

HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, 6 May 2015, 6:30 pm

Attending:

David Castle (DC)
Linda Chung (LC)
Stuart Flude (SF)
Janine Griffis (JG)
Andrew Haslem-Jones (AHJ)
Vicki Harding (VH)
Eileen Neilson (EN)
Sowmya Parthasarathy (SP)
Fiona Reeve (FR)
Stephen Taylor (ST)
Ben van Bruggen (BvB)

Also Attending:

Peter Kohl

Apologies:

Councillor Siobhan Baillie
Councillor Theo Blackwell
Councillor Tom Currie
Councillor Stephen Stark
Bob Buhr
Melissa Remus Elliot
Alex Nicoll
Jeremy Wootliff

Location: 14 Denning Road NW3 1SU

1. Minutes of Last Meeting; Matters Arising

The minutes of the last Committee meeting, held on 1 April 2015, were approved without amendment.

As to matters arising, JG reported that the Forum's comments to Camden's draft Local Plan had been submitted, and gave special thanks to DC and BvB for preparing these comments.

2. Conservation Area Statement Review

JG reported that all areas within the Hampstead Conservation Area now had been assigned to residents for review, except for the Cannon Place area. JG and DC agreed to conduct the review of the Cannon Place neighbourhood. The target date for submission of draft reports was the end of May.

3. Update on Projects

- A. Protect our Pubs Campaign – ST gave an update on the Forum's "protect our pubs" campaign. He reported that a sub-group had been formed for the purpose of gathering support for the proposed application for each pub in the Forum Area to be

listed by Camden Council as an "asset of community value." A survey had been posted on the Forum's website asking residents to give their reasons for supporting their favourite pubs for listing, which thus far had received a good number of responses. In addition, the pubs project had received favourable coverage in the *Ham & High* and *Camden New Journal*. The sub-group also was planning to produce short promotional video clips of each pub.

- B. Traffic Study – ST gave an update on the traffic study project. A sub-group had been formed, and was focusing its efforts on studying the effects of traffic on air quality. The sub-group was in the process of assembling all available published information on these effects. ST noted that it would be necessary to conduct air quality measurements in specific locations within the Area, in particular those areas adjacent to principal roads. LC asked whether it may be possible to take measurements on "traffic free" days and compare these measurements to days of normal traffic. ST agreed that this was a good idea, and also suggested that measurements should be taken and compared for both "in" and "out" of school term times. ST noted that it would be appropriate to plan for levels of fewer car use, consistent with the decreasing levels of car use nationwide.
- C. Bat and Tree Surveys – VH reported that the tree project should aim to create a new tree mapping system, as none was presently in place. Otherwise, VH said that she hoped to give a further report on these surveys at the next meeting.

4. **Communications**

ST reported that the Forum's website was now linked with Facebook and Twitter accounts through Nationbuilder interfaces. Also, ST noted that Nationbuilder had added enhanced functionality to the website, such as the pub survey currently being conducted through the website. AHJ suggested that bi-monthly emails to members, updating members on Forum activities, may be a useful way to keep members interested, and could be more effective than emails sent more frequently.

5. **Review of Building Community Options Paper**

A draft options paper for the Building Community part of the proposed Plan had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting. JG led a discussion of each item in the options paper. The draft options paper was approved to move forward to the next stage of preparation for the Plan, with the following comments and suggested changes:

- a. The list of community "assets" should refer to community "facilities" to avoid confusion with "assets of community value" that have a technical status under planning law.
- b. DC suggested that The Armoury and Keats Library should be added to the list of community facilities.
- c. SP suggested that it would be useful to identify the freehold ownership of buildings to help determine whether they should be included on the list of community facilities.
- d. There was a discussion whether the Plan could restrict or prohibit sales of community facilities, in addition to determining the allocation or use of CIL funds from sales – such as the proposed sale of Wells Court. It was suggested that restrictions on sales of community housing facilities perhaps could best be dealt with in the Housing Policies portion of the Plan.

- e. In regard to healthcare facilities, it was suggested to add protection as a goal, so that the Plan would help to "improve and protect" such facilities. Also, it was suggested that healthcare facilities should be prohibited from being sold unless a replacement was provided for "within the Area" as it would be unsatisfactory to provide for a replacement in another part of Camden.
- f. There was significant concern expressed in relation to additions in school facilities, especially in regard to the possible increases in traffic that could result. The Committee approved the proposed language in the option paper regarding a requirement that any increases in school places be accompanied by an enforceable traffic policy.

As there was not enough time to discuss the draft Local Economy options paper, JG asked Committee members to circulate any comments or suggestions that they may have on the draft paper.

6 AOB

DC asked about the possibility of receiving additional grant funding for the Forum. JG noted that additional grant funding may be available, but only if and when the Forum could show specific needs for such funding. The Forum currently had approximately £400 of unspent funds.

7. Dates of future meetings

Wednesday, 3 June 2015
Wednesday, 8 July 2015
Wednesday, 9 September 2015
Wednesday, 7 October 2015
Wednesday, 4 November 2015