

Soho Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group Minutes

Meeting no. 013
Date 26 October 2016
Time 5.30pm
Location Shaftesbury plc, 22 Ganton Street, W1F 7FD



Present

Matthew Bennett (MB) - Chair, Michael Case (MC), Lucy Haine (LuH), Vivienne King (VK), Rob Kirk (RK), Tim Lord (TL), Joan Moynihan (JM), Andrew Murray (AM), Jamie Poulton (JP), Jessica Stewart (JS), Jace Tyrell (JT) and Ken White (KW).

1.	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>MB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Leslie Hardcastle (LeH), John James (JJ), and Sandra Schembri (SS).</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>Meeting notes from the meeting held on 21 September 2016 were agreed, with one amendment from RK. Under 'Matters arising', the minutes should read 'At present we would need around £15-16,000 for our budget ...'.</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>JM asked about Westminster's adoption of certain Special Policy Areas. Some felt it was a pity that Soho had not been included, and it was agreed that this could be considered for inclusion as part of our Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>MC said he would send personal data from the summer survey to AM, together with details of a random number generator, which AM could use to finalise the prize draw.</p>	MC/AM
4.	<p>Recruitment of Planning Coordinator</p> <p>MB reported that there were no new candidates for this post. We were now looking for an efficient administrator, primarily, rather than a planner, though planning knowledge would be helpful. JM suggested contacting organisations such as RIBA and RTPI. JS suggested that we may be able to find people with experience from other neighbourhood plans.</p>	

5.	<p>Register of interests</p> <p>MB had produced an updated list. TL welcomed the register but had some concerns about the need for more details in certain areas. There was some discussion about this, with a range of views expressed. It was agreed that the list was basically sound, but TL would forward his concerns for MB to consider whether the list needed to be tweaked.</p>	TL/MB
6.	<p>Data Protection Policy</p> <p>AM had received helpful advice from Roshni Kotecha (Shaftesbury) which enabled the release of the Soho Survey 2016 report to be made public. He hoped to be able to provide a policy for consideration at the next meeting, but Roshni had only just been given the necessary information to draft it. Our aim was to retain the minimum of personal data necessary.</p>	AM
7.	<p>Facts and Figures Day, 28.09.16</p> <p>About 30 people had attended the two workshop sessions. Angela Koch had produced a report and AM aimed to put it on the website.</p> <p>MB asked for feedback on the event. VK was positive. RK said that it showed us the need to move from general discussion of issues to the hard graft of data collection and specific policy writing. KW appreciated the input of Tom Harvey with creative industry data, and felt we should aim to access other similar sources of information. AM thought that the event showed us that our work needed to be more directed from now on. LH asked whether we were likely to need similar events in future, and it was felt that this was unlikely.</p>	
8.	<p>Policy Development Teams</p> <p>MB proposed 3 objectives for the Forum to adopt, following MC's debrief of the Soho Survey 2016.</p> <p>Objective 1: to put in place policies and recommendations which protect and promote the culture, heritage and commercial activity of Soho, encompassing keeping its existing scale and style of development, providing a wide and well run range of entertainment/night time economy activities and continuing to be a home for creativity and innovation.</p> <p>Objective 2: to put in place policies and recommendations which seek</p>	

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>He had produced a protocol for 3 Policy Development Teams based on these objectives. There was a positive response to this and the objectives and the protocol were agreed, subject to an amendment from VK so that it referred to 'social and discounted housing', not 'social and affordable housing'.</p> <p>It was agreed that LuH would lead PDT1 on Culture, Heritage and Commercial Activity, with ; AM would lead PDT2 on Housing; and MB would lead PDT3 on Environment.</p> <p>Ideally PDTs would report their actions in a standard format. RK would coordinate any research/evidence that was required.</p> <p>Initial plans were made for each group to meet.</p>	<p>LuH/AM/MB</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>MB would check with the Soho Society whether the December meeting could be held at St Anne's Tower.</p> <p>MB was also pursuing the possibility of holding a photographic competition in conjunction with the Photographers Gallery, to provide images and publicity for the Forum.</p> <p>JT issued an invitation to all to attend the turning on of the Oxford Street Christmas lights on 6 November.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 November at 5.30pm at New West End Company, Heddon House, 149-151 Regent Street, W1B 4JD</p>	