

NORWOOD FORUM

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 1 December 2025, 6.30pm - 8.30pm

The Hope

Present: Jane East (Co- Chair), Tom Palmer (Co-Chair), Kim Hart (Secretary), Noshir Patel (Treasurer), Odilon Couzin (Treasurer), Anne Crane, Pete Elliott, Anita Hall, Andrew Johns, Gloria Orosungunleka, Sue Osborn, Tom Palmer, Tim Stephens

Apologies: Bryn Lockwood

Also present: Sophie Mason (Administrator)

Jane in the Chair

1. Matters arising and approve minutes

Last month's draft Minutes were approved with the following comments, amendments and actions:

- Gloria had been incorrectly listed as a member of the Transport Sub-Committee. It was agreed that she should be removed and confirmed that Tim was added.
- Previous Committee decisions were re-proposed and confirmed: Agreed to add Gloria to both the Planning Sub-Committee and the Green Sub-Committee.
- Jane will continue to lead work on internal communications
- Gloria will update Sophie on the story regarding West Norwood FEAST.
- Jane emphasised the importance of recording volunteer hours, as we are required to report this figure to the LFN and it's a valuable stat for funding applications too
- Minutes will be amended regarding the Fawcett Fountain: the word "signage" will be replaced with "protection".
- A community meeting about e-bikes will be held in the new year. The next newsletter will include a request for residents to share their stories and experiences with e-bikes.
- Item 17 will be deleted: Clarify Lambeth Council budget reduction figures to ensure accuracy in Forum communications.
- Item 21 will be carried forward to the next meeting: Review community priorities list.
- Item 22, the Transport workshop with young people, has not yet taken place and will be revisited when the Transport Sub-Committee next meets.

ACTION:

- Sophie will update last month's draft Minutes with the amendments, update the Actions Table, and then publish on our website.

Next year's Committee meeting dates were agreed as follows:

- 2 February, followed by bi-monthly meetings.
- 20 June for the AGM.

ACTION: Sophie to circulate the dates of the Committee meetings.

2. Sub-Committee/Project reports

Green Norwood: Three public meetings have been held and the sub-committee has a draft plan. The team now needs to identify which elements of the plan will require funding and determine the appropriate partners and potential funders to support delivery.

ACTIONS:

- Green sub-committee will map the items requiring funding and identify suitable partners and potential funders.
- Kim will meet the Green Team to review and re-design the dedicated webpages.

Safer Norwood: Thanks were extended to those who attended Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings. The Gipsy Hill SNP will hold a meeting on 11 December. Pete is trying to identify a suitable location. The report from the meeting will go to Andrew.

Both the West Dulwich and St Martin's SNP meetings were well attended.

Andrew provided an update on the Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP) meetings. It was suggested that meeting dates should be set well in advance to ensure the public can attend. It was noted that SNP Chairs are expected to use the SNP handbook consistently, ensuring its aims are followed.

Andrew also proposed that, rather than relying on the Police to set meeting dates, the SNP Chairs should take the lead in scheduling future meetings. This would not be without challenges, but it was agreed the Forum reps would press for this.

Sharing of Police reports (digital versions - currently these are shared on paper during the meeting and then often gathered up when the meeting ends), agendas and minutes will also be strongly followed up by the Forum reps. so that we can share this information with the community. It was reiterated that all shared information must be anonymised.

ACTIONS:

- All SNP reports go to Andrew who will summarise as a one page report to committee
- The Forum to promote the public's attendance at future SNP meetings.
- Kim will meet the Sub-Committee to review and re-design the dedicated webpages.

Heritage: Concerns were raised regarding recent tree removal in the Cemetery, including the possibility that some healthy memorial trees may have been cut down. The Committee also discussed the Robson Road entrance works, which have not yet begun. There has been no response to the Forum's representation. An update from the Council is required.

ACTION: Tim to contact Fred Cowell for an update on the Robson Road entrance to the Cemetery.

Schools: Sue raised the issue of cost-cutting measures being proposed to school leadership by Lambeth Council. A further consultation has been launched in relation to the Elm Court School SEND expansion.

ACTION: Sue to draft a response to the "Proposed Expansion of Elm Court Special School" consultation. Jane and Tom will review prior to submission.

Planning:

Tim was thanked for all the work he has done to respond to the Council's gambling policy. Anita will provide some local data to Tim. It was noted that experience elsewhere shows AGCs accept such restrictions as are imposed in gaining permission and then seek to extend the operation to hours that apply elsewhere - often 24/7. It was also noted that the Elder Road pub remains included in the data despite being closed for several years, whilst conversely a number of local pubs were omitted.

ACTIONS:

- Anita share gambling data with Tim
- Submit the Forum's response to the Gambling Policy consultation
- Anne checking details on approval of gaming centres.

3. Sub-Committee Terms of References (ToR)

Green Norwood: Jane and Odilon are joint leads. ToR approved.

Transport: Bryn is the lead. ToR approved.

Safer Norwood: Andrew is the Lead. ToR approved.

Planning: The Planning Sub-Committee presented their early draft ToR and plan to meet in January to refine. They will report back to the NF Committee in February.

ACTION:

- Planning sub-committee present final ToR for approval at Feb 26 committee meeting.

4. Future of the Forum

Jane checked that everyone had received the background note written by Kim.

LFN meeting

The group LFN meeting with Ryan Devlin, Director of Strategy, Communications and Change on 25.11.25 did not suggest there was much chance for the proposed total cut in the LFN block grant for 2026-27 to be reversed – see the background note for more. A second LFN meeting is planned for w/c 08.12.25 with Eoin Heffernan attending from Integrate to discuss other sources of funding both individually and as a group. Date and time TBC. Jane and Kim will attend.

Funds

Unrestricted funds currently stand at a little over £3000. Restricted funds — including those donated to the Scrap the Yard campaign by individuals in the community — will need to be reviewed to determine whether any can be reclassified. Potentially the Forum will be unable to operate beyond March 2026 when our current LFN grant runs out. Kim, Noshir and Odilon working on handover to Odilon of accounts.

Mandate/Legitimacy – Governance/Geographic Area/Areas of Work

Questions were raised about the Forum's future mandate if funding ceases – we could start completely fresh from April 2026 including reviewing the area we cover, as well as what work we focus on – might Thriving Norwood be devolved even. It was noted our strong track record will stand us in good stead going forward. It was suggested running a crowdfunding campaign could both bring in funds and reinforce a new mandate. This will all be impacted by the other points discussed under this item.

Lambeth recognition

Ryan Devlin was asked if Lambeth will continue to support the LFN with officer time – he was unable

to confirm or deny this at this stage. It was agreed to write to Ryan to ask is Lambeth will still recognise Norwood Forum as the 'community representative organisation'. Kim to draft.

Future funding

A number of potential funding opportunities were discussed, including submitting a Lottery: Awards for All application. Project grants will always include an element of administration, but getting a grant purely to cover core costs is much harder – which will impact our day to day work such as on planning and consultations. After the LFN have met with Eoin Heffernan from Integrate it was agreed we would follow up his offer to meet with us. Jane and Odilon to lead on this.

Other research

Kim suggested talking to Brixton Forum on how they run their subscription scheme and that we make a visit to Stockwell Partnership whose model is much broader than just being a neighbourhood forum/LFN member. Kim to arrange.

ACTIONS:

- LFN Meeting – Jane and Kim to attend/report back
- Norwood Forum accounts – Kim, Noshir and Odilon working on handing over to Odilon
- Email to Ryan regarding Lambeth recognition – Kim to draft
- Funding and meeting with Integrate – Jane and Odilon progress/report back
- Research – Kim to speak to Brixton Forum/report back and arrange Stockwell Partnership visit.

5. AOB

- Volunteer to attend Friends of West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre. Tim agreed to take this on.
- Lambeth's upcoming road works list now being received. Agreed this would go to the Transport sub-committee.
- Need for papers and consultation responses to be shared with more time to read/replied. It was agreed committee papers would be distributed one week before each meeting and that consultation responses would also be completed one week before the deadline. Kim/Sophie will send out timely reminders
- We discussed how to improve our internal communications especially working on consultation responses and internal reports, and it was agreed to set up shared folders for all the sub-committees and projects as necessary. Jane, Odilon, Kim and Sophie will take this forward.

ACTIONS:

- Kim/Sophie to confirm to Friends of West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre that Tim will replace Jane Pickard as our rep.
- Sophie/Kim to forward weekly roadworks reports to the Transport Sub-Committee.
- Kim to keep the Committee briefed about developments on the Sport England funding.
- Kim/Sophie to circulate a reminder for papers more than one week ahead of the meeting.

No.	Action	Who	When	Status
C/F	From Oct mtg			
1	Gloria to share West Norwood FEAST story with Sophie	Gloria	Ongoing	
2	Noshir to set up additional bank account signatories	Noshir	Ongoing	Odilon done, next Jane, then Tom
3	All to keep record of volunteer hours spent on NF work	All committee members	Ongoing	
4	Investigate protection options for Fawcett Fountain to protect once reinstatement words complete	Transport Sub-Committee	Ongoing	
5	Organise public meeting on dockless bikes/scooters (action from AGM)	Transport Sub-Committee	In hand for 2026	
6	Review Planning Sub-Committee structure and draft ToR	Planning Sub-Committee	For Feb committee meeting	
7	Review workshop outcomes from the three workshops – possibly revisit Older People and Young Families	Transport Sub-Committee	Ongoing	

No.	Action	Who	When	Status
NEW	From Nov mtg			
	1: Matters arising and minutes			
8	Update last month's draft Minutes with the amendments, update the Actions Table, and then publish on our website	Sophie	ASAP	
9	Circulate dates of the 2026 Committee meetings	Sophie	ASAP	
	2: Sub Committees			
	Green			
10	Green sub-committee will map the items requiring funding and identify suitable partners and potential funders.	Green sub-committee	ASAP	

11	Green Team to review and re-design the dedicated webpages.	Kim will meet with team	Early 2026	
	Safer Norwood			
12	All SNP reports go to Andrew who will summarise as a one page report to committee	SNP individual reps	Ongoing	
13	The Forum to promote the public's attendance at future SNP meetings.	Sophie/Kim	Ongoing	
14	Sub-Committee to review and re-design the dedicated webpages.	Kim will meet with team	Early 2026	
	Heritage			
15	Contact Fred Cowell for an update on the Robson Road entrance to the Cemetery.	Tim	ASAP	
	Schools			
16	Draft a response to the "Proposed Expansion of Elm Court Special School" consultation	Sue – final review by Jane/Tom	ASAP	
	Planning			
17	Anita share gambling data with Tim	Anita	ASAP	
18	Submit the Forum's response to the Gambling Policy consultation	Tim/Sophie/Kim	ASAP	
19	Anne checking details on approval of gaming centres	Anne	ASAP	
	3: Sub-committee ToR's			
20	Present final ToR for approval	Planning sub-committee	For approval at Feb 26 committee meeting	
	4: Future of the Forum			
21	LFN Meeting	Jane and Kim to attend/report back	ASAP	
22	Norwood Forum accounts	Kim/Noshir/Odilon	On going	
23	Email to Ryan regarding Lambeth recognition of LFN and ourselves in particular	Kim	ASAP	
24	Funding and meeting with Integrate	Jane and Odilon progress/report back	ASAP	
25	Research –speak to Brixton Forum/report back and arrange Stockwell Partnership visit	Kim	ASAP	
	5: AOB			

26	Confirm Friends of West Norwood Health & Leisure Centre that Tim will replace Jane Pickard as our rep	Sophie/Kim	ASAP	
27	Forward weekly roadworks reports to the Transport Sub-Committee	Sophie/Kim	Ongoing	
29	Keep the Committee briefed about developments on the Sport England funding	Kim	Ongoing	
29	Reminder for papers more than one week ahead of the meeting	Sophie/Kim		

End