

Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Friday, 15 April 2016, 18.30-20.00, at Finspace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, N4

Attendees:

Ricky Thakrar (chair) - Islington
Susie Barson - Hackney
John Plummer - Haringey
Dorothy Newton (minutes) - Islington
Talal Karim

Apologies:

Ben Myring
Sally Billot
Susan Lowenthal

1. Talal informed the group that Carol O'Brien (Hackney) and Naomi Shillinger (Islington) have opted out of involvement at present and have asked to be removed from the circulation list.
2. The minutes of the meeting on 7th March were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters/actions arising from minutes:

3.1 We need to contact all the councillors from the various relevant wards in the three boroughs. We will do this first by email. DN offered to prepare a draft message for review by Ricky and Susie – this would ask how they would prefer to be communicated with and include a link to the website. We will also ask councillors to help us spread the word to key stakeholders in their wards, either by sharing their contacts with us, or passing on the message on our behalf.

3.2 Stakeholder contact list/database.

DN reported that none of the three CVSs had responded to her email asking for lists of local groups – she would follow this up. Talal will send the list of local groups he has for Ward Partnership purposes.

Talal will write to the attendees of last year's Finsbury Park conference - where the idea for a Neighbourhood Plan originated - to update them on progress, and see whether they would like to be involved. He will write to all FP Trust's Company members to see if any of them are interested in the Plan group. (Talal will also have a planning group for the Trust's AGM in July and hopefully some of the members of that will be interested).

3.3 The group thanked Ricky for developing the FPNP website so speedily and effectively: <https://finsburyparkplan.wordpress.com/>

Ricky thanked Susie for her comments sent via email, and confirmed that they have now been reflected on the website.

3.4 Talal confirmed the name of his contact at Waltham Abbey NP – is Chris Twin from Twin Sustainability.

4. Discussion and comments on the FPNP website:

It was suggested that Ben be asked if he could create an image of the google map he had produced for the previous meeting (which had core and additional areas delineated) to be included on the website. The map should be appropriately labelled as the ***Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan consultation area*** and be clear enough to see individual streets.

There was a general discussion about what kind of content should be uploaded to the website. Ricky expressed concerns that until the group was formalised, it had no official status, and it may therefore be inappropriate to upload agendas and minutes of meetings at this stage, however, meeting dates should now be displayed on the site.

In the longer term the website will be developed into something more substantial with appropriate sub-areas. Susie and Ricky agreed to look at what's included on other NP websites – eg Crouch Hill, Mount Pleasant. Other members were also asked to view sites and think about what might be included on ours. The list the group makes of potential sub-areas will be useful in the shorter term to help fix themes for our upcoming meetings.

5. Public meeting to set up a Steering Committee

We had a substantial discussion on this.

The plan had been to have a large public meeting with the purpose of setting up a NP Steering Committee. The role of a Steering Committee is to manage and facilitate activities towards the development of a Plan, making sure that all issue groups and different stakeholders are included.

We now agreed that before people to form a representative Steering Committee could be identified, we needed to engage a wider group of people.

John emphasised that we need clarity about the roles we are seeking to fill, the terms of reference of the Steering Group and said that at this early stage we should be clear about the intentions and directions.

He expressed concern that the group seemed willing to agree to holding several meetings without deciding, with some clarity, on the purposes, objectives, intended outcomes and outputs. Why should people attend? What will success (or failure) look like? What decisions (if any) should be made? How many and who would constitute both a "large public meeting" and a "wider group of people" - what do these phrases mean?

We concluded that we would start by having separate, focussed meetings with a range of people/groups – for instance, people interested in housing (in all its aspects); retail and business; environmental issues; transport etc etc. We recognised that many of these themes would be very broad and potentially cross-cutting.

Susie agreed to look at the organisational structures of other Plan groups.

DN would find out whether there is a recommendation/statutory requirement for the mix of neighbourhood Forum members.

Susie will ask Miriam Levin (Crouch Hill NP area) how often their steering group meets.

Talal suggested that members of our group go along to other local meetings to spread the word e.g. Transition Finsbury Park and Friends of Finsbury Park (Susie is on the Friends of FP Board).

6. Development of the FPNP boundary survey:

We agreed that the Park will be included in the consultation area.

We discussed developing the questions people will be asked to help define the NP area:

We assume that there is a recommended model for doing the survey and the questions to be asked – all would look over previous materials and Susie will ask Miriam Levin (Crouch Hill NP area) about the questions they used.

We will need to have a clear model of how we ask the questions and in what order. We will need a standard questionnaire and “tick boxes” to make them analysable. We hoped Ben might support the data collection and analysis.

Talal will talk with Simon at the Manor House Development Trust to get their views on the area etc.

7. Area update:

Talal said that the Finsbury Park Town Centre Group has a good turnout. He will ask the Town Centre Manager, Barry Causton, to attend FPNP meetings.

The Friends of Finsbury Park are mounting a legal challenge to Haringey Council holding the Wireless Festival – which puts large parts of the Park out of bounds to regular users and causes considerable damage.

The Finsbury Park Transport Group has not met recently. It was suggested that they be asked to hold a joint meeting with the Plan Group or at least an overlapping one so that joint issues can be explored. Talal will talk with TfL representatives to consider this.

Talal briefly updated on the status of the roadworks around Finsbury Park, and the erection of a public art murals under the railway bridges, which is finally set to commence in April/May and expected to be completed by November;

8. Communications:

We will obtain contact lists as detailed in item 3.2

9. Reviewing the action plan:

After discussion, the group agreed that rather than have one big meeting to engage local people in the development of a Steering Committee, we should have several themed meetings to attract different parts of the community. It seemed timely to start with a transport themed meeting – not just about the station but about transport in general in the area. The Station Users Group would, of course, be part of it but so too would people interested in our bus services, car use, bikes, and pedestrians.

Talal will see if he can identify a chair (maybe Diane Burridge?)

10. AOB

DN mentioned two items she had seen recently:

As a parallel to what we are aiming to do, an urban planner's research on what is - and what isn't - recognised as Dalston:

<http://ma3t.co.uk/euanmills/euanmills/tifd.html>

<http://thisisntfuckingdalston.co.uk/>

As a prompt to engage all ages in our work:

A report from the Intergenerational Foundation: *How the Localism Act Hands Power to Older Generations: Your Village: Keeping Young People Locked Out*. "The blunt problem is that those who have the loudest voices tend to be a wealthy section of the older generation, who also have the least need for [for example] new housing".

http://www.if.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Localism_IF_defin.pdf

There's a shorter Guardian piece on this: <http://www.theguardian.com/local-government-network/2012/nov/15/localism-older-councillors-young-residents>

11. Date of next meeting

Various dates were suggested: 10/11/17 May – Talal will liaise with Station Users Group to see if a joint meeting is possible.

Talal said he would explore whether one of the FP Trust's Volunteers could act as minute taker.

It was agreed that Ricky would chair the next meeting and Ben had offered to minute.