

Soho Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group Minutes



Meeting no. 014
Date 23 November 2016
Time 5.30pm - 7pm
Location New West End Company, 3 rd Floor, Heddon House, 149-151 Regent St, W1B 4JD

Present

Matthew Bennett (MB) – Chair, Lucy Haine (LuH), Leslie Hardcastle (LH), Tim Lord (TL), Andrew Murray (AM), Ken White (KW), Anna Doyle (AD)

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>MB welcomed all and introduced the newly appointed Planning Co-ordinator, Anna Doyle. Apologies provided from: Rob Kirk (RK), Sandra Schembri (SS), Jace Tyrell (JT), Vivienne King (VK), Joan Moynihan (JM), John James (JJ), Michael Case (MC), Jessica Stewart (JS).</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 26 October were agreed.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Survey Winner AM updated that the winner had been selected from the survey respondents using a random number generation software.</p> <p>Action: AM to update website/social media by 30/11/16 with details on winner in addition to removing Planning Coordinator vacancy.</p> <p>Data Protection Policy AM in contact with Roshni Kotecha (Shaftesbury) who enabled the release of the Soho Survey 2016 report to be made public. Kotecha is providing pro – bono support, has had a high workload recently and has been unable to address this area til now.</p> <p>Action AD to follow up with Kotecha by 30/11/16 to agree on delivery date for draft Data Protection Policy.</p>	AM/AD
4.	<p>Recruitment of Planning Coordinator</p> <p>MB welcomed Anna Doyle and provided an overview of her professional background.</p>	

development, providing a wide and well run range of entertainment/night time economy activities and continuing to be a home for creativity and innovation.

Objective 2: to put in place policies and recommendations which seek **to ensure Soho continues to have a wide ranging and balanced residential population** through enabling the provision of more social and discounted housing with a mix of housing types and sizes and to help house key workers who have a clear link with the area. The plan will also seek to support this with policies, which help to tackle some of the negative impacts on residential amenity.

Objective 3: to put in place policies and recommendations, which will **enable improvements to the local environment** in a range of ways. This will be in terms of movement, congestion, air quality, greening, recycling and waste management.

PDT1: Led by LuH

- LuH - PDT1 have conducted two meetings to date.
- Next meeting is on Tuesday 29 November, 5.30pm, Soho Estates.
- LuH has met with Tom Harvey, CEO Soho Create who will join PDT1.
- LuH is in contact with The Photographers Gallery (TPG) following MB meeting. TPG to join PDT1. LuH to scope with TPG, potential of working together to source photographic archive documentation to support heritage evidence case and to help promote and raise awareness of our work.
- LuH provided overview of the background of PDT1 to date, highlighting the work already undertaken, for example gathering evidence on the area's heritage.
- LH pointed to work already conducted through previous working group in addition to listed buildings data held by Historic Buildings England – that collating existing information in addition to gathering new evidence are both important

Action: LuH and LH to share work to date on both working groups and PDT1 to join up information held. LuH to report on progress at next FSG.

PDT2: Led by AM

- Agreement by ALL that issues impacting residents including A3/A4/A5 buildings odours, noise, especially those connected to the night time economy, to be included within PD2, with MB pointing to the PDT Protocol document.
- KW stated noise levels are one of the key issues with regards to living in Soho.
- LH stated that it is important to remember Soho has had a vibrant night-time economy for decades pointing to the 1957 short film *Nice Time* documenting Piccadilly and Soho as evidence of this. That, to a point, residents need to accept this. LH stated that the key is to look at issues holistically: the night

LuH/LH

time economy as well as its side effects is integral to the area's unique nature: *Nice Time (1957)*

<http://player.bfi.org.uk/film/watch-nice-time-1957/>.

- AM outlined a key factor in the PDT2 group was to collate evidence and research to support decision-making on the development of new residential properties, within which noise level considerations would be factored into.
- TL stated that whilst much of council-led enforcement on issues such as noise pollution was at the discretion of individual council officers, to embed guidelines within policies would enable increased efficiency in enforcement at the very least.
- MB stated the change in council leader could potentially lead to improved enforcement.
- LH pointed to fact that the council have had some success in enforcing change at the request of residents and provided an example of a restaurant changing the positioning of a noisy extractor fan as a result of local lobbying.
- LH additionally pointed to a larger concern - that building heights in Soho are increasing by an average of two floors, with many properties developing entertainment terraces, producing an array of issues, from noise pollution, litter, light pollution and issues around privacy for nearby residents. A simple solution to solve both sets of occupants needs could be the introduction of screens on terraces – LH provided this as an example of how, whilst residents may be unable to halt large scale development, there are ways to deliver positive changes through simple problem solving on a case by case basis.

PDT3: Led by MB

- MB updated, PDT2 have conducted two meetings to date. MB provided headline information:
- Air Quality: to be within WHO limits by 2020, with MB acknowledging that GLA/ Central Govmt. will need to lead major changes, but to lobby for this as a priority.
- Greening 80% of all rooftops within the SNP Area within lifetime of plan.
- Aspiration to remove need for bags on the street by the end of the plan.
- Food Waste – within lifetime of plan to have implemented dedicated food waste collection by electrically powered vehicles.
- Quiet Areas – to have a minimum of five quiet 'oasis', Ingestre Place and Ramillies Place good, potential sites.
- Reduce traffic congestion by 30% within lifetime of the plan.
- Reminded FSG AD is a resource to support all teams work across engagement, communication, research.

Feedback

MB: stated W.C.C have a 'data team' who may be able to facilitate free of charge access to data: W.C.C have a legal duty to provide support for the development of Neighbourhood Plan which we need to utilise. Cited the

ALL

	<p>data collated re: implementation of Night Tube, on local area as an example of existing data resource.</p> <p>MB reminded FSG for clarity of communication, RK, through existing relationships with W.C.C, is the main point of contact for W.C.C on data and all requests to be channelled via him. As RK is about to go on leave, MB to act as interim point of contact.</p> <p>Action: ALL need to develop a comprehensive 'ask' on what data need to gather to focus future enquiries to external bodies and resources.</p> <p>Action: MB to contact Joanne Lodge W.C.C re: access to residential/business (A3, A4, A5) overlap.</p> <p>MB highlighted FSG have received two proposals offering mapping support together with an outlined of fees charged, and timelines – in which work proposed needed to be started within 4 – 6 weeks.</p> <p>Decision: In response to two consultancy proposals offering research/mapping support, FSG agreed we need more time to set out our priority research/mapping needs.</p> <p>Action: MB to feedback to consultants.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>MB has confirmed with Soho Society the December meeting will be held at St Anne's Tower.</p>	<p>MB</p>
9.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 December at 5.30pm at Soho Society, St Anne's Tower, 55 Dean St, Soho, W1D 6AF.</p> <p>Following the meeting you are invited to join us to celebrate Christmas – please do bring a bottle of wine!</p> <p>A gentle reminder to all members to inform Anna Doyle if cannot attend or will be late to the meeting in advance of Wednesday 14 December.</p>	