****

**Norwood Forum Committee**

**Monday 8 April 2024 at 6:30pm**

**Zoom meeting**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Anne Crane (AC)**,** Jane East (JE), Kim Hart (KH) (Chair), Sue Osborn (SO), Noshir Patel (NP) (Treasurer), Laura Rigden (LR) and Philip Virgo (PV)

**Apologies for absence: Gloria Orosungunleka** (GO) (Vice-Chair) and Jane Pickard (JP)

**Apologies for lateness:** Philip Virgo (PV)

**Also present:** Councillor Jackie Meldrum (JM);Tim Stephens (TS) (Administrator)

Kim Hart in the Chair

**Declarations of interests**

KH is employed by Lambeth Council and based at West Norwood Cemetery, and would not participate in any discussion on related issues.

1. **Notes of last meeting: Monday, 4 March 2024**

Approved.

1. **How green can we go? workshop**

The Committee reviewed progress on the issues discussed at the AGM 2023, and subsequently at committee meetings. There had been notable progress in some areas. The discussion covered two areas only in detail in the time available: transport and reducing waste. The other areas will be discussed at the next meeting, if time is available.

Transport

[Public transport review](https://norwoodforum.org/node/3069): the local community had been asked (18.02.24) via a newsletter article and website story to contribute their comments and experiences on using public transport across Gipsy Hill, West Norwood, West Dulwich and Tulse Hill and suggest” ideal world” improvements. Subject to personal commitments, AC would analyse the document with the collated views received, identify the common top priorities and suggest a lobbying strategy. The ideal timeline was to complete this work in time for the next newsletter: 26.04.24. It was noted that amending bus timetables and routes would ideally be scheduled for adoption when new contracts were due to be let (perhaps two years before the normal five-year contract period).

[Electric scooter/bike bays](https://norwoodforum.org/node/3002): following lobbying as a result of a lack of consultation on the installation of bays throughout our area (and Lambeth), officers from the Lambeth Transport team had attended a successful walkabout with KH & AC. This had allowed an exchange of views and the resolution of a number of issues. Also, officers had agreed to extend the consultation period until Friday 9 August 2024. Information was still awaited on how to report bikes parked outside bays; KH to chase. AC reported that TfL is to start a rollout of bays on their roads; these would all be on the pavement.

[Walking routes](https://norwoodforum.org/Kerbside-strategy-walking-route-pilot): Along Hannen Road and Auckland Hill: KH had attended a walkabout at inception. Transport officers had recently advised that the design would be out for consultation in the summer. Only limited funding was available, and everything known to date suggested that this would not include measures to address problems such as speeding traffic on Norwood High Street.

[Tulse Hill gyratory removal](https://norwoodforum.org/news/02-apr-23/tulse-hill-gyratory-update): following on from the Streetworks project, Councillor Olga FitzRoy was leading the community grouping lobbying TfL on the gyratory removal. Modelling was due to be completed in summer 2024. Issues to be resolved included the ranking of the project in the list of priorities for both Lambeth Council and TfL, and the impact of the 20mph traffic speed limit introduced by TfL. Short term improvement measures (e.g. planting) were actively being progressed by TfL and a further detailed briefing had been promised.

[Streetworks](https://norwoodforum.org/node/2923): phase one works remaining to be completed included the diagonal crossing anti-skid surface, pedestrian priority markings at Station Rise, replacement street markings where this had failed after a couple of months (e.g. Lansdowne Hill), street furniture (including additional cycle racks at Tulse Hill station and elsewhere) and street art funding. Norwood Road was unique in the borough for having pedestrian priority at all junctions from Chestnut Road to Tulse Hill gyratory. Regular meetings with officers had been held to resolve the remaining issues, and KH would now make plan to complete the remaining strands and hold a closedown meeting. Phase two of the Project: removal of the Tulse Hill gyratory had been subsumed by the grouping led by Councillor FitzRoy (see above). JM suggested an Open House event to publicise the achievements and the measures installed to promote pedestrians and active travel on the high street: KH to consider.

School streets: Lambeth Council had published a 2024/25 programme (none in our area) and Rosendale school was expected to be in the 2025/26 programme. Existing school streets had suffered from some local difficulties, e.g. non-standard signage and the fact that physical barriers were no longer used.

Cycle parking: see above (ebike etc bays and Streetworks)

LTNs/CPZs: JM updated the Forum on the background to the need for Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) as part of the planned programme for the south-east of the borough (deters commuter parking & abandoned vehicles). Fee income was needed in order to finance enforcement action. The public consultation on the [West Dulwich street improvements](https://norwoodforum.org/news/13-apr-23/west-dulwich-street-improvements) scheme had been delayed because of the election. The original proposals had been amended, including a reduction in the area of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) - the southern boundary was now Idmiston Road, not Robson Road, and would be subject to a six month experimental implementation. Councillor Fred Cowell was due to discuss the plans with KH right after the elections. JM suggested a poster sized printed map of the proposals would aid understanding.

The West Dulwich CPZ aspect is likely to have some impact on parking in the town centre, and on the proposed CPZ for the rest of the town centre following next. JM would raise the impact of the recent statement by Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) on the need for LTN proposals to be supported by local people. An informal discussion on the town centre/Knight’s Hill CPZ had been promised by officers a year ago but the programme had slipped.

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting, a further discussion was held on displaced traffic and unforeseen consequences of LTNs, including for special needs children. In the light of the implementation of LTNs and CPZs elsewhere in the borough and in Southwark, one general conclusion was that options should be explored for West Norwood which were less of a “one size fits all” approach as adopted so far by the Council, but new bespoke zones to reflect local needs and in particular the unique town centre of West Norwood and its independent shops. West Norwood could be a pilot for future implementation elsewhere. JM would discuss with Helen Hayes MP this possible initiative.

Healthy routes: Lambeth Council continued to work with TfL on two local cycle routes. Not discussed further.

[Station to Station electric van](https://stationtostation.london/project/van/): KH confirmed this welcome initiative was for levy businesses only to use. KH will ask S2S for an update.

Reducing waste

Norwood Forum had promoted the new Council waste strategy (including fortnightly black bin collection), and looking back at minutes from January, JP had volunteered to take forward the development of a comprehensive directory on local recycling routes; KH to send relevant previously published Forum web page.

These sections were not discussed:

Partnerships

West Norwood & Tulse Hill green alliance

Mums for Lungs

Green spaces

West Norwood & Tulse Hill green alliance

Street trees

Parklets

Young people

Lambeth Made

Green skills

Jobs

Link to universities: Loughborough, Imperial, Southbank

Lambeth

Climate Action Plan

1. **Succession Planning**

Administrator: it had been agreed at the last meeting:

* Administration/governance skills: essential
* Website/social media: desirable

Example job descriptions/person specification (JD/PS) had been sought from other Forums. All committee members were asked to think on aspects they want included and advise KH that week accordingly. The necessary JD/PS was underway and would be finalised by the committee officers and advertised. Remuneration to be at least at London Minimum Wage. The forthcoming vacancy would be trailed in the next newsletter.

1. **Treasurer’s report**

Not discussed.

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

* 192 Norwood Road SE27 9AU: adult gaming centre
* Queen of the South: roof garden
* Any other applications

Not discussed (AC had left the meeting earlier).

1. **Verbal updates**

* Are You Ready To Vote?: Feast was cancelled; Plans to hand out leaflets at railway stations instead were to be developed.
* Networking meeting on volunteer recruitment and diversity – KH apologised for lack of progress but otherwise not discussed

1. **Written updates**

* [SADPD: Sites 18 & 19](https://www.norwoodforum.org/site-18-and-site-19): community stakeholder group is to meet with Lambeth officers the next day
* Thriving Norwood: the Changing Lives grant application for funding of a part time administrator had been successful

Not discussed further.

1. **Wellbeing walk**

Agreed to sponsor the weekly Wellbeing walk from the West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre so as to provide Personal Liability Insurance. Future funding from Guys & St. Thomas’ Health Trust for the walk held under the [Ramblers Wellbeing Walks](https://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/wellbeing-walks) scheme was awaited.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_