

# MAYFAIR —FORUM— MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – STEERING GROUP MEETING  
16.00 – 18.00, THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018  
FORSTERS LLP, 31 HILL STREET, LONDON, W1J 5LS

## PARTICIPANTS

Mark Henderson (Chair)	Business
Mike Dunn (Vice-Chair)	Resident
Fr Richard Fermer	Community
Jace Tyrrell	Business
Oliver Wright	Business
Will Bax	Business
Fr Dominic Robinson	Community (latter part of meeting)
Marie-Louise Burrows	Resident
Diana Dennis	Resident
Jeremy Bishop	Resident
ClIr Glenys Roberts	Westminster City Council

## IN ATTENDANCE

Lauren Archer	Forsters
Alice Gordon-Finlayson	Forsters
Sophie Dracup	Grosvenor (Secretarial)

## APOLOGIES

Tim Steel	Community
Kate Goodwin	Community
Bob Dawson	Business
ClIr Jonathan Glanz	Westminster City Council
ClIr Paul Church	Westminster City Council

## MINUTES:

### 1.0 Approval of Minutes from December's meeting

Minutes were approved.

### 2.0 Matters arising

All actions are completed.

After the last meeting the Steering Group held a vote. It was agreed that we would incorporate in the Plan that the months of June, July and August would not be suitable for commercial events to be held in Mayfair's green spaces.

AGF confirmed that the Steering Group have applied for the last available funding. There is currently a shortfall of around £214, to be confirmed by Bob. There may be some further consultancy fees in order to support the Plan through the public examination process with Westminster. It was noted that the Forum may also need to allocate some funds to public engagement to encourage participation. It was decided that AGF will circulate among the Steering Group the budget that was agreed last year and that Bob should be asked to lead a Budget discussion at the next Steering Group Meeting.

### **3.0 AOB**

#### ***Oliver Wright Leaving***

Oliver Wright will be leaving Forsters in July 2018, so most likely will not be able to continue on the Forum after that point.

#### ***Forum Mandate Expiry***

The Steering Group discussed the fact that our mandate as a Forum expires after five years from formation, and we must re-apply in good time to ensure that the Forum continues to exist. It was decided that the Secretary will look into the application process.

#### ***Credential Checks***

It was agreed that the credentials of all Forum Directors will be checked by the Secretary, in order to confirm that business or residential addresses are within the boundary of the Mayfair Area as a formality prior to the AGM

#### ***Summer in the Square***

WB set out some very early stage proposals from Grosvenor in regard to Summer in the Square. Having received feedback from members of the public in previous years, wishing that the event had lasted for longer, Grosvenor is looking to extend the event for a couple of weeks longer than it has run in the past. Other early stage proposals include a couple of weeks' free theatre and ballet performances, with a stage in the Square which will be open to the public. There may also be a few evenings of high quality jazz based music, with an audience of c. 500 people. These performances would be within reasonable hours and would be ticketed, in a similar format to previous cinema nights. Proceeds would help fund Summer in the Square. In response to concerns among the SG as to the affordability of the jazz evenings, WB confirmed that the events would be affordable for local people.

With regard to whether jazz evenings would be restricted by the draft Mayfair Neighbourhood Plan's Green Spaces policy, AGF confirmed that there is no restriction on when local community events are held. The definition of local community events may include the jazz evenings where these offset the costs of providing local community events (i.e. Summer in the Square). It was agreed that WB would feedback to his team about the SG's emphasis on the need to ensure the event is well managed, sound levels are appropriate and tickets are marketed to local people.

The SG also discussed the possibility of a date clash with concerts in Hyde Park, which may adversely affect residents in North West Mayfair. WB agreed to ensure there was no such clash.

### **4.0 Grosvenor Square - Police Box**

MD has been approached regarding the police box on the north-western corner of Grosvenor Square. It has listed status but concerns have been raised about the state of repair and whether the Forum might offer financial assistance. MD explained that it was unlikely that the Forum could provide any funds for its upkeep given that funds are raised on a 'hand to mouth' basis.

It was agreed that WB would discuss the police box with Nigel Hughes to try to determine who owns it. It may be included in refurbishment plans for the American Embassy.

### **5.0 The Lumiere Festival in Mayfair and community events in public spaces**

#### ***Consultation***

Fr Richard discussed how the festival is free, popular and creates pride with beautiful illuminations of buildings, and highlighted the increased number of installations in Mayfair. However, in South Audley Street, Mount Street Gardens, and the Mount Street piazza, there was almost no consultation with local residents and institutions. The Chapel was only aware of the installations because Lumiere wished to use the Chapel's windows for lighting, and residents were not consulted. There was also no logistical consultation in the days before the event, so residents did not know how

installations would affect them. Residents were informed that roads would be closed, but large cranes appeared that had not been previously mentioned. Light and music sculptures in Mount Street were set up just outside the front doors of residents who did not know these were to be installed, and others had generators running outside their homes. Ultimately there was a crucial issue of a lack of consultation, at both planning and logistical stages. The opportunity was missed for local people to be involved in the creation of the event.

It was confirmed that the SG was consulted by Westminster regarding the nightingale installation in Berkeley Square, but not about other installations. In future, the SG would like the Forum to be consulted about all installations.

JT highlighted similar concerns from the New West End Company's member businesses about a lack of consultation as to where installations were located. It was pointed out that the event was a top-down Mayoral led initiative so ultimately may lead back to the GLA and Deputy Mayor.

The SG agreed that Westminster and Lumiere could both improve their consultation processes, although considered Lumiere on the whole to benefit London greatly.

**Quality**

Concerns were also raised about the quality and what was illuminated. In Durham and Lyon, huge impressive buildings were illuminated and this was not the case in, for example, Mount Street Gardens.

**Next Steps**

It was agreed that the route that we should follow initially is through Westminster City Council. MH will write to Helen Marriage to express the Forum's concerns and explain that the Forum will be taking this up with Westminster. JT suggested that as a sponsor (New West End Company), next time in the sponsorship agreement a sum of money may be set aside specifically for community engagement.

**6.0 The Future of the Forum**

There was a discussion regarding the role of the Forum after the adoption of the Plan. LA explained that once the Plan is adopted, regulations will have been implemented that ensure all planning applications are forwarded to the Forum. There may therefore be an overlap here with local amenity societies. MH proposed mentioning this in the AGM, if we are applying for an extension to the Forum's existence. The SG may also mention at the AGM any initial thoughts about the future of the SG after the Plan is adopted. It was noted that The Knightsbridge Forum are seeking Amenity status to have a role to comment on change to the built environment.

JT proposed bringing the four Neighbourhood Forums together to discuss the future of our Forums, although JB suggested that the SG first identify a position as the Mayfair Forum. The SG does not wish to compete with RSMSJ. JT noted that BIDs are all statutory consultees on planning matters. RSMSJ also has business interests, but the key difference is our ownership of the Plan – so perhaps our role is of policing the interpretation of the Plan and ensuring it is stuck to.

Following discussions over Grosvenor Square and Lumiere, it was proposed that these were indications of the role of the Forum going forward.

**Chairman**

The possibility of rotating chairmanship around community, residential and business members on an annual basis was proposed once the Plan had been adopted. It was noted that additional changes to the constitution would be needed in order to implement this. To be discussed in the context of the next Mandate.

**7.0 Update on submission to Westminster**

OW confirmed that the re-drafted Plan is about to be submitted to Westminster. Delays were as a result of further text amendments being required, but these are now resolved.

The next steps after submission are as follows:

1. Westminster runs its own six-week consultation process. They may ask for an extension if they are concerned with any elements of Plan.
2. At the end of the consultation process, responses will be reviewed and Westminster, together with the Steering Group, will decide if the Plan is ready to go forward for examination in public.

It was noted that the onus is on the council to encourage people to engage. However, LA suggested that it is the SG's role to keep the community updated, via email etc., and encourage engagement. The consultation will be similar to consultations already run by the Steering Group, while the examination will be the more formal part. Westminster may come back with a different perspective and ask the Steering Group to change certain policies.

**Membership List**

It was agreed that the marketing sub-group will consider how best to communicate with the email list. JT offered to assess how many of the membership are business or residents.

**8.0 AGM – date, formalities and content**

**Content and formalities**

Before the AGM, the SG will need to consider how other amenity societies view the Forum and whether there is an overlap with other groups' interests. However, it was agreed that the Forum provides an excellent opportunity for all interests to come together, which perhaps does not happen in other societies.

The SG agreed to propose a couple of small changes to the Articles of Association to include the election of community members, and the for longest standing community members (TS and Fr Richard) to be re-elected. However, the Articles dictate that this would be one member at a time. Members stand by rotation, and convention dictates that this would be done alphabetically where more than one member is eligible at any one time. Therefore Fr Richard (community), WB (business) and JB (resident) would have to stand for re-election at the AGM.

It was agreed that Forsters will coordinate updates to the Articles regarding the election of community members and as to whether community members need to be represented within the quorum. MH proposed that as with resident and business members, one community member should be required to be present in order to comprise a quorum for the transaction of business at a SG meeting.

**Date**

It was decided that the AGM date will be moved to 19<sup>th</sup> April. The need to give sufficient notice for the AGM was noted, since at least 21 days' notice must be given for meetings.

Actions	Responsibility
1. To confirm the shortfall of £214 in the Forum's accounts	BD
2. To circulate among the Steering Group the budget allocation agreed last year	AGF
3. To investigate the application process in order for the Forum to continue to exist	Secretary
4. To check the credentials of all Directors	Secretary
5. To feed back the SG's concerns regarding plans for Summer in the Square to Grosvenor, and discuss the ownership of the police box with Nigel Hughes	WB
6. To write to Helen Marriage to express the Forum's concerns about Lumiere.	The Chairman
7. To consider how best to communicate with the email list, to encourage engagement with Westminster's consultation	Marketing sub-group/JT
8. To coordinate updates to the Articles regarding election of community members and their representation within the quorum	Forsters