

Soho Neighbourhood Forum Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 3 July 2019

Time: 6pm

Venue: Soho Centre for Health and Care, 1 Frith Street, W1D 3HZ

Chair: Matthew Bennett

1. Welcome: Matthew Bennett welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced himself. FSG Members present – Lucy Haine, Andrew Murray, John James, Leslie Hardcastle, Ken White, Peter Parker, Robin Smith, Tim Lord, Vivienne King.

3. Chair's Report: Matthew Bennett introduced his written report on the work of the Forum during the past year (copy circulated). He provided an overview of the Steering Group's work and spoke to the forthcoming Regulation 14 consultation over the summer.

Discussion

KW - regarding how the Plan is set out – should we say a few words on this?

MB relayed to members that the Plan is now on our website and provided an overview of the Plan – for a quick overview MB relayed to audience that they can look at the executive summary. From the beginning MS relayed, we were committed to working in a 'bottom up' way, testing the Plan along the way with the public via surveys and pop up events. The plan has been developed in response to and with public feedback.

KW - regarding how the Plan is set out – should we say a few words on this?

Cllr Jonathan Glanz – is there an aspiration around LGBTQ businesses – is there anything within this Plan that can be done to support them?

Matthew – this didn't really come out in the public consultations, but we can look at this if not in policies but perhaps in aspirations.

AM - Also, outside of the policies we are adding our aspirations, but it is important to note that our aspirations will not hold any weight in planning law.

Audience Question – how will the plan look at the impact of construction on residents?

Matthew – we are asking developers to look at a framework for managing development - there is more information in Section 7 of WCC's City Plan.

John James – there has been a lack of maintenance and repair over the years/ across a wide portfolio of Soho's properties across the past decades – so suddenly, now there are change of uses, which when joined up with buildings that are decaying means we have to decide whether to fix these buildings or let them fall down. Many buildings have no toilets/ bathrooms for example too. So if we want these buildings to be there, and have uses

common today, like toilets and bathrooms as well as build in for future use, they need to be fixed to keep Soho alive. Soho will decay and die if the buildings don't change.

Tim Lord – absolutely agree about repairs, but the scale of development is too much.

5. Finance Report: Matthew Bennett presented the summary financial report set out in his written report. Matthew said that the focus in fundraising (apart from government grants) had been on businesses and noted the generous donations from *Nimax Theatres, New West End Company and Shaftesbury*.

6. Steering Group Election: All members wished to stand again. In addition, the Steering Group proposed to co-opt two business members Robin Smith and Jamie Poulton who wished to share their membership. The following were elected to the Steering Group by Forum members, with 2 abstentions and no votes against:

Residents –Matthew Bennett, Peter Parker, Lucy Haine, Leslie Hardcastle, Tim Lord, Andrew Murray, Ken White. Farida Dungerwalla.

Businesses –John James (Soho Estates), Vivienne King (Soho Housing), Andrew Price (Shaftesbury), Joan Moynihan (Nimax Theatres), Jamie Poulton (Randall and Aubin), Gareth Evans (House of St Barnabas), Jessica Stewart (CommComm UK), Jace Tyrrell (New West End Company), Robin Smith (Soho Dairy.)