

BRIXTON

Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of Forum General meeting on 14th December 2017

Held at the Vida Walsh Centre, Saltoun Road, from 7pm.

Recorded as present:

Alan Piper, Secretary (in the chair),	Nick Weedon, Treasurer,
Maria Thacker, Administrator,	Cllr. Donatus Anyanwu,
Tom Bridgeman, Lambeth Regeneration,	Cllr. Martin Tiedemann,
Rob Goacher, Forum Executive,	Matthew Clarke, BRUG,
Mohamed Kheddache, Café Rio,	Chris Patton, FoWG,
Elias Filali, Western Line Café,	Jean Kerrigan, FoWG,
Jose Ribeiro, Hebron Centre,	Alan Slingsby, Brixton Blog,
Karin Christiansen, Sleepless in Brixton,	Cleo Cantone,
Lara Samuels, Rapport Festival	Richard Parkes, YLC,
Caroline Funnell, Sixteenfeet Productions,	Marilyn Rogers, FofTL Brixton

Apologies for absence: Devon Thomas, Stuart Horwood, Tina Jennings, Brixton Pound, Dinah Roake (Brixton Green), Mark Slowikowski (Somerleyton Trust), Binki Taylor (Brixton Design Trail), Gerry Evans (Lambeth Forum Network).

1. Future Brixton Update

Tom Bridgeman updated the Forum on current developments:

New Town Hall: The refurbished Town Hall is almost complete, and the new Civic Centre/ Customer Centre will be completed in Spring 2018.

International House: The council expect to move out staff by April 2018 and aim to procure a partner to manage the building as temporary workspace for the next five years. Demolition and redevelopment (along with the Pop Brixton and car park sites, and land between the railway viaducts) was expected to start in five years' time.

Brixton Recreation Centre/ Beehive Place: The Rec has 'dead' storage space opening off Beehive Place. He is consulting with Brixton Rec Users Group and Brixton Society about adapting this as workspace, particularly for technology enterprises.

Mayor's Good Growth Fund: Tom's team is working up a bid to the fund for providing genuinely affordable workspace in International House and in the Recreation Centre, as well as improving the public realm outside in Brixton Station Road.

Atlantic Road: The recent bid for TfL funding of road improvements was unsuccessful, but officers hope to resubmit a similar package.

PoP Brixton – The Council has agreed an extension of the lease until October 2019. This is within the current planning permission for five years. An evaluation against the original objectives is being prepared, and TB agreed to share this.

Sleepless in Brixton were anxious that a management plan should be agreed, to mitigate the impact on nearby housing, such as Canterbury Court.

Loughborough Junction Farm – workshops and commercial kitchen development are due to complete by end of 2018.

2. Sleepless Brixton - Council Response:

The Council recently responded to the issues raised by the campaigners, and this would be circulated.

Planning: The increasing proportion of food and drink premises was a major concern, particularly those operating late at night. The Planning department is reviewing its data, and Planning officers will attend Licensing meetings in future. SiB urged that Planning permissions and licenses should have clear conditions and times, which should be enforced.

Within the **Indoor Markets** the Council had set a maximum of 50% catering uses, and expected the Market management to enforce this.

Night-time Economy: SiB highlighted that Magaluf-style visitors were not compatible with increased residential use in the Town Centre. Major venues should have a customer management plan (e.g. PoP Brixton, Brixton Beach Bar) governing customer toilet provision and customer dispersal at closing time. There will be further discussion with Brixton BID members. A Licensing Saturation Zone is being considered.

Noise: Members complained that the present noise complaints process is ineffective. Busking is particularly intrusive after 9pm, but time-consuming for Police to enforce under present arrangements. A 'Public Space Protection Order' is being considered. 3am deliveries to Electric Avenue shops are another problem for residents above. Use of hard paving materials makes the noise echo around the streets.

Cllr. Anyanwu agreed to look at reinstating the former noise patrol service.

Public Toilet provision: The Council's long-term ambition is a new toilet block under the high-level railway bridge. The Forum was asked to suggest locations for temporary overnight pissoirs, e.g. Windrush Square, Tunstall Road, Electric Avenue? Longer opening hours for the Popes Road toilets was suggested. In addition to the Town Centre core, there is increasing evening footfall in Acre Lane, Brixton Hill and Effra Road.

There will be a follow-up meeting between the Council and SiB in January.

SIB are anxious to see action before May 2018.

AP thanked TB for co-ordinating the different Council departments involved in these issues.

3. Brixton Bridge Design Competition

Designs for repainting the Brixton Road railway bridge had gone on display in the Brixton Pound Cafe – members were encouraged to take a look and submit comments before the final judging on 9th January.

4. Young Lambeth Co-Op

Richard Parkes described how this had been formed to take on the work of the Council's Youth Services, and is moving towards a self-sustaining basis. It commissions outsourcing of these services on behalf of the Council and has a database of 165 local organisations with DBS and Safeguarding in place.

Dexter Road Playground: Operation has been tendered out to Heartspace, who will lease the site but be expected to generate their own income to run it.

Windrush Square: YLC are preparing to invite offers for a community use of the disused **public toilets**, preferably offering facilities for the 5–19 age range.

MC suggested that interim use as toilets would be of more benefit, but Cllr Anyanwu advised that footfall in Windrush Square was less than the proposed Brixton Road location.

5. Windmill Gardens

The Education Centre is out to tender and expected to be completed by November 2018. It will be managed by FoWG, who will need to raise an extra £27K to fit it out, for opening early in 2019. There will be less community activities on site in the meantime.

The actual Windmill is in need of some structural repair and maintenance.

6. Brixton Railway Arches, Atlantic/Station Roads:

Original traders in the arches had been displaced for one year, and others nearby were experiencing a loss of business due to reduced footfall. Network Rail had stated at a recent meeting that all has been held up by individual objections. All were anxious that Network Rail should start the work so that traders can return.

AP stated that Network Rail had not treated this with urgency, so construction and environmental plans were only recently signed off, with work due to start by 28th January.

7. Major Events in Brockwell Park

Proposals have been submitted to the Council for two major 3-day festivals in the park during the summer of 2018, in addition to the Lambeth Country Show.

It was noted that festival organizers (e.g. Love Box) were already advertising and selling tickets.

This will require a large part of the park fenced off for 41 days (65 with LCS) for setting up and clearing away during the summer. Alice from Tranquillity (via Skype) reported nearby residents concern over noise and disturbance. If weather conditions are particularly dry or wet, there will be lasting damage to the ground, so this is not a sustainable approach. NW highlighted that the reinstatement of land after an event can take five months.

Departing visitors will be channelled out of the park via Brixton Water Lane and Effra Road, rather than via Herne Hill. There was also concern over ticket prices being unaffordable for Brixton residents. Nowadays the Lambeth Country Show attracts more visitors from outside the borough than from within it.

JK informed the meeting that Lambeth's five larger parks face the same difficulties of pressure from excessive commercial events being booked in order to generate income for the Council. The Parks Forum is unhappy with this. Council departments are failing to talk to each other to forestall problems.

JK explained the relationship of forums to each other. Brockwell Park sits between 4 neighbourhood forums but has its own network of stakeholders, Brockwell Park Community Partners. In addition, the Lambeth Parks Forum brings together Friends groups and management advisory committees from all the parks in the borough.

Cllr. Donatus Anyanwu stated that no decision had yet been made by the Council. Applications would be scrutinised by officers, and before a decision was made, the Council would consult with nearby Forums and the Friends of Brockwell Park.

The final decision would lie with Cllr. Sonia Winifred, and AP would write to her to convey the Forum's concerns.

8. Neighbourhood Planning & Forum Status

Herne Hill Forum had applied for a large boundary that the Council's Cabinet had recently turned down, after adjacent forums objected to encroachment on their areas.

Agreed that the Secretary should make a formal application for the Brixton Forum to be recognised as a Neighbourhood Forum, after consulting other forums. We would not pursue a Neighbourhood Plan at this stage, but the matter would be kept under review.

9. Other Business

CF announced that 16 Feet are presenting ALADDIN on the 23 December 2017 at Brixton East, £9 adults £5 children, some tickets to give away.

Meeting closed at 9pm; Notes by Maria Thacker/ Alan Piper.