

BRIXTON

Neighbourhood Forum

Notes of Forum General Meeting on Monday 26th November 2018

Present:

Alan Piper (Forum Secretary)
 Jean Kerrigan (FoWG),
 Chris Patton (FoWG/ Makerhood),
 Lara Samuels (Rappart Festival),
 Chin Ong (LamPAG),
 Gerry Evans (Lambeth Forum Network)

Nick Weedon (Forum Treasurer)
 Alan Slingsby (Brixton Blog)
 Tim Gopsill (Brixton Blog),
 Simon Still (Lambeth Cyclists)
 Councillor Becca Thackray,

Apologies for absence from:

Councillor Adrian Garden,
 Indar Picton-Howell (Brixton Green)

Marilyn Rogers (F of Tate Library)
 Maria Thacker (Forum Administrator)

1. Forum Funding:

1.1 Forum Budget:

Alan Piper explained that the intention in calling the meeting had been to agree an outline budget for the year ahead, in order to bid for new funds from the Lambeth Forum Network (LFN). However Nick reported that some £2,000 remained from our last allocation, so this was now less urgent.

Gerry advised that LFN resources were shared among 12 different forums, with currently c.£5,000 a year available for each, plus a little for collective efforts. A bid should be based on what we can use effectively, and she suggested planning an overall programme for a 16-month period to include the next full financial year (2019/20).

1.2 Community Chest grants:

In 2017 we pooled resources with Brixton BID and the Brixton Pound, so that 6 local projects shared a pot of £5,000, receiving between £190 and £1500 each. We need to establish if the other partners are willing to be involved again in a similar exercise.

1.3 Other support for community groups:

The programme of support provided by Community Southwark was felt to have been more effective than that previously provided by LVAC, but finding funding for projects remained difficult.

1.4 Forum Meetings programme:

Members present preferred for these to include set speakers or topics, with more notice.

2. Current Council Consultations:

Alan Piper introduced 3 important consultations that were currently underway, with 17 December being the closing date for comments in all 3 cases.

2.1 Transport Strategy:

Most of this follows the Mayor's London-wide priorities, but it was felt it should include specific local proposals such as re-opening East Brixton Station to gain access to London Overground services.

2.2 Lambeth Local Plan – Draft Revision:

Alan highlighted some of the proposed changes from the last version. An Evening Economy Management Zone is proposed for Brixton, but it appears to be limited to parts of Coldharbour Lane only.

A Creative Enterprise Zone is proposed, centred on Brixton, to protect work-space, but this needs to include facilities for rehearsals and messy processes as well as simple desk space.

However, the Key Industrial and Business Area (KIBA) on the west side of Brixton Hill is being abandoned. Jean suggested that the future of the adjacent Waterworks should be considered at this stage, so that key priorities can be identified, such as additional public open space.

Existing open spaces are under pressure because of the Council's readiness to hire them out for gated commercial events, which involve long partial closures for setting-up and reinstatement. There may be a separate consultation soon on this topic.

The proposed school site in Acre Lane is being abandoned, because the extension to Sudbourne School is now going ahead on the old Livity School Site at the corner of Lambert and Strathleven Roads.

2.3 Community Infrastructure Levy:

The Council proposes a general increase in the amounts it will charge on new developments. We need to be wary that some uses are not discouraged to the extent that we no longer have a balanced mix of uses locally.

There is also a risk of the Council becoming too willing to allow excessive developments in order to gain more income when government funds are being reduced.

3. Information Exchange/ Other Business:

3.1 Friends of Windmill Gardens:

Jean highlighted a few events taking place in December.

3.2 Windrush Square:

Nick reported that Bensons Funfair Christmas proposals had been scaled back in response to concern over the impact on the Square.

3.3 Brixton Arches:

It was reported that Network Rail was due to meet with tenants of the arches now being refurbished on 28 November.

4. **Next Meeting:**

We are aiming for a meeting in mid-January in order to agree a new funding bid to LFN. Details will be circulated once arrangements have been confirmed.

*Since booked for **Thursday 24 January**, open at 6-45 pm for 7 pm start, at the Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road SW2 (facing onto Windrush Square).*

*ADP, skeleton draft 5.12.18,
Final draft 13.1.19*