

Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan

MINUTES

Date: 26th October 2016, 18.30-20.00
 Venue: Finspace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA
 Chair: Ricky Thakrar
 Minute taker: Susie Barson

Invitees: All interested parties

Attendees: Susie Barson, local resident (Hackney) (SB)
 Alasdair Clarke, local resident (Islington) (AC)
 Kevin Duffy (Friends of Finsbury Park) (KD)
 Tim Gallagher, Haringey Councillor (TG)
 Talal Karim, Finsbury Park Trust (Islington Resident) (TK)
 Susan Lowenthal, local resident (Islington) (SL)
 Dorothy Newton local resident (Islington) (DN)
 Katherine Stansfeld, PhD Student (KS)
 Ricky Thakrar, local resident (Islington) (RT)
 Gordon Hutchinson, local resident (Haringey) (GH)
 John Bowers, local resident (Stroud Green) (JB)
 Ruth Clarke, local resident (Islington) (part) (RC)
 Mimmi Bostrome, local resident (Islington) (part) (MB)
 Sarah Igwe, local resident (Islington) (part) (SI)

Apologies: Sally Billot, Barry Causton, Stephen Coles, Ben Myring, Kate de Oliveira, John Plummer (wishes to be removed from mailing list), Bob Turner, Emma Jackson, Clive Carter, Kari Pilkington

FORMAL BUSINESS		
1.0	Introductions were made, and apologies noted as above	
1.1	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.	
2.0	Approval of draft minutes from previous meeting(s)	
2.1	The minutes of the Working Group meeting of 20 th September 2016 were not available for approval; this agenda item will be held over until the next meeting. Action: RT to upload final version of the minutes to FPNP website, once approved.	RT
3.0	Actions arising from previous meeting and Transport and Connectivity Event – Thursday 16th June 2016	
3.1	Future themed events - RT had forwarded the proposed dates and themes of future events to BC.	Complete
3.2	Items 3.2 to 3.5 from 16th June - RT advised that he had not heard from Mike Maingard (TfL) or BC (Town Centre Manager) with regards to their actions yet. Action: RT to request an update from BC.	RT
3.3	Public toilets – RT advised that he had not heard from BC (Town Centre Manager). Action: RT to request an update from BC.	RT
3.4	Shopfront improvements - TK said that the programme, funded to the tune of £500,000 by Section 106 money, grants from the three boroughs and from the Mayoral Local Regeneration Fund, had started in Fonthill Road. Questions had been asked about the merit and value for money. TK said he would try to obtain a breakdown of costs. Action: TK to obtain and circulate breakdown of costs.	TK
4.0	Actions arising from previous Working Group meeting 20th Sept 2016	
4.1	Minutes of previous meeting - RT to upload final version of meeting minutes from 8 August 2016 to FPNP website.	Complete

4.2	Notification to councillors – RT has circulated list of relevant ward councillors.	Complete
4.3	Notification to councillors – DN circulated an updated draft note to councillors, reflecting the changes previously agreed. Actions: TG to review draft note. RT, DN, AC, KP, CP and RC to contact relevant ward councillors once the note is finalised.	TG, RT/ DN/AC/K P/RC/CP
4.4	Stakeholder contact database – DN has made contact with the voluntary sector organisations, who confirmed that they would be happy to circulate content to their mailing lists, but could not share their contact details. Action: DN to provide content for CVs to circulate to their mailing lists, once available.	DN
4.5	Stakeholder contact database –TK confirmed that the Finsbury Park Trust had been informed about the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. He also confirmed that the Hornsey Road Traders' Association (with 52 members) wished to be included within the Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan. He reported that whilst he knows the local Traders' Associations, there is a range of other local traders' groups. Also, the Finsbury Park Traders Association area only extends as far south as Durham Road (not Hornsey Road). Action: Talal will advise attendees of 2015 Finsbury Park Conference, but can't add email addresses to the database without permission (due to the Data Protection Act). The next Finsbury Park Conference will be in late February/March 2017. Sponsored by Higgins, builders of the Kings Crescent Estate, venue tbc. Hoping to have speakers such as the Mayor of Hackney, Mayor / Deputy Mayor of London.	TK
4.6	'Hard to Reach' groups – Kari was not present to update on her action of providing some ideas of which organisations could be approached. [Post-meeting update: KP had already emailed this through with apologies]	KP
4.6	Boundary consultation – RT had liaised with Ben Myring and put together a number of maps which focused on various aspects (electoral ward boundaries, existing/emerging forum boundaries, boundary features, population), and a proposed consultation boundary. The meeting agreed that the document should include policy areas and the Finsbury Park Accord Area map (supplied by AC), as well as the N4 postcode boundary. The constituency boundaries could also be added, although these are currently under review. The maps formed the basis for a useful and wide-ranging discussion, resulting in the following extensions to and omissions from the proposed consultation boundary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TK suggested that the consultation boundary should include the Hornsey Road Traders Association area, which probably meant extending west to Holloway Road. RC supported this extension, to include both Finsbury Park and Tollington Wards. • KS suggested that the western end of Hermitage Road should be included. RT noted that a boundary feature would need to be used to only include the western end – perhaps the roadblock bollards at Ashfield Road. It was noted that due to the high density of development in the area, the population increases steeply as the boundary is extended; however, this should not be seen as a constraint at this stage. It was also agreed that whilst the working group would engage with local groups in the area, a rounded view would need to be taken on which areas are included in the eventual designation	RT

	<p>application, including factors such as the survey results.</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>Action: RT to amend map accordingly, and recirculate for approval via email.</p>	
4.7	<p>Boundary consultation survey – RT confirmed that there was no statutory requirement to carry out a consultation survey – indeed, it seemed that was not even a common activity.</p> <p>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 e.g. what is your post code, what do you call the area in which you live.</p> <p>This prompted much discussion on the most useful pertinent questions to use in the consultation survey. Four broad options were voted upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 – An entirely open question, such as “What do you call the neighbourhood that you live in?” • Option 2 – A closed question, such as “Which of the following would you call the neighbourhood that you live in?”, followed by a list of options • Option 3 – An open question such as “What do you call the neighbourhood that you live in?”, followed by a specific question such as “Do you consider that area to be part of Finsbury Park?” • Option 4 – A closed question such as “Do you consider your residence to be in Finsbury Park”, followed by the options “Yes”, “No”, and “Yes, and...” (the latter allowing them to specify another name for the area) <p>Attendees voted unanimously for Option 3. This would give us the people who say Finsbury Park straight away, and those who are a little further out - Stroud Green, Manor House, Highbury, Holloway etc. By combining these two areas it should be possible to better define Finsbury Park from the adjacent areas. One attendee felt that the question should be worded to reflect the concept of “belonging”; RT suggested the inclusion of the word “your” to achieve this. The survey questions will be accompanied by a brief explanatory text about the Neighbourhood Forum and the overall aim to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>As in previous meetings, it was agreed that we must resolve the methodology/process for the boundary to ensure that it is sufficiently robust and rounded, and not reliant on any one source of information. We will need a number of people knocking on doors in areas where there is uncertainty. However, the survey results may reveal that it is not necessary to knock on doors inside a 'confirmed' Finsbury Park area, allowing resources to be focused along the uncertain edges.</p> <p>It was noted that the consultation survey could be circulated to mailing lists such as Friends of Finsbury Park, on noticeboards such as at the Community Centre at the Andover Estate, and by spreading the word via schools.</p> <p>Action: RT to prepare a draft consultation survey, and circulate the link for approval via email.</p>	RT
4.9	<p>Boundary consultation – 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>Action: Talal to gather views of Simon Donovan at Manor House Development Trust on eastern boundary.</p> <p>RC suggested that it may be useful to speak to Frank Jacobs about their progress with the emerging Crouch Hill & Hornsey Rise Neighbourhood Forum area. Action: RC to speak to Frank Jacobs about the emerging Crouch Hill & Hornsey Rise Neighbourhood Forum area.</p>	TK RC

4.10	<p>Boundary consultation survey – Katherine Stansfeld once again showed a plan of the FP area as self-defined by locals using it in their postal address, allowing for comparison with the proposed consultation boundary. This showed a concentration of properties further west of the station, and north east of Finsbury Park itself (towards St Anns and Haringey Ladder), corroborating the proposed revisions to the boundary with further evidence. It also hinted that it may be necessary to extend the boundary further south beyond Gillespie Park, if the survey results mirror the postal address results.</p> <p>Action: KS was waiting to head back from her colleague, Paul Brinley, as to whether they could share a digital version of the map with the group.</p>	KS
4.11	Future themed events – See Items for Discussion	
4.12	<p>Action Plan and Programme – RT had prepared a working draft Action Plan, reflecting the requirements of the local authorities and relevant legislation; however, in the interests of time, it was agreed that this should be reviewed by the group at a future meeting in more detail, before discussion with existing Neighbourhood Forums. Action: Working group to review Action Plan and Programme in more detail at a future meeting.</p>	All
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION		
5.0 Themed meetings		
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"> • Business and Retail • Culture, Sport and Leisure • Housing - Living in Finsbury Park, including Development and affordable housing (to include e.g. RSLs, TRAs) • Nature in the City - Finsbury Park and beyond 	
5.2	<p>We discussed potential speakers across the two next themes, and the invite list as drafted at the previous meeting. It was agreed that the speakers 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 – perhaps co-hosting with Friends of Finsbury Park for the Culture, Sport, and Leisure event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and retail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Jones (Fine Art Framing) ○ Peter Mudahy (Paks Cosmetics) ○ Jack Morris / Paul Morris • Culture, sport, and leisure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jez Bond, Park Theatre ○ (Someone) from Arsenal (ref Community Budget) ○ (Someone) from the former Silver Bullet ○ Lewis Taylor, manager of Finsbury Park itself (would be at next Friends of Finsbury Park meeting, which SB attends) <p>SB reported that Melli Bond from Park Theatre had responded very positively and was available for both dates canvassed (now changed to 8 December 2016 or 16 January 2017). However, it was agreed in the meeting that, ideally, the January date would be pushed to February to avoid the post-Christmas period.</p> <p>Action: To finalise speakers for Culture, Sport and Leisure event, agree date, invited interested parties and advertise the event.</p>	All
STANDING AGENDA ITEMS		

7.0 Area update (Current consultations, new planning applications, etc.)		
7.1	TK advised that Park Theatre and Friends of Finsbury Park were co-producing a play to celebrate the 150 th anniversary of Finsbury Park.	
8.0 Communications (Stakeholder liaison, community engagement, 'hard to reach' groups)		
8.1	In the interests of time, this was not discussed as a separate topic, although elements were discussed under other agenda items.	
9.0 Reviewing action plan (Next three months)		
9.1	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		
10.0 Any Other Business		
10.1	DN, AC, TK and RT attended a 'Locality' meeting in London on Thursday 6 th October, on Neighbourhood Planning and Community Engagement. All reported that the session was very helpful, and useful contacts were made. DN reported that she had requested a copy of the presentation from Locality. Action: DN to circulate the presentation once available.	DN
10.2	TK advised that there was to be another 'Locality' meeting in York on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 October. Action: AC to consider attending the conference.	AC
10.3	TK suggested that the working group have a stall at the Stroud Green Fair in early December. Action: All to consider having a stall at the Stroud Green Fair.	All
11.0 Dates of future meetings and events (Date and time, venue, chair and minute taker)		
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themed Event (theme tbc) - Thursday 8 December 2016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc • Open Meeting or Themed Event (theme tbc) – Monday 16 January 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc • Open Meeting or Themed Event (theme tbc) - Wednesday 15 February 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc • Open Meeting – Tuesday 14 March 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc • Open Meeting – Thurs 20 April 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc • Open Meeting – Mon 15 May 2017, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc 	