

Soho Steering Group Minutes



Meeting no 004
Date 09 December 2015
Time 5.30pm
Location Shaftesbury, 22 Ganton Street, W1F 7FD

Present

- Matthew Bennett (MB) – Chair
- Clare Lynch (CL)
- Leslie Hardcastle (LH)
- Michael Case (MC)
- Ken White (KW)
- Mike Fauconnier-Bank (MFB)
- Andrew Murray (AM)
- Robin Smith (RS)
- Lucy Haine (LH)
- Anna Boyle (AB)
- Rob Kirk (RK)
- John James (JJ)
- Joe Chambers (JC)

In attendance

- Steve Chambers (SC)
- Catherine Street (CS)

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>Matthew Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jamie Poulton, Sandra Schembri, Jessica Stewart and Joan Moynihan.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Meeting notes from the last meeting were signed-off by the Group.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>The Group discussed the need to gain funding for the intern role. SC has prepared funding bid to send to charities. CL to forward to her links.</p>	CL

<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p>	<p>Report on introduction training day</p> <p>AM explained that the training day on Thursday 26 November went well. The afternoon event was well attended by 38 people, of which approximately a 50/50 split of residents and businesses. The evening event was attended by 23 people. AM explained that membership as a result has increased by 15 and was now around the 300 mark.</p> <p>The Group discussed that the afternoon event was more successful than the evening, due to a number of factors. The evening event over-ran significantly. AM to provide further detailed content from the day for those who were unable to attend.</p> <p>KW explained that he thought the events were constructive and the presentations by both Angela and the Highgate representative were good. He also thought that the networking period was very useful and interesting.</p> <p>RK commented that the venue was a little dark, though he understood that it is hard to find suitable venues quickly. He explained that the engagement and interaction period was good but thought that there was too much presentation.</p> <p>AM thanked RS and JS for putting the leaflet together, which was useful in attracting attendees.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p>	<p>Working Groups</p> <p>RK asked about the titles of the Working Groups and whether these needed to be reconsidered. He presented some ideas that he believed were clearer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and Heritage • Traffic and Transport • Economic Activity • Open Spaces and Public Realm • Social and Community. <p>The Group discussed how the current Working Group titles and groups interlinked and may be misleading to those signing up. MB explained that people have now signed up to a Working Group and it may be confusing to mix the Groups at this stage. It was discussed that the Group titles will remain the same at this stage but there can be further consultation further down the line.</p> <p>JC explained that the scope and parameters of the plan need to be addressed in the first instance and then Working Groups can mediate between the planners. The Group discussed that the Working Groups should engage as much as possible and work together to understand the process and what is possible.</p> <p>MB explained that Steering Group members will be attending and advising Working Groups. MB explained that the role of the Steering Group</p>	

	<p>members will be to contact their Group, organise meetings and venues, attend and guide the meetings, take feedback and ensure meeting notes are taken.</p>	
5.5	<p>It was discussed what kind of evidence needs to be collated that will be seen as credible by the inspector. RK explained that the Group should engage with Westminster City Council (WCC) to understand more about data needed.</p>	
5.6	<p>RK explained that it would be important for Steering Group members to have an understanding of the Local Plan and NPPF. RK explained that it was WCC's duty to give details of policies to equip the Members and Working Groups. The Group discussed that it is the role of the Working Groups to research and that the Steering Group members would not act as teachers.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note:</i></p> <p><i>Please see link to planning documents below:</i></p> <p><i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf</p> <p><i>Westminster's City Plan: Strategic Policies</i> http://transact.westminster.gov.uk/docstores/publications_store/Westminster's%20City%20Plan%20Adopted%20November%202013%20FINAL%20VERSION.pdf</p> <p><i>London Mayor's Plan</i> https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/current-london-plan</p>	
5.7	<p>AM to finalise Working Groups lists and send out to the Group shortly.</p>	AM
5.8	<p>It was discussed that Working Groups need to meet before the next Steering Group meeting in January.</p>	All Members
6.	<p>SNF Vision Statement</p>	
6.1	<p>The Group discussed the vision statement for the SNF. MB explained that he put together a statement regarding atmospheric principle. The Group accepted the statement as a working vision.</p>	
6.2	<p>RS asked about the need for a mission statement. It was discussed that the Comms Group would put something together.</p>	Comms Group
7.	<p>Website</p>	
7.1	<p>MB explained that the website needed updating in order to fulfil the SNF needs moving forward. He suggested calling out to forum members for help</p>	

	<p>in putting a site together that was capable of storing documents, hosting a strategic calendar and linking to external sources. The Group discussed the cost implications.</p> <p>7.2 SC explained that finding a new template might be a cost-effective solution as the current template has many limiting factors.</p> <p>7.3 The Group discussed that they would reach out to their contacts and members of the Working Groups.</p>	All Members
8.	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</p> <p>8.1 It was explained that from 1 April 2015 the CIL was effective in Westminster. The CIL is a charge on developments of a certain size and money generated can be used to support infrastructure and the local community.</p> <p>8.2 MB explained that the SNF has a right to be consulted on how 15% of the money is spent in the area. MB asked the Group to start identifying ideas that the money could be spent on. It was suggested that this may be a good ice breaker for the first Working Group meeting. RK to collate views.</p>	All Members /RK
9.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 27 January 2016 at 5.30pm at Lights of Soho.</p>	