

# Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan

## MINUTES

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 18.30-20.00  
 Venue: Finspace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA  
 Chair: Ricky Thakrar  
 Minute taker: Susan Lowenthal

Invitees: All interested parties

Attendees: Susie Barson, local resident (Hackney) (SB)  
 Alasdair Clarke, local resident (Islington) (AC)  
 Emma Jackson, Lecturer, Goldsmiths College (EJ)  
 Talal Karim, Finsbury Park Trust (Islington Resident) (TK)  
 Susan Lowenthal, local resident (Islington) (SL)  
 Dorothy Newton local resident (Islington) (DN)  
 Kari Pilkington, local resident (Hackney) (KP)  
 Katherine Stansfield, PhD Student (KS)  
 Ricky Thakrar (RT), local resident (Islington) (RT)

Apologies: Barry Causton (BC), Stephen Coles, Ben Myring, Kate de Oliveira, John Plummer, Bob Turner

FORMAL BUSINESS		
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introductions were made, and apologies noted as above</b>	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Approval of draft minutes from previous meeting(s)</b>	
2.1	The minutes of the Working Group meeting of Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 were agreed as an accurate record after minor adjustments. <b>Action:</b> RT to upload final version of the minutes to FPNP website.	RT
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Actions arising from previous meeting and Transport and Connectivity Event – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>	
3.1	<b>Future themed events</b> - RT had forwarded the proposed dates and themes of future events to BC.	Complete
3.2	<b>Items 3.2 to 3.5 from 16<sup>th</sup> June</b> - RT advised that he had not heard from MM (TfL) or BC (Town Centre Manager) with regards to their actions yet, and would request an update.	RT
3.3	<b>Public toilets</b> – There was some discussion about the strategy to be pursued. The Group agreed that support should be garnered from the local authority before approaching Network Rail. RT to request an update from BC.	RT
3.4	<b>Shopfront improvements</b> - TK advised that there was some concern about the high cost of the shop-front improvements and that he would report back after the Finsbury Park Trust Board meeting in October.	TK
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Actions arising from previous Working Group meeting 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016</b>	
4.1	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> - RT had uploaded past meeting minutes to FPNP website.	Complete
4.2	<b>Notification to councillors</b> – RT has circulated list of relevant ward councillors.	Complete
4.3	<b>Notification to councillors</b> – DN circulated an updated draft note to councillors. It was agreed to replace ‘officers’ with ‘stakeholders’, invite councillors to the next themed event, and to refer to the Localism Act.  <b>Action:</b> Note to councillors to include request for a slot to present at each Ward Partnership/Area Forum and explain that we want to work with them as part of an ongoing dialogue. RT, DN, KP and AC to contact relevant ward councillors once the note is finalised.	RT, DN/AC and KP

4.4	<p><b>Stakeholder contact database</b> – DN to update the notification to councillors, for issue to the three local Community Voluntary Services organisations (CVSs).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Dorothy to amend the final notification to councillors for use with CVSs. DN would send to Heads of CVSs.</p>	DN
4.5	<p><b>Stakeholder contact database</b> –TK knows local Traders' Associations, but there is a range of local traders' groups. South of Finsbury Park, the area only extends as far as Durham Road (not Hornsey Road).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Talal will advise attendees of 2015 Finsbury Park Conference and notify Finsbury Park Trust at the upcoming AGM, but can't add email addresses to the database without permission (due to the Data Protection Act).</p>	TK
4.6	<p><b>Boundary consultation</b> – RT advised that BM had forwarded the image file of the NP consultation area as discussed, but BM very busy.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RT to liaise further with BM</p>	RT/BM
4.7	<p><b>Boundary consultation</b> – Susie had researched other NFs, especially those including more than one Local Authority (Highgate, Crystal Palace, Crouch End) regarding their boundary consultation questions, which were generally limited to only 2 or 3.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> SB to continue to review Designation Applications, consolidate sample questions, draft 2 or 3 questions and circulate.</p>	SB
4.8	<p><b>Boundary consultation</b> – On BM's behalf, RT shared the two questions asked in the stroudgreen.org consultation in 2012:</p> <p>“What is your postcode?”  “Do you consider your residence to be in Stroud Green?” [Possible answers: Yes / No / Maybe]</p>	Complete
4.9	<p><b>Boundary consultation</b> – Talal had not yet followed up on his action to speak to Manor House Development Trust to gather their views on the eastern boundary.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Talal to gather views of Manor House Development Trust on eastern boundary.</p>	TK
4.10	<p><b>Steering Committee</b> – RT had previously circulated some initial thoughts on Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee until a Neighbourhood Forum could be established, but having subsequently prepared a working draft programme through to adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, this was no longer considered necessary.</p>	Complete
4.11	<p><b>Future themed events</b> – See Items for Discussion</p>	
4.12	<p><b>Action Plan</b> – RT had prepared the working draft programme; however, this should be reviewed by the group at a future meeting in more detail, before discussion with existing Neighbourhood Forums.</p>	Complete
<b>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>5.0 Themed meetings</b>		
5.1	<p>It was agreed that Business, Retail and Leisure would be too much for a single the meeting and that Business and Retail should be separate from Culture, Sport and Leisure, although there was some overlap. The meeting topics would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business and Retail</b></li> <li>• <b>Culture, Sport and Leisure</b></li> <li>• <b>Housing - Living in Finsbury Park</b>, including <b>Development and affordable housing</b> (to include e.g. RSLs, TRAs)</li> <li>• <b>Nature in the City - Finsbury Park and beyond</b></li> </ul>	

5.2	<p>We discussed potential speakers across the two next themes (general list of attendees as previous meeting). It was agreed that they need to be sufficiently well-known and interesting (and available) to draw a crowd.</p> <p>RT would be happy to make the introductions at the event, but suggested that having a Chair from another local group had worked well with the Transport and Connectivity event, and should be considered again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business and retail</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ John Jones (Fine Art Framing)</li> <li>○ Peter Mudahy (Paks Cosmetics)</li> <li>○ Jack Morris / Paul Morris</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Culture, sport, and leisure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jez Bond, Park Theatre</li> <li>○ (Someone) from Arsenal (ref Community Budget)</li> <li>○ (Someone) from the former Silver Bullet</li> <li>○ Lewis Taylor, manager of Finsbury Park itself (would be at next Friends of Finsbury Park meeting, which SB attends)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>It would be necessary to resolve the first speakers quickly if the meeting was to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Ricky to re-circulate an updated list of invitees and potential speakers for all to respond re. contact details, etc.</p>	<p>Query – or Tom Palin / Chair?</p> <p>RT</p>
6.0	<b>Development of boundary survey</b>	
6.1	<p>Katherine Stansfeld, whose PhD thesis 'Mapping Vernacular Geographies in Areas of Super-Diversity' focuses on Finsbury Park, outlined the methods used in her own research about the boundary of Finsbury Park, including asking people to draw their own boundary. Group sessions around an aerial photo were also a useful tool to generate discussion.</p> <p>KS showed a plan of the FP area as self-defined by locals using it in their postal address. This showed a concentration of properties south and west of the station.</p> <p>KS did not expect that the final paper would be published before the Designation Application is submitted.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> KS to ask a colleague whether they could share a digital version of the map with the group.</p>	<p>KS</p>
6.2	<p>Further to the actions discussed at Matters Arising above, it was agreed that we must resolve the methodology/process for the boundary to ensure that it is sufficiently robust. We will need a number of people knocking on doors. However, it may not be necessary to knock on doors inside the confirmed Finsbury Park area, allowing resources to be focused along the uncertain edges.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the risk of the boundary consultation resulting in the Stroud Green area being split into two – some inside the Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Forum, and some outside. It was agreed that the questions asked should allow for alternative responses, in order to capture sentiment around Stroud Green. It was noted that if arrangements were not made to capture this information from the outset, then it would be too late to obtain it retrospectively.</p> <p>It was noted that a recent Evening Standard article on Placemaking had identified the new Woodberry Down Wetlands Centre as being 'in Finsbury Park'.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> SB to continue to prepare a summary of the questions asked by other Neighbourhood Plan groups in surveys to help define their boundary.</p>	<p>SB</p>

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS		
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Area update</b> <i>(Current consultations, new planning applications, etc.)</i>	
7.1	TK circulated an email about a music event in the park on the weekend of 24 and 25 September 2016.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Communications</b> <i>(Stakeholder liaison, community engagement, 'hard to reach' groups)</i>	
8.1	<p>Further to discussions under Matters Arising, there was a discussion about 'hard to reach' groups:</p> <p>Katherine Stansfeld advised that she had developed an extensive list of contacts, with each group having a slightly different but overlapping area of interest. She offered to provide some ideas of which organisations could be approached.</p> <p>TK has many contacts via Traders Associations, part of a wider Town Centre Association, plus a range of smaller traders' groups.</p> <p>Kari Pilkington said she had experience of identifying 'hard to reach' groups, and offered to invite them to relevant themed events, although it was noted that themes like 'well-being' overlapped all groups.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> KS / TK / KP to provide some ideas of which organisations could be approached.</p>	KS / TK / KP
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Reviewing action plan</b> <i>(Next three months)</i>	
8.1	RT briefly outlined the working draft programme through to adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan in June 2019. It was noted that this was an ambitious programme, but that by May 2017 we should know whether the NP was viable / that we had a viable boundary and would be able to submit a Designation Application. If not, it may be sensible to call it a day.	
CLOSING		
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
9.1	TK advised that there was to be a 'Locality' meeting in London on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> October, on Neighbourhood Planning and Community Engagement. DN, AC and RT to attend (as well as TK).	
9.2	RT asked if he could take photos of the group for the website – this could help with funding in future as it confirms people do attend meetings.	
9.3	DN asked whether it was ok to circulate information with email addresses. RT advised he can share the login details for the Gmail account.	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Dates of future meetings and events</b> <i>(Date and time, venue, chair and minute taker)</i>	
10.1	<p><b>Next meeting / event:</b> Wednesday 26 October 2016, 18.30-20.00 – <b>venue and theme tbc</b></p> <p><b>Future meetings / events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday 8 December 2016, 18.30-20.00 – <b>venue tbc</b></li> <li>• Early 2017 – Sport and Leisure themed meeting – <b>venue tbc</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> RT to propose dates for meetings and events in the first half of 2017.</p>	RT