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**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 9 July 2022 (1pm)**

**Committee Members (2021-22) present: Ibtisam Adem,** Anne Crane,

Kim Hart, Su McLaughlin, Noshir Patel and Philip Virgo

**Also present:**

Councillors Ibtisam Adem, Christine Banton, Judith Cavanagh, Saleha Jaffer,

Rebecca Spencer, and Sonia Winifred

Incoming Committee Member: Jane Pickard

Over 60 members of the public, Tim Stephens (Forum Administrator)

**Apologies for absence:**

Helen Hayes MP

Marina Ahmad AM

Lambeth Council: Councillors Danny Adilypour (Deputy Leader of the Council (Sustainable Growth and New Homes)), Claire Holland (Leader of the Council), Councillors Fred Cowell, Jackie Meldrum and Olga FitzRoy.

Committee members:Jane East and Gloria Orosungunleka.

Kim Hart in the Chair

1. **Welcome from the Chair**

Kim Hart welcomed everyone to the meeting, and it was especially welcome to hold the first AGM in person since 2019. {The slides and videos presented during the meeting can be [accessed here](https://norwoodforum.org/news/15-jun-22/norwood-forum-annual-review-and-agm-saturday-9-july)}.

1. **Helen Hayes MP: address**

Helen Hayes MP had been unable to attend due to a family commitment. She sent a video message instead thanking the Norwood Forum for its success in encouraging people to get involved in the challenging issues affecting the area as we all tried to work to support local businesses and address the ongoing planning issues. Looking back the community had shown great community spirt during and in response to the pandemic, but the cost of living crisis now being faced by households was having a further real impact on people’s lives. The trading environment was tough too for local businesses due to inflation, business rates set by central government and the effect of the rising cost of living on people’s spending. She looked forward to continuing to work with Norwood Forum and local councillors as we all sought to work together on all these issues.

The Forum was also addressed by Councillor Donatus Anyanwu Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Leisure and Sport. He welcomed the willingness s and sheer hard work undertaken by the Forum in working together with the Council on so many local issues and to improve local amenities. The community was stronger for it, and clearly major planning issues would be a focus to continue this work.

1. **Address from ward councillors**

The Forum heard from one representative of each of the four wards in our area:

West Dulwich Ward: Judith Cavanagh

Knight’s Hill Ward: Sonia Winifred

Gipsy Hill Ward: Rebecca Spencer

St. Martin’s Ward: Saleha Jaffer

The councillors expressed their thanks to the local community for their election or re-election. Especially important to those elected to the Council for the first time, all councillors were now undertaking training on their new roles and preparing to tackle existing local issues. Matters brought to their attention during the pre-election campaign - including at the three hustings organised by Norwood Forum, were also being prioritised. Monthly ward surgeries were again being held. They welcomed the opportunity to work in tandem with Norwood Forum, other local organisations and local people on the challenges ahead.

Councillor Sonia Winifred announced that following lobbying by ward councillors, the Council would now be undertaking fresh consultation on sites 18 and 19. In response to questions, the Councillor advised that details of the further engagement were awaited but it was hoped this would involve ward councillors and a public meeting.

In further questions to Councillors:

Scrutiny: Councillor Donatus Anyanwu explained that there was no requirement for scrutiny chair positions to be held by opposition councillor. All scrutiny members were bound by a scrutiny protocol and good practice advice in undertaking their work.

Issues raised with Councillors: it was confirmed that there was in place a system to collate matters across all our local wards, so that issues of commonality and local importance could be identified.

Local church involvement: the role of the church in local community was recognised and welcome. As Councillor Donatus Anyanwu would shortly need to leave to go to another meeting, Councillor Sonia Winifred would welcome a further discussion with the questioner.

1. **Minutes of last AGM (3 July 2021)**

No comments had been received, and the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3 July 2021 were approved.

1. **Chair’s Annual Report 2021-22**

Kim Hart presented the written report covering the year’s activity, highlighting the activities using the [Wheel of Wellbeing](https://www.wheelofwellbeing.org/):

* Planet: care. The Environment
* Place: take notice. Place making
* People: connect. People connecting
* Body: be active. Know your neighbourhood
* Mind: keep learning. Wellbeing
* Spirit: give. Volunteering

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Noshir Patel (Treasurer) presented the published accounts for 2021-22, highlighting:

* Summary of Norwood Forum accounts for year to 31 March 2022
* #ScrapTheYard donations to pay for acoustic consultant. The campaign group has agreed the remaining money will be ringfenced for future campaign work or if not needed, used for a community project as yet not discussed
* Streetworks operating and overheads grant. He reported that the delayed long term finance settlement between TfL and government, meant the future of the project to remove the Tulse Hill gyratory project was unclear
* Gipsy Hill Health & Wellbeing Grant: funded by Lambeth Public Health.

Kim Hart highlighted the further estimated year on year increase in the number of volunteer hours (value now £54K) by the committee to the community.

There were no questions raised on the accounts, which were received.

1. **Election of Norwood Forum Officers and Committee**

The Committee membership for 2021-22 had been notified with the agenda. Kim Hart announced the outcome of the nomination process for the committee for 2022-23. As no positions were contested, a formal election ballot was not required and the 2022-23 Committee would be:

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| --- | --- |
| Chair:  Vice-Chair: | Kim Hart  **Gloria Orosungunleka** |
| Treasurer: | Noshir Patel |
| Ordinary Committee members: | Anne Crane  Jane East  Jane Pickard |
|  | Philip Virgo |

Kim Hart gave her thanks to those serving on the Committee in the last year and now stepping down: Ibtisam Adem and Su McLaughlin.

Further volunteers to serve on the Committee and develop and lead on projects would be most welcome. The website: [www.norwoodforum.org](http://www.norwoodforum.org) gives a picture of the work currently being undertaken.

1. **#HealthyGipsyHill – Gipsy Hill Health & Wellbeing small grants fund**

The meeting received presentations on five of the projects to receive grant funding under round one of the Gipsy Hill Health & Wellbeing small grants fund, a scheme funded by Lambeth Public Health and run by Norwood Forum:

* Reece Antrobus Emmanuel Community Youth Club and Homework Club Emmanuel Church
* Milly Youngs The Gipsy Hill Zine Project Paper Stories
* Yvonne Ihegborow The Reach Project - 360degree health and wellbeing support New Covenant Church Equipping People
* Ryan Spence Box on the Hill Community Sparks Change.

A member of the public expressed his support for the success of this seed funding scheme as managed by Norwood Forum.

The Chair thanked the presenting groups for attending to make their presentations and all grant recipients for running their schemes with such enthusiasm. Round two of the scheme would be underway in the autumn.

1. **Community campaigns**

#Scraptheyard

Kim Hart gave an update. A decision by the Secretary of State is expected on 18 August 2022. Following the sacking of Secretary of State Michael Gove by PM Boris Johnson and the subsequent political situation, it is currently unclear if this date will remain. The campaign group is seeking urgent clarity from the Planning Inspectors office. Everyone can keep up to date at the [#ScrapTheYard](https://www.norwoodforum.org/scraptheyard) web page on the Norwood Forum website.

Sites 18 & 19

Kim Hart advised that both Councillors Danny Adilypour (Deputy Leader of the Council (Sustainable Growth and New Homes)) and Claire Holland (Leader of the Council) had been invited to attend for this discussion but had given their apologies. Councillor Danny Adilypour was the newly appointed Cabinet Member now responsible for strategic planning, and had offered to meet with Norwood Forum and the stakeholder group.

She welcomed the news from the local Knight's Hill Ward councillors that there is to be further public engagement on the Council's plans for large scale development with tall blocks at both sites 18 and 19.

The stakeholder group of local groups (Norwood Forum/Norwood Action Group/Station to Station and Norwood Planning Assembly) would meet shortly and then meet with Councillor Danny Adilypour to establish the nature and timetable for the further public engagement.

Kim Hart reiterated the reasons for the Norwood Forum objection to the proposals and seeking the formal withdraw of Sites 18 & 19 from the SADPD:

* “ There has been insufficient time to adequately engage the community in understanding the proposals and their long term impact
* No other Lambeth town centre is to be affected in the same way by these development plans, so we believe that the consultation process must also be treated differently to reflect this
* Unlike the other 12 sites, sites 18 and 19 are major developments that will profoundly impact the retail and residential heart of West Norwood and Tulse Hill – one of the five town centres recognised by Lambeth
* This current approach ignores all the good practice community consultation that has previously happened, and the recognised capacity of local community organisations to deliver that level of consultation – as set out in the 2017 Master Plan: Moving Forward: A Collaborative Approach to Delivery
* The drafted proposals do not actively promote the Council’s policy to address climate change
* The overwhelming evidence is that the local community is against the plans for such massive over-development and destruction of our existing town centre.”

Once the outcomes of the council’s consultation was clear, with the number of objections exceeding all those made on all the other sites in the draft SADPD put together, Norwood Forum had written to the Leader of the Council to request the withdraw of the sites from the draft. The Leader had rejected that request. The formal position of the Council remained that the next formal stage in the process, as set out in the Cabinet report, was:

“Pre-submission publication of the SADPD Proposed Submission Version (Regulations 19 and 20): Winter 2022/23”

The meeting then discussed issues to be taken to the meeting with Councillor Danny Adilypour and in due course during the promised public engagement – including the expected public meeting. Amongst the contributions from those in attendance:

* The need to carefully plan what public engagement was wanted from the community perspective. The original objection by Norwood Forum should be sent to Councillor Adilypour
* Why had the Council decided not to involve the community in developing its proposals?
* No attempt had been made by the Council to reach those directly those affected, e.g. shopkeepers
* The GLA grant to the preferred developer to site19 had not been mentioned in the SADPD and the community had not been informed
* Social and/or affordable housing was clearly needed in the area, as was accessible housing, buildings of architectural merit with high environmental standards, and housing suitable for families (i.e. not tower blocks)
* No response had yet been made by the Council to the individual objections made
* The role of Helen Hayes MP in advocating for the community in line with her original objection
* The further promised public consultation needed to be conducted in the light of the totality of the objections made
* The impact on the town centre which had proved resilient during the pandemic
* The need to focus on the stated reasons for the Council’s proposals
* The need to be clear what the community wanted instead of that proposed by the Council’s proposals
* The need to join forces with London-wide campaign against tall blocks
* The relevance of the current draft London Fire Brigade strategic plan, on which public consultation was currently being held
* The expectation of more direct communication from ward Councillors on their campaigning work against the proposals
* The need to establish an active campaign core group of people who can find the time to drive the community campaign forward. This approach has worked well for #ScrapTheYard. Members of the audience left their contact details.

The local community can keep up to date with developments via the [sites 18 & 19 web page](https://www.norwoodforum.org/site-18-and-site-19) on the Norwood Forum website.

1. **Norwood Forum Community Grants Scheme**

Kim Hart launched the Norwood Forum funded grants scheme, which would provide seed funding of up to £300 for schemes operating in our area. Grants would be for schemes to operate for a period of up to six months.

1. **Close of meeting**

The meeting gave a vote of thanks to Kim Hart for all the work undertaken, the creativity shown, and the delivery of the considerable achievements during 2021-22.

The meeting closed at 3:05pm.

Chair

Norwood Forum

June 2023