

HAM AND PETERSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM COMMITTEE

Notes of meeting at Ham Library: Thursday 19th February 2015 at 7.30pm

1. Present:

Justine Glynn (Vice Chair)
Andy Rogers (Acting secretary)
Brian Willman
David Williams
Andree Frieze
Jean Loveland (part)

Apologies:

Sam Payne
Geoff Bond
Penny Frost
Anne Powell

In view of the poor attendance it was agreed that no votes could be taken or decisions made: these notes record the brief discussion that took place and in addition incorporate a report from the Plan Drafting Team, the Team's proposed Terms of Reference, a first draft on Cycling for the Transport section of the Plan, and a Treasurer's Report.

IT IS ESSENTIAL IF THE FORUM IS TO CONTINUE THAT ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS REVIEW THESE DOCUMENTS SO THAT COMMENTS AND/OR APPROVAL CAN BE REVIEWED/AGREED AT THE NEXT FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING.

2. Last meeting

GB provided an email with comments on the 11 December meeting minutes and these have been incorporated as relevant in the following notes. PF also provided an email summarising the main H&P planning issues, to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

3. Committee structure

A discussion took place revolving around the composition of the committee. In view of various changes due to resignations/relocations (eg Peggy Curtis, Jude Holmes, Sam Payne, Andy Rogers, Joe Noble, Steve Pratley) it was clear that there are now only 16 Forum Committee members (see attached list), of which a "core" of ten are regular and active attendees (Andrew Beedham (rejoining as a co-optee?), Geoff Bond, Andree Frieze, Penny Frost, Justine Glynn, Anne Powell, Jean Loveland, Stan Smith, David Williams, Brian Willman). It was suggested that there should perhaps be some additional members (who can be co-opted) to bring the number of full members back up to 20 as specified in the Constitution.

JL said that members must be locally accountable and committed to the Forum: also the Constitution (being revised by DW and personnel changes) should be formally adopted. The notes provided by GB emphasise that members (and particularly those that are part of the Plan Drafting Team) should have no financial interest in the Plan that could be construed as an opportunity for commercial gain.

It was noted that the Russell School planning application had generated a great deal of local interest and this represented a possible source of new members.

AF said that it might be helpful to have a fixed day (eg Wednesday or Thursday) each month for the committee meetings and that these should be confirmed for the whole year, in advance. JG agreed to canvass all members for the best day.

GB has confirmed that the minutes of the public meeting / AGM have been circulated by email, but he needs a list of those to be notified by post.

4. Plan drafting team *[post meeting note]*

GB's email noted that the Plan should not be progressed until the Terms of Reference (as attached) and the Plan Objectives / Key Themes have been agreed and voted on by the committee. AR confirmed that this is understood: the Drafting Team has to date been reviewing other Neighbourhood Plans in production or adopted, prior to having a "brainstorming" session to draft the proposed Objectives, Themes and Structure for presentation to the Committee.

GB has also suggested that the Drafting Team should include non-planners and that its members could be invited to the main Forum Committee meetings: this was noted and will be considered, although it was evident from the review noted above that the most successful Neighbourhood Plans seem to have been prepared by planners or planning consultant firms.

Comments on the cycling review produced as a first draft (as attached) are welcomed and will be discussed at the next meeting. GB also proposed that Plan Drafting Team meetings (Agendas and Minutes) be circulated to Forum Committee members: it should be noted that PDT meetings are open to all.

In accordance with the requirement to consult with local landowners, JG, AB, AR and Chris Ruse, representing the PDT, attended a meeting with the West London Mental Health Trust to discuss the Cassell Hospital. As much of the information provided is confidential, this is a brief summary:

The Trust only occupies about half of the listed building and in view of its poor condition a business case is to be prepared regarding the future of the site overall. Redevelopment, for example with some elderly persons accommodation or "extra care" facilities, might be considered. In that event it will be necessary for the Forum to include in the Plan a policy regarding the development of the site as well as provision for the elderly, which is currently inadequate in Ham and Petersham as well as North Kingston: the PDT suggests that the Forum should commission an external consultant to prepare an evidence base for this.

5. Treasurer's update

See attached report. As there was not a quorum present it could not be agreed at this meeting.

6. Next Committee Meeting

It was suggested that the full committee should meet as soon as possible in view of the poor attendance at this meeting and the need to progress/agree the issues noted. JG to circulate a Doodlepoll enquiry to determine the best date.

The meeting closed at 8.15.

ANDY ROGERS