



MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – STEERING GROUP MEETING
15:00-17:00, Wednesday 21st April 2021
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Minutes

Participants

Gordon Morrison (Chair)	Resident
Jace Tyrell (Vice-Chair)	Business
Fr Richard Fermer	Community
Diana Dennis	Resident
Jeremy Bishop	Resident
Piers Townley	Business
Fr Dominic Robinson	Community
Zaria Pinchbeck	Resident
Giles Easter	Business
Sandeep Bhalla	Business
Richard Cutt	Community
Eric Scots Knight	Resident
Scott Collier	Community
Petra Slater	Community

In Attendance

Nigel Hughes	MNF
Justin Pinchbeck	Sheraton
James Wickham	Gerald Eve

Apologies

Cllr Barnes	WCC
Cllr Lewis	WCC

Minutes

Last steering group minutes approved.

Presentation on Impact of Covid on the Hotel Industry

Justin Pinchbeck, GM of Sheraton Park Lance, provided an update on the impact Covid has had on the hotel industry. In summary, the government support (furlough, rates relief) has been crucial, but expecting that the industry will only recover to 2019 levels in 2024. 2021 occupancy estimated at 30% compared with the pre pandemic levels of 85%



MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Planning & Public Realm committee report

Nigel provided an update on planning in the last month

- Gerald Eve provided an update on the Entertainment Use Audit, which is expected to be ready to be shared with the Steering Group in the next week
- 1-3 Mount Street – objection letter drafted based on view that it is too large a restaurant for the area, amongst other elements of the plan that this scheme contravenes
- Planning sub committee concluded that it was not worthwhile to submit a CIL application to undertake a Conservation audit or a set of design codes for Mayfair
- 14/16 Park Street application to convert 2 residential buildings into 2 residential units and 8 hotel rooms was discussed as to whether it should be reviewed by the MNF, but concluded that it didn't contravene the plan
- Upcoming presentations organised on Farm Street development, Debenhams development and Oxford Street District public realm plans. Potential concern raised on Farm St based on height and access through to Mount Street Mews
- Discussion held on what the MNF should do in response to the new Use Classes. Agreed that we should wait until the City Plan, London Plan and National Planning policy plans are in place before pulling together the MNF response

Action – Nigel to distribute draft 1-3 Mount Street objection letter to the Steering Group.

Action – Nigel to distribute Entertainment Use Audit to the Steering Group once it has been finalised and include a review of the audit on the May SG meeting agenda.

CIL committee report

Eric provided an update on CIL project progress:

- Good progress on the Green Route, with a tender document issued to a shortlist of suppliers with aim to select supplier in May and start project in June
- Reverse vending machine delayed as British Land team have been focused on reopening
- Approach to gather and decide on next round of CIL applications has been drafted

Action – Eric to circulate the proposed approach to approve future CIL applications to the Steering Group.

Comms committee report

Jace provided an update

- Comms plan drafted, with SG approval sought at the May meeting

Action – Jace to circulate draft plan to the SG for comments



MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Update on recent meetings with WCC Leader

Gordon provided the update

- Main focus of discussion was on al fresco dining and Covid update

Presentation on legal responsibilities of a neighbourhood forum

James Wickham, Partner at Gerald Eve, presented the legal responsibilities of a neighbourhood forum. Main points made:

- Forum designation ends after 5 years, but the plan does not expire until the end of the plan (2038), but its weight declines over time
- Requirement for LPAs to notify forums of any applications, to allow for the 21 day consultation period
- There is no requirement of the MNF to review / update the plan
- Expectation that Neighbourhood Plans play a crucial role in development decisions
- Legislation is very loose on the responsibilities of a forum and there is no requirement for a forum to collate views of the community on all planning applications (which is what has been mooted by WCC)
- Minor revisions to a plan do not require the plan to go through the referendum process, but major revisions are required. Expectation that the changes to planning policy will lead to major revisions to the MNF plan. Recommendation is to wait until after government planning white paper progresses to legislation (estimated 2022)

AOB

Discussion held on issues of waste management and fly tipping in Bourdon Street and Mount Street gardens.

Action – Richard C to share name of Cllr responsible for waste management and the number of the WCC waste management helpline. Richard C to run a RSMSJ news piece to share the process on how to alert WCC to waste issues.

Action – Gordon to write to Cllrs to understand what can be done to improve the situation

Discussion held on recent violent crime in the Mayfair area and the need for security improvements, including CCTV. Agreed that CCTV should be proposed as a CIL application.

Action – Arrange for a presentation to the MNF from the Safer Neighbourhood group