

Soho Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group Minutes

Meeting no. 012
Date 21 September 2016
Time 5.30pm
Location Soho Housing, 120 Charing Cross Road, WC2H 0JR



Present

Matthew Bennett (MB) - Chair, Michael Case (MC), John James (JJ), Rob Kirk (RK), Joan Moynihan (JM), Andrew Murray (AM), Jessica Stewart (JS) and Ken White (KW).

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>MB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Leslie Hardcastle (LeH), Lucy Haine (LuH), Vivienne King (VK), Tim Lord (TL), Sandra Schembri (SS) and Jace Tyrell (JT).</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Meeting notes from the meeting held on 27 July 2016 were agreed after a verbal report from AM (unable to print due to printer issues).</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>Fund raising strategy: RK was discussing this with JT. At present we would have around £15-16,000 available for our budget for the year from various sources. However, we might be able to bid for more funds; JT had approached Cllr Paul Church about the possibility of funding from the ward budget, which needed two ward councillors to agree; and we could raise additional funds ourselves.</p> <p>Recruitment: MB reported that there had been 3 candidates for the post of planning coordinator. Interviews with MB and LuH had been arranged. Unfortunately, the best qualified candidate pulled out the day before the interviews, and neither of the two remaining candidates was suitable. He suggested that the job description needed to underline the need to be a 'self-starter'. Various possible sources of new candidates were suggested. We would need to re-advertise.</p> <p>Soho Parish School: we noted that, as there had not been a specific approach to the school with the Survey, we intended to make contact now the new term was underway as part of our public engagement. MB said that VK had agreed to follow this up.</p>	VK
4.	<p>Soho Survey 2016</p> <p>MC gave an excellent presentation of the results of the survey. <i>[This is</i></p>	

	<p><i>now available through our website, with the addition of a section on open feedback.]</i></p> <p>There was discussion of some of the key findings to emerge. MB pointed out that the survey showed that the FSG had reflected the views of the community pretty well. AM noted that we would still need to interpret some of the responses, as e.g. 'culture and heritage' could mean different things to different people.</p> <p>MB suggested that we should now move to 2 or 3 policy groups to develop the draft plan and this was agreed. There was some debate about whether to focus on the 'top 3 issues' to start with, or whether to try to be comprehensive in the new policy groups. Working group members would probably want to be involved, but the primary source of these new groups would be attendees at the Facts and Figures Day. The progress group would take this forward. MB also suggested it would be important to look at Neighbourhood Plans from other areas, to see what we could learn. KW felt that the FSG needed to be more directive in the next stage of the process.</p>	Progress group
5.	<p>Facts and Figures Day</p> <p>Arrangements for the day were in place. Shaftesbury had kindly provided a venue at 29 Carnaby Street. 22 people had signed up so far. JM agreed to provide bottled water, and it was agreed that other refreshments were not needed.</p> <p>MB had received 2011 census data from Westminster, but the form it was in was not easily accessible so we would need help to use it effectively. He would discuss this with Angela Koch, and also check with her what her expectations of the day were to ensure that everything was in place.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>MB</p>
6.	<p>Register of Interests</p> <p>MB noted that he had received a number of entries for the Register of Interests required under our constitution. He requested that FSG members who had not completed an entry should send one to him as soon as possible.</p>	FSG
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>JM mentioned the possibility of Soho being designated as a Special Policy Area, although this is too late for the current revision of Westminster's City Plan.</p> <p>JS asked about the lifetime of a Neighbourhood Plan. MB said that there is no given timeframe, but a Plan would need to be reviewed and updated from time to time.</p>	
8.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 October at 6.30pm at Shaftesbury plc, 22 Ganton Street, W1F 7BY</p>	

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