/6 Ask Linda Chung to advise us.

8. Other business

JG: The Hampstead Conservation Area statement is to be revised soon. BvB will represent us at a workshop on 23/06.

KS: Angela Koch convenes social meetings of neighbourhood planners. The next is on 17/7 near Waterloo Station.

Action: KS 23/6 Circulate details to us.

ST: The Magdala has been sold. The new owner will refit the pub in Sep, when the present staff will leave.

JG: On 20-21/6 the Royal Free Hospital will exhibit its plans for extensions.

VH: Has been unable to meet Camden's outgoing Tree Officer Tom Little who is leaving next week, but has a planned meeting with Nick Bell – recently appointed Tree Officer. He has experience at RHS Wisley, and 6 months working with Camden's public trees. His planning experience is unknown.

Action: SS 29/6 Invite VH to his meeting with Tom Little.

9. Next meeting

6.30 p.m. Tue 15 July at The Magdala.