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**Norwood Forum Committee**

**Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 4:30pm**

**Zoom meeting**

**Minutes**

**Present: :** Ibtisam Adem (IA) (part), Anne Crane (ACr), James Davis (JD), Jane East (JE), Kim Hart (KH) (Vice-Chair), Su McLaughlin (SMcL), Gloria Orosungunleka (GO), Noshir Patel (NP) (Treasurer), Sunil de Sayrah (SdS) (Chair) and Philip Virgo (PV)

**Also present:** Councillor Jackie Meldrum (JM); Gerry Evans (GE) (part)(Lambeth Council);

Tim Stephens (TS) (Administrator)

Sunil de Sayrah in the Chair

**Declarations of interest**

None.

1. **Appointment of Committee member**

Agreed to appoint Jane East to the Committee (for the remainder of 2020-21).

1. **Notes of last meeting: 24 February 2021**

Approved.

1. **Chair and Vice-Chair’s report** (written report from KH)

SdS: Kim Hart would serve as acting Chair until the planned June 2021 AGM; he asked the Committee to give her their full support

KH: reported on the planned Friends of the Earth community sculpture. This will be built on Knowles of Norwood land (in front of the vacant premises side). Designed by a Wandsworth artist, the sculpture would be made largely from single use plastic and earth/clay, and mark the depletion of the Earth’s resources. Lambeth Council support had been obtained and Arts Council funding sought. The sculpture would probably be launched at a West Norwood Feast (possibly in October 2021) and last for a year. The role of Norwood Forum would be to promote, signpost and link with other projects.

There was a discussion about the planned article in Lambeth Life.

1. **Ward boundaries: Boundary Commission draft recommendations**

Further to the discussion at last meeting, SdS outlined the draft response. The following additional points arose in discussion for possible inclusion:

* Whether another name could be suggested for the proposed new ward of St. Martins (there was a two councillor ward of St. Martins up until the 1990’s).
* A suggestion that Kingsmead Road should be included in the new ward.
* Whether the impact on existing Parliamentary boundaries should be considered {the Boundary Commission for England is due to publish initial Parliamentary Boundary proposals and conduct eight-week written consultation in early summer 2021, and produce final recommendations by June 2023}.

There was some discussion about the proposal to add “Norwood” at the beginning of each of the four ward names {in the same way as occurred in Brixton, Clapham and Streatham}.

The website and newsletter had promoted the draft recommendations:

<https://www.norwoodforum.org/news/04-feb-21/new-electoral-arrangements-lambeth-council-draft-recommendations>

and the opportunity to make comments. SdS would finalise the draft comments accordingly, circulate for comment and submit to the LGBCE before the deadline of 12 April.

1. **Community Conversation: 15 minute neighbourhood**

KH reported further on the first meeting of the loose consortium which would progress the 15 minute neighbourhood concept for West Norwood. The group included Station to Station, Norwood Planning Assembly and Lambeth Living Streets. The focus was on improving and publicising the local availability of all services within a notional 15 minutes walking/cycling distance. Various activities are being discussed including a possible Community Conversation, and a public event for car free day in September 2021.

1. **Streetworks update: Norwood Road and Tulse Hill gyratory system**

SdS reported that following a written approach to Councillor Claire Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council (Sustainable Transport, Environment and Clean Air), and with the assistance of JM, a meeting had been arranged for 19 April 2021 to discuss completion of the Norwood Road phase and the position on the removal of the Tulse Hill gyratory given the lack of TfL funding. The officer lead had also been invited. JM reported on the threat of the removal of car parking spaces in Waylett Place, which should also be discussed at the meeting; Lambeth is required to involve Streetworks/Norwood Forum on these matters and need to be reminded of this.

1. **Treasurers report** (tabled written report)

The tabled paper from NP showed:

* Expected surplus: £4168.74

This was considered to be a good level of reserves going forward. The LFN funding bid for 21-22 would require the inclusion of planned projects, and costed ideas were invited from committee members. A committee member to pursue grant funding opportunities to diversify our income would be most welcome.

JE offered assistance in reviewing and establishing a policy and criteria for a community grant programme going forward. The AGM is one opportunity to launch a new scheme bearing in mind the continued uncertainty over the possibility of holding public meetings, but certainly the 13 organisations who recently received a small grant under our recent ‘extraordinary scheme’ are all expected to provide a short project report at a time, and in a format, to suit.

1. **Planning applications and pre-applications**

AC listed the following ongoing planning issues and applications:

Lambeth Local Plan modifications

West Norwood Conservation Area expansion

Windsor Grove and Southwark Metals

Hainthorpe Road

75 Knollys Road

Norwood Park telephone mast (JM reported this was likely to be refused)

2-12 Ernest Avenue

Avenue Park Road: pre-consultation by developer

The lack of public information on site 18 was discussed. JM reported on the Council’s long term objectives on site assembly. The Council had recently acquired the site behind the Texaco petrol station, and already owned the freehold of the B&Q site. The site with the entrance from Auckland Hill and adjoining former Bainbridge studios was being marketed by the owner.

PV reported on the recently approved Lambeth Digital Strategy and the local installation of fibre broadband by G.Network and Community Fibre. There should be an opportunity to control the location, design and sharing between suppliers of network masts. He would consider how these plans could best be progressed locally with business and community input.

Neighbourhood Plan: the developing plan would require a section on community safety, and SdS would ensure PV was invited to the next planning session.

1. **Local economy**

ACr reported that Bobs Wines at Tulse Hill had been replaced by a coffee shop. The leaseholder of The White Hart had sought assistance.

JM reported on the Station to Station ballot to be held in summer 2021.

1. **Forum community co-ordination role**

Friends of Brockwell Park: a consultation was underway on future large scale events in the park, and views were welcome.

1. **Forum communications**

KH reported on LFN discussions on reaching harder to reach groups. New LFN objectives are part of this and will ultimately form part of the LFN monitoring.

JE suggested a search box on the website would be useful. KH and TS are finalising a list of website work. Some items such as a search box will have a cost associated to it, and it was agreed this could be included in the LFN Bid.

1. **Other business**

Sunil was thanked for his service as member, Treasurer and Chair of Norwood Forum over his service over the past nine years. A virtual leaving card was presented to him and he was also thanked individually by various committee members, with a number of anecdotes of his activity. He will be sorely missed by the West Norwood community. Sunil was proud of the achievements of Norwood Forum over past years, which were also some of his personal proudest achievements. He thanked the committee for their support, and in particular NP, KH and TS.

Next meeting: Wednesday 28 April 2021 (4:30pm).

The meeting ended at 6:10pm.

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| **Action Points {last date discussed)** | **Who** | **When** |
| 1. GDPR and data protection: annual review {15.07.20} | KH/ TS | June 2021 |
| 1. Norwood Community Safety Partnership: cycle of zoom meetings {24.01.21}:  * Schools, skills, jobs: TBA * Public zoom meeting * Lambeth Made: West Norwood hub? | PV |  |
| 1. Blue Plaques: phase two {24.02.21}:  * worked up ideas | TS  All |  |
| 1. Next Community Conversation {16.09.20} (ideas: all) | SdS/KH/NP |  |
| 1. Online banking: potential {24.01.21} | NP |  |
| 1. Small parcels of land: Assets of Community Value {24.02.21}  * Need to proceed * Suggestions on areas of land | JM  All |  |
| 1. Community Chest grants: next programme {14.12.20} | KH/JE |  |
| 1. Streetworks: finishing the Norwood Road phase and a statement on the future of the Tulse Hill gyratory removal project. Outcomes of meeting with Cllr. Claire Holland (19.04.21) {24.03.21} | SdS/KH/NP/JM/  TS |  |
| 1. LFN bid {24.03.21}To include planned projects by cttee members and any website improvements | NP/KH/  JE All |  |