

Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan

MEETING MINUTES [APPROVED]

Date: 8th August 2016, 18.30-20.00
 Venue: Finspace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA
 Chair: Ricky Thakrar
 Minute taker: Dorothy Newton

Invitees: All interested parties

Attendees: Susie Barson, local resident (Hackney)
 Clive Carter (CC), Haringey Councillor Friends of Finsbury Park
 Alasdair Clarke, local resident (Islington)
 Susan Lowenthal, local resident (Islington)
 Emma Jackson, Goldsmiths College
 John Bowers, local resident (Haringey)
 Mike Dark, local resident (Haringey)
 Ricky Thakrar (RT), local resident (Islington)
 Dorothy Newton local resident (Islington)

Apologies: Talal Karim, Ben Myring, Barry Causton (Town Centre Manager), John Plummer

FORMAL BUSINESS		
1.0	Introductions were made, and apologies noted as above	
2.0	Approval of draft minutes from previous meeting(s)	
2.1	The minutes of the Working Group meeting of Friday, 15 April 2016 were agreed as an accurate record. Action: RT to upload final version of the minutes to FPNP website.	RT
2.2	The minutes of the Transport and Connectivity Event – Thursday, 16 June 2016 – were agreed as an accurate record, subject to two minor adjustments/clarifications. Action: RT to upload final version of the minutes to FPNP website. <i>NB - The actions arising from that meeting will be followed up at our next working group meeting.</i>	RT
3.0	Actions arising from previous meeting	
3.1	Notification to councillors – Ricky has prepared a list of relevant ward councillors across the three local authorities. Action: RT to circulate list of relevant ward councillors.	RT
3.2	Notification to councillors – Dorothy had previously prepared and circulated a draft note to councillors and had received useful comments and suggestions. Some felt that it was too early to send the message – we needed a clearer message and we needed to represent a bigger group. We also need more people involved to walk the area, talking to people in order to map the boundary. However, others suggested that we might invite councillors to the next themed meeting. Clive noted that we shouldn't expect too much resources from local councillors due to other commitments, but agreed that they would be an appropriate distribution point after they had been notified. Action: Dorothy to circulate a second draft reflecting comments received to date, to ensure that the message is clear.	DN

3.3	<p>Stakeholder contact database – Dorothy had spoken with someone at each of the three local Councils of Voluntary Service (CVSs). They would all be happy to circulate a message about the NP and consultation, but felt they couldn't identify which groups would be interested directly at this stage.</p> <p>Susan pointed out that we needed to show people how the issues we discuss directly affect them.</p> <p>Action: Dorothy to amend the final notification to councillors for use with CVSs.</p>	DN
3.4	<p>Stakeholder contact database – Talal was not present to update on his action to write to attendees of last year's Finsbury Park conference. Carry forward.</p>	TK
3.5	<p>Stakeholder contact database – Talal was not present to update on his action to notify the Finsbury Park Trust. Carry forward.</p>	TK
3.6	<p>Boundary consultation – Ben was not present to update on his action to prepare an image file of NP consultation area boundary, for publication on the FPNP website. Carry forward.</p>	RT/BM
3.7	<p>Boundary consultation – Susie had asked Miriam Levin (Crouch Hill NP area) about the questions they used to map their area – which are listed on their website. Action: Susie to search other NFs to see what their questions were – especially ones including more than one LA – and circulate a consolidated list.</p>	SB
3.8	<p>Boundary consultation – Ben was not present to update on his action to circulate questions used in the Stroud Green boundary consultation. Carry forward.</p>	BM
3.9	<p>Boundary consultation – Talal was not present to update on his action to speak to Manor House Development Trust to gather their views on the eastern boundary. Carry forward.</p>	TK
3.10	<p>Website – Ricky had uploaded future meeting dates.</p>	Complete
3.11	<p>Themed meetings – Ricky and Susie had researched themes used on other NP websites – this was fed in to discussion reported under agenda item 4 following.</p>	Complete
3.15/ /16	<p>Steering Committee – Susie reported that Miriam Levin (Crouch Hill NP area) said that the steering committee meets once a month and that they also have working sub-groups (e.g. residential, business) meeting in similar frequency.</p> <p>Action: Susie to continue to research organisational structure of other NP areas. Clive suggested also talking with Highgate and Crouch End as well as Kentish Town who are ready to go to referendum.</p>	SB
3.17	<p>Steering Committee – Dorothy had prepared a note with extracts from the Localism Act 2011 and guidance from Planning Aid England to set out the recommended /statutory requirement for the mix of neighbourhood Forum members. Ricky had incorporated this information into a working draft for Terms of Reference for Steering Committee circulated with the agenda and discussed under agenda item 5 below.</p>	Complete
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
4.0	Themed meetings	

4.1	<p>Having had the useful themed meeting on Transport and Connectivity, various potential themes were suggested for the next one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing - Living in Finsbury Park (to include e.g. RSLs, TRAs) • Business and jobs - Working in Finsbury Park (to include Town Centre management – BC could identify speakers – there was concern that jobs/businesses were being squeezed out of the area with shops being converted into housing, etc. and that there is a significant issue of youth unemployment across London) • Development and affordable housing - The future of Finsbury Park • The natural environment - Finsbury Park and beyond <p>There was a discussion about the potential site allocation for Rowans Bowling Alley. All agreed that one of the reasons for creating a NP was to avoid individual site allocations without regard to the wider area. We agreed that the next themed meeting should encompass Business, Retail and Leisure – exploring what people want to see more of and less of from Finsbury Park as a ‘town centre’, and how a NP might help to steer its future accordingly.</p>	
4.2	<p>We discussed potential speakers and attendees, across the three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and retail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local cafes, pubs and restaurants ○ Local light industrial business occupiers ○ Finsbury Park’s local self-employed network ○ The three local trading associations (Fonthill Road, Blackstock Road, Stroud Green) ○ Estate agents, betting shops, dry cleaners, and charity shops ○ Other local retailers • Sport and leisure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Park Theatre ○ City and Islington College ○ N4 Library ○ Local cafes, pubs and restaurants that host cultural events (such as Blighty Coffee) ○ Lewis Taylor, manager of Finsbury Park itself ○ Finsbury Park Sports Partnership ○ Finsbury Park boat hire operator ○ Local gymnasiums, yoga / fitness class operators ○ Rowans bowling alley <p>It was suggested that we invite the local MPs and London Assembly Member Jeanette Arnold. We will also invite those who came to the transport meeting as they may also be interested.</p> <p>Ricky expressed concerns that the event may become unwieldy, with too many disparate groups and topics. Action: Ricky to ask Talal and Barry for other potential speakers and attendees across the two categories, before proposing an agenda and invite list by the end of August. This may end up being spread across two events.</p>	RT
4.3	<p>Susie offered thoughts on the format that the event might take, perhaps starting with a set of themed talks and then opening the meeting for wider discussion about the tensions experienced by the individual businesses and their aspirations – and how can any tensions be resolved? Action: Susie to propose format for the event.</p>	SB
4.4	<p>Ricky suggested that it would be useful to review the local authorities’ latest Employment Land Reviews and Retail and Leisure Assessments prior to the meeting.</p>	

5.0	Terms of reference for Steering Committee	
	Detailed discussion of this item was deferred to a future meeting, in order to ensure that the meeting could finish on time.	
6.0	Development of boundary survey	
6.1	Further to the actions discussed at 3.6 to 3.9 above, Emma mentioned a Goldsmith's PhD student, Katherine Stanley, who is working on a definition of Finsbury Park – she will contact her and put her in touch with the group. Mike mentioned further complications and potential confusion of Islington naming a ward Finsbury Park when it was not coterminous with any normal understanding of the area.	
STANDING AGENDA ITEMS		
7.0	Area update (Current consultations, new planning applications, etc.)	
7.1	<p>Islington Draft Urban Design Guide SPD consultation Susie mentioned Islington's consultation on supplementary guidance on Urban Design, which provides guidance on how design principles should be applied to ensure that new development successfully contributes to making the borough a better place. It supports implementation of Local Plan policies in relation to design and is applicable to all new developments in the borough including alterations and extensions to existing buildings. Responses received during earlier preliminary consultation have informed the current draft SPDs.</p> <p>During the consultation period, the draft SPDs and Consultation Statements will be available to view online at www.islington.gov.uk/SPDs, also at the Town Hall and at all Islington libraries.</p> <p>Comments by email LDF@islington.gov.uk or to Freepost, RSEA-CUHA-YYAS, Planning Policy, Islington Council, 222 Upper St, N1 1XR by 5pm on Friday 23rd September. For further info contact the Planning Policy Team - LDF@islington.gov.uk, 020 7527 4039/7109.</p>	
7.2	<p>Islington / Haringey locally listed buildings consultation Dorothy mentioned that LB Islington is reviewing its locally listed buildings (and noted that the one nearest to where we were meeting, the George Robey PH, had recently been demolished!). LB Hackney has recently done an excellent job on their list, with a website including maps and pictures – it is intended to do the same with the Islington local list. Susie agreed to join Dorothy on a walk around the locally listed buildings in Finsbury Park.</p> <p>Clive reported that Haringey were in process of doing the same exercise.</p>	
7.3	<p>Hackney Site Allocations public hearing Clive reported that a Planning Inspector would be hosting a public hearing towards the end of the month before approving Hackney's Site Allocations document. He and Susie intend to make representations regarding Rowans bowling alley.</p>	
8.0	Communications (Stakeholder liaison, community engagement, 'hard to reach' groups)	
8.1	Further to discussions under actions 3.2/3.3, there was a discussion about 'hard to reach' groups, resulting in the following suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arab Advice Bureau 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth groups like Elizabeth House, Platform and activities on the Andover Estate, • Student halls operator • Identifying disabled groups that meet at Rowans bowling alley • Identifying any activities / organisations for the elderly in the local area <p>The considerable turnover (churn) of the area's population was also mentioned as a complicating factor, making new arrivals 'hard to reach'.</p> <p>It was suggested that local architect Anthony Davies may be a useful contact, from a technical perspective.</p>	
8.0	Reviewing action plan <i>(Next three months)</i>	
8.1	<p>We are primarily setting up the next themed meeting and working on the questions to be asked in the boundary consultation survey.</p> <p>We have the website up and running and are continuing to slowly build up a social media following and contacts database.</p>	
CLOSING		
9.0	Any Other Business	
9.1	<p>Clive suggested that further speakers from existing Neighbourhood Forums should be invited, to help us avoid the same mistakes that they made – particularly where this would speed up the process. Ricky suggested that we should ensure that we gain new information about each stage of the process, beyond what previous guests have already been able to tell the group. Action: RT to prepare a draft programme for discussion with contacts at existing Neighbourhood Forums.</p>	RT
10.0	Dates of future meetings and events <i>(Date and time, venue, chair and minute taker)</i>	
10.1	<p>Next meeting / event: Tuesday 20 September 2016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc We agreed that this would preferably be the Business, Retail and Leisure themed meeting (or a variant), but if that was delayed then the working group would meet instead</p> <p>Future meetings / events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 26 October 2016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc • Thursday 8 December 2016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc 	