

# Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan

## MINUTES

Date: 15 February 2017, 18.30-20.00  
 Venue: FinSpace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA  
 Chair: Ricky Thakrar  
 Minute taker: Ben Myring

Invitees: All interested parties

Attendees: Susie Barson, local resident (Hackney) (SuB)  
 David Bovill (DB)  
 Mike Dark (MD)  
 Dan Evans (DE)  
 Talal Karim, Finsbury Park Trust (Islington Resident) (TK)  
 Elizabeth Lowe (EL)  
 Susan Lowenthal, local resident (Islington) (SL)  
 Alex MacKelvie (AM)  
 Dorothy Newton, local resident (Islington) (DN)  
 Jono Oliviera (JO)  
 David Sommer (DS)  
 Ricky Thakrar, local resident (Islington) (RT)  
 Geraldine Timlin (GT)  
 Sally Billot, local resident (Haringey) (SaB)

Apologies: Susie Barson, Alistair Clarke, Ruth Clarke, Stephen Coles, Tim Gallagher, Father Daniel Sandham

FORMAL BUSINESS		
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introductions, apologies, and confirmation of chair / minute taker</b>	
1.1	Introductions were made, and apologies noted as above.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Welcome to newcomers, and recap on progress to date.</b>	
2.1	For the benefit of newcomers, RT provided a brief outline of the process of adopting a Neighbourhood Plan, and the working group's progress towards a Neighbourhood Plan for Finsbury Park.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Approval of draft minutes from previous meeting(s)</b>	
3.1	The minutes of the Open Meeting of 8 December 2016 were approved. <b>Action:</b> RT to upload final version of the minutes to FPNP website.	RT
3.2	The notes from the Culture and Leisure theme event on 16 January 2017 were not yet ready for circulation. <b>Action:</b> SL to prepare notes from the Culture and Leisure event.	SL
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Communication (Stakeholder liaison, community engagement, 'hard to reach' groups)</b>	
4.1	<p><b>Recent activity</b> - The Chair updated on recent activity, thanking all those involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Culture and Leisure themed event at Rowans Leisure Centre had been a big success, with around 30 attendees and many useful ideas.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair confirmed that he had attended the London Capital Credit Union AGM to raise awareness.</li> <li>• Susie Barton confirmed that she had attended the Finsbury Park Mosque Open Day to the same end.</li> <li>• Sally Billot noted that she had discussed the matter with her ward of the Labour Party.</li> <li>• Two street survey sessions to date, which had helped to delineate the boundary in the Manor House area and Stroud Green.</li> <li>• The ongoing success of the Online Boundary Survey, now approaching 400 responses, was noted.</li> <li>• The Chair informed the group that a long debate on HarringayOnline had led to many new survey submissions from the Harringay area, helping to define the north-eastern boundary.</li> </ul>	
4.2	<p><b>Outreach</b> - It was noted that online surveys can only reach so many people. To address this, residents have also contacted various community groups and undertaken street surveys. Dorothy Newton confirmed that she had contacted the Islington and Hackney Councils of Voluntary Service in order to place items concerning the FPNP into their newsletters. <b>Action:</b> DN to contact Bridge Renewal Trust, which has replaced Haringey CVS.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> BM to ask Cllr Raj Sahota about including an item about the neighbourhood forum in his planned Stroud Green newsletter.</p> <p>It was also suggested that the Forum could use business data to help inform the boundary. Contact had already been made with Fonthill Road, Blackstock Road, Hornsey Road, and Stroud Green Road Traders Associations. The VOA hold business rates data, and there is a Finsbury Park website with a directory of businesses: <a href="http://www.finsburyparklondon.co.uk">www.finsburyparklondon.co.uk</a>. <b>Action:</b> DB to consider the impact of business types and locations on the boundary.</p>	DN  BM  DB
4.3	<p><b>Citizen's Panel</b> - It was stressed that the Forum needs to reach 'hard to reach' groups. There followed a discussion on how best to identify gaps, with the possibility of a Citizens' Panel based on fair demographic representation – based on an idea shared by David Bovill in another context.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a requirement to achieve a balance of membership across the three boroughs, and that the nine protected categories used in the public sector might provide a good basis for this. Other ideas were housing tenures, language / nationality, and a mix of transport users. <b>Action:</b> KP to consider the demographics of the area, and propose a target mix for the Citizen's Panel.</p>	KP
4.4	<p><b>Finsbury Park Regeneration Conference</b> - There followed a discussion about the upcoming Finsbury Park Regeneration Conference on 25 March 2017. All three local MPs will be in attendance, along with representation from the City North developers, TfL, Network Rail, and others.</p> <p>It was noted that one of the 45-minute workshops will be led by and about the nascent Neighbourhood Forum. It was agreed to create a sub-group to discuss how to run the workshop via email. Ideas raised included an activity using a large map of the area that people could annotate with their ideas about the area (as run by Katherine Stansfeld with many groups locally), and; a 'Monopoly' game where streets could be renamed with those in Finsbury Park (as David Bovill had seen work effectively elsewhere). It was agreed that the 'Monopoly' exercise could run all day on a dedicated table. <b>Action:</b> DB, DE, KS, DN, RT to discuss offline.</p>	DB, DE, KS, DN, RT

4.5	<b>Next themed event</b> - It was agreed that further themed meetings should be delayed until after the submission of the Forum area for designation. It was agreed to postpone the Business & Retail meeting until May.	
5.0	<b>Neighbourhood Area application</b>	
5.1	<b>Meeting with councillors and officers</b> - It was agreed that Susie Barson (Hackney), Ben Myring (Haringey), and Ricky Thakrar (Islington) would meet with officers from the three boroughs on 8 March to discuss the Neighbourhood Area/Forum submissions.	
5.2	<p><b>Towards a draft boundary</b> - The Chair gave a presentation to the group showing the emerging evidence base for the Area boundary. This included existing administrative boundaries, street-patterns and boundary features.</p> <p>The latest Boundary Survey results were presented, showing the pattern of local territorial identities and, overlaying this, whether people considered their area to be part of Finsbury Park.</p> <p>The consultation area was broken down into sub-areas based on common clusters of responses, and the results used to give a first run of what the Area boundary could be – probably excluding areas north and east of the Park itself, which appear to have a very weak ‘Finsbury Park’ identity relative to their more local identities. David Bovill felt that the question being asked did not result in responses that mirror people’s social habits and ties, which was reflected in the strong identify of Haringay. RT pointed out that different social occasions and activities would inspire different ‘catchment areas’ – residents from two areas who attend the same social events would not necessary be inspired to engage in the neighbourhood planning process together. Others in the room felt that the emerging boundary looked almost exactly as they expected. However, it was agreed that further survey responses from residents in the Manor House/Woodberry Down area was desirable. It was also noted that the boundary would shift over time, as different areas develop their own identities, and people come and go from the area.</p> <p>It was suggested that Stroud Green presents a unique case within the wider Finsbury Park area. While a majority of people who consider their neighbourhood to be ‘Stroud Green’ regard that area as being part of Finsbury Park, a large minority – especially in the north east of Stroud Green – do not. It was agreed that the Finsbury Park/Stroud Green boundaries overlapped, and it would be inappropriate to divide Stroud Green. It was also agreed that the Area should therefore take the name ‘Finsbury Park and Stroud Green’.</p> <p>It was agreed that Hornsey Road should neither be included nor split down the middle (as this would create a new administrative problem for the Hornsey Road). It was suggested that the boundary should run behind the eastern frontage of Hornsey Road, echoing the N4 postcode boundary.</p> <p>The results breakdown helped to identify areas, such as the estates in the south-west and around Gillespie Road, where more data was needed before the boundary could be determined. It was agreed that future street survey stalls should target these areas. <b>Action:</b> SaB / DN / SuB to coordinate future street survey stalls.</p> <p>An inconclusive discussion followed about whether the entirety of the park should be included (with the Forum possibly taking on a caretaker role until other forums emerged around the park’s edge), or it should be excluded altogether, or whether the Forum boundary should run through it. It was noted that the preference in the room was to include all of the Park; however, it was agreed to discuss this</p>	<p>SaB / DN / SuB</p> <p>RT</p>

	question with the Friends of Finsbury Park. <b>Action:</b> RT to set up a meeting with FoFP.	
5.3	<b>Forward programme</b> – In the interests of time, this agenda item was postponed until the next Open Meeting.	
<b>ACTIONS ARISING / CARRIED FORWARD FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)</b>		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Actions arising / carried forward from Open Meeting 8 December 2016</b>	
6.1	In the interests of time, this agenda item was postponed until the next Open Meeting.	
<b>CLOSING</b>		
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Area update</b>	
7.1	In the interests of time, this agenda item was postponed until the next Open Meeting.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
8.1	There was insufficient time to discuss further business.	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Dates of future meetings and events</b> <i>(Date and time, venue, chair and minute taker)</i>	
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Meeting</b> – Tuesday 14 March 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc</li> <li>• <b>Open Meeting</b> – Thurs 20 April 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc</li> <li>• <b>Open Meeting</b> – Mon 15 May 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc</li> </ul>	