

MINUTES OF THE SJW NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM STEERING GROUP MEETING NO 4
HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2016 AT QUINTIN KYNASTON SCHOOL

PRESENT

Bill Tucker	(BT) Chair
Christine Cowdray	(CC)
David Burr	(DB)
Clive Beecham	(CB)
Dick Schumacher	(DS)
Jamie Buchan	(JB)
Maureen Butterworth	(MB)
Robert Orr-Ewing	(ROE)
Virginia Newman	(VN) Minutes

ACTION

1 CALL TO ORDER AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 The meeting was declared quorate. Apologies were received from Alex Atherton (AA), Richard Savours (RSa), Robin Snell (RSn) and Robert Ebdon (RE).

2 MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

- 2.1 The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 August 2016 were distributed at the meeting. Any comments to be submitted to BT/ VN and the minutes will be adjusted. The final minutes will be posted on the website for the record. **ALL**

3 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF A VISION STATEMENT FOR SJWNF

- 3.1 BT opened a discussion on the Vision Statement for the SJW Neighbourhood Forum by confirming that at the last General Meeting the members had empowered the Steering Group to further review the VS in the light of comments received at the meeting and then approve and adopt the VS.
- 3.2 BT had circulated a summary of all comments received with the proposed disposition noted for each (appended to these minutes). These comments were reviewed and discussed in turn.
- Items 1 & 2 - Inclusive and Diverse
DB was concerned that this statement was open to interpretation and not measurable and felt it should be omitted. CC suggested using the phrase 'socially cohesive' which was an appropriate planning term. It was finally agreed that the phrase would be omitted as its intended sentiment was implicit within the VS, and other planning guidance provided specific safeguards to ensure inclusion and diversity.
 - Item 3 – Various items
Agreed too detailed for Forum VS
 - Item 4 - Quality of life and health
Agreed reference to health should be added to VS
 - Item 5 – agreed items already covered
 - Item 6 – Promoting development/ investment
Agreed to change 'promote' to 'embrace'
 - Item 7 – Sustainability/ Community aspirations
Agreed reference to sustainability important to VS but further detail more applicable to Neighbourhood Plan.

- 3.3 A revised order for the bullet points was agreed to better reflect their significance.
- 3.4 DS proposed that the VS (with amendments noted) was adopted, seconded by CB. This was agreed unanimously.
- 3.5 BT to revise the VS as agreed, recirculate and post on the website. BT

4 APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

- 4.1 BT noted that any funding received must be spent within the same financial year and there was insufficient time for this in the current financial year. BT therefore suggested that an application be prepared for submission Feb 2017, requesting funding for next year (2016/17). This was agreed unanimously. RSa
- 4.2 BT suggested that a Financial Sub-Committee (FSC) be created to manage the process and requested that anyone willing to be part of this should contact him. ALL
- 4.3 BT commented that any funds received should be paid into the accounts of a company limited by guarantee, or an incorporated company. BT questioned whether the SJW Society could provide this facility. DS stated that this would not be possible as the Society was not incorporated. It was agreed that a form of indemnity insurance was required. BT to discuss way forward with FSC. BT/ FSG
- 4.4 It was agreed that meetings should be arranged with other NFs to establish how they manage funds/ indemnity issues. CC to arrange meeting with Kentish Town NF. VN to arrange meeting with Marylebone NF. BT/ CC/ VN

5 OUTLINE PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 5.1 BT circulated a diagram illustrating and summarising the process for developing a Neighbourhood Plan, and noted that there was much guidance available. The first three milestones had been completed and the following stages before writing the NP were
- Community Engagement and Involvement (ongoing)
 - Building the Evidence Base, then
 - Themes, Aims, Visions, Options
- 5.2 BT tabled a draft paper setting out the proposed next steps for developing a NP for SJW. This included proposed headings for subjects to be developed by subcommittees. VN had gathered the comments posted or raised at the last General Meeting into similar themes and it was proposed that each subcommittee would be led by a member of the Steering Group to develop one of the themes. It was noted that the schedule of comments from the meeting was the first evidence of public engagement.
- 5.3 VN noted that as well as identifying holes in existing planning documents, the NP could take Westminster's SPGs (Supplementary Planning Guidance) which were relevant to the area and give them more weight in planning law.
- 5.4 BT agreed to carry out an initial exercise of extracting issues from the Westminster City Plan which affect SJW. This can then be used to record the status of these issues and identify those which need to be given more weight by the NP, such as affordable housing. BT
- 5.5 JB identified the exercise that was required mapping WCC guidance against local wishes. It was suggested that it would be useful solicit comments on the subject areas, and keep a log of these.
- 5.6 The headings for the themes that had emerged for the NP were at present: ALL
- Built Environment
 - Land Use
 - Culture & Leisure
 - Education & Health
 - Transport

- Environment and Sustainability

It was agreed that Land Use should Include Business as a heading. BT asked that all Steering Group members review and comment on these headings and consider which ones they would be best suited to develop.

5.7 CC identified the headings used by Kentish Town NF in their plan as:

- Shopping& Working
- Design
- Housing
- Getting Around
- Green and Open Spaces
- Community & Culture
- Spatial Policies
- Site Specific Policies

5.8 CC had researched Kentish Town NP and advised that it had taken 4 ½ years and KTNF had 100+ people in their subcommittees. They had employed a series of experts to assist them including:

- Prince's Foundation (www.princeofwales.gov.uk),
- Planning Aid England (www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid),
- Groundwork (www.groundwork.org.uk)
- Camden Council planning officers
- 2no. paid independent advisors

5.9 BT stated that he anticipated a 16 – 18 month timeframe and suggested using planning students to develop the plan. VN to contact universities to establish whether this is feasible. VN to send BT a cv from a planning consultant friend who had indicated that he might be willing to assist pro bono. CC noted that Amanda Coulson (WCC planning officer and Head of North Team) had offered to help regarding land use and housing. VN

6 DEVELOPING THE COMMUNICATIONS STRATGEGY

6.1 BT welcomed comments on how to improve community engagement. DB stressed that whilst the membership may voice their view that the NF is exclusive, all efforts had been made to ensure that it was representative of the community and this should not be a reason to divert efforts. He suggested including a welcoming inclusive statement on all email correspondence inviting everyone to get involved. VN considered that the wider community may wish to get more involved once there were more comprehensible, tangible issues with actions.

6.2 It was agreed that the website should be enhanced and formally managed once funds were available. All Forum members should be encouraged to use the website to post comments.

6.3 Once the headings for the interest groups were agreed, all members would be invited to join subcommittees that correspond to their interests or areas of expertise.

7 FORWARD MEETING SCHEDULE

7.1 BT to circulate a schedule of dates for the year. BT

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 No other business was discussed and the meeting was closed.

Final Comments to Draft St. John's Wood Neighbourhood Forum Vision Statement

No.	Comment	Recommended Disposition
1	I would comment that those that spoke against the 'inclusive and diverse' statement made a good case and personally, I would leave it out. I was happy with what we had.	For discussion in steering committee meeting.
2	I strongly feel we shouldn't be mentioning inclusion or diversity in the vision statement. I don't think we should involve ourselves in those matters as it's a highly charged minefield. Different people understand different things by the aims or have different, and often very strong opinions of how to further them. It's very easy to fall foul of a populist agenda and before you know it the neighbourhood plan will be used for purposes that it was not intended.	For discussion in steering committee meeting.
3	<p>May I add/support ideas for our vision/consultation in no particular order</p> <p>Work towards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High standard of air quality for our residents, visiting school children and other visitors • Leading standard of Social Interaction. (the meeting was nowhere near representative of our neighbourhood diversity) • Restoring the original concept of St John's Wood being a garden suburb • Establishing a crime free culture. • A community of non-Gated Areas. (where gates are required they should be see through or not above the eye line) • Maintaining a connection between areas either side of the Wellington and Abbey roads • A High street balance providing amenities and pleasure for our residents. <p>as a thought you may try to identify one representative on each council estate who could rally support from within rather than trying to knock on all the doors yourself</p>	Comments too detailed for forum vision statement and to be included in discussion for the vision and objectives of our Neighbourhood Plan.
4	<p>I feel the vision needs more vision especially in the section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to maintain the quality of life and health of all residents; <p>I would like to think we could 'build' on our community's quality of life especially on diversity and culture. I would like to think we could 'build' on the health of all residents.</p> <p>There is so much, in these areas, that could be done to enrich en our community.</p>	Reference to health added to vision statement.

5	<p>To be honest I feel like the 'as is' quite comprehensive already. But it would be nice if it could include as well something along the line of:</p> <p><i>Encourage developments which purpose is to provide services to residents, workers and visitors of Saint John's wood.</i></p>	For discussion in steering committee meeting.
6	<p>Following on from the discussion last night of the vision statement, I would like to add my written input to the discussions last night on "inclusive & diverse" and "promotes"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive & Diverse. I agree these words do need to be added back (but not vibrant) • "Promotes development". Given the presumption of necessary development that is required in the plan, I feel this needs some clever wordsmithing to get consensus. I wonder if the key words are "Promoting/Supporting" and "Alignment", for example "Promoting Alignment of necessary development with the aspirations of the community". And then something to cover promotion of developments that meet community aspirations. 	References to "promoting" development changed to "encourage" development.
7	<p>I am surprised that the proposed vision statement has chosen not to reflect climate change imperatives – and the UK's legal obligations in that respect – especially given recent court cases concerning air quality and the ratification of the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement.</p> <p>To rectify this, I recommend that the phrase "and consistent with climate change obligations" be added at the end of the first bullet point (about sustainable development).</p> <p>I am worried by the current final phrase of that bullet point "... aligned with the aspirations of the community" – given the probability that those aspirations will be misaligned by groups which are more self-centred or commercial than others.</p> <p>The additional phrase which I recommend (above) would mitigate against that probability – and as such would be doubly valuable.</p>	<p>Reference in vision statement to sustainability should include considerations for climate change. This is a level of detail which can be included in Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Reference to community aspirations for discussion in steering committee meeting.</p>