

# MAYFAIR — FORUM — MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MAYFAIR NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM – STEERING GROUP MEETING  
16:00-18:00, THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> October  
70 Grosvenor Street - W1K 3JP - Annacis Room

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Fr Richard Fermer	Community
Jace Tyrell	Business
Scott Collier	Community
Marie-Louise Burrows	Resident
Diana Dennis	Resident
Kate Goodwin	Community
Gordon Morrison	Resident

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Oliver Ayling	Grosvenor (Secretarial)
Ed Greens	Grosvenor
Victoria Burrows	Grosvenor
Alice Stewart	New West End Company
Rosa Hun	Portman Estate
Simon Loomes	Portman Estate

## **APOLOGIES**

Fr Dominic Robinson	Community
Jeremy Bishop	Resident
Bob Dawson	Business
Keith Bailey	Business
Sandeep Bhalla	Business

## **AGENDA:**

### **1.0 Welcome**

- JT welcomed all to the meeting and facilitated introductions of all in attendance.

### **2.0 Presentation from the Portman Estate on Marble Arch/Park Lane (presentation attached)**

- SL presented on Marble Arch plans by Portman Estate.
- Confirmed that the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum includes Marble Arch within their area of concern as a means of improving it.
- SL confirmed that the Portman Estate begins at Orchard Street to Edgware Road up to Dorset St, across Baker Street and around Manchester Square.
- SL confirmed Marble Arch is not within the Portman estate.
- SL confirmed that to cross Marble Arch to Hyde Park, one must cross 14 lanes of traffic taking around 5 minutes.
- SL explained 14 options for reconfiguring Marble Arch that have been considered by the Portman Estate.

- The preferred proposals succeed in extending Oxford Street into Marble Arch.
- SL explained the aspiration to create a formal space for the Arch that celebrates it as a monument.

**3.0 Presentation on Proposals for Grosvenor Square (presentation attached)**

Presented by Ed Green and Victoria Burrows

- TB explained that Grosvenor took back management of Grosvenor Square from DCMS and the Royal Parks last year.
- Grosvenor completed a public and professional call for ideas on the square, these can be found on the website.
- EG explained that Grosvenor are still very early in the process of looking into the square and then talked through the history of the square to date.
- There are 90 trees in the square, 70 are London Plains and all of them are currently diseased, something Grosvenor are managing and controlling in great detail.
- EG noted current lack of seating within the square
- EG confirmed we are beginning consultation in the square on Saturday from 10-2.
- For more information please visit [vision.grosvenorlondon.com](http://vision.grosvenorlondon.com)
- MLB queried what Grosvenor currently can't move, EG confirmed that all trees have tree protection orders.
- MLB understood that London Plains have an ability to contribute on air quality so would be difficult to move, EG confirmed.
- EG confirmed the landscape is registered with some listed structures, TB confirmed Grosvenor are seeking to add to what is there, improving biodiversity and air quality further.
- MLB explained the site is quite bleak in winter times – could level changes seek to improve this.
- MLB suggested Grosvenor would need to decide on whether they are looking at hard landscaping and natural landscaping.
- RF confirmed that there is a tension between biodiversity and human use of areas, this is something to be considered. EG agreed.
- RF suggested that residents would support improvements in biodiversity.
- JT suggested community events are also well received.
- Cllr TB queried how we have engaged with neighbouring landowners in the square. EG confirmed Grosvenor have engaged with all and with Qatari Diar on this.
- TB confirmed that WCC would welcome any improvements to the s106 agreement that better harmonised the aspirations of the square and the hotel.
- RF confirmed the need for WCC to improve biodiversity in other squares in Mayfair such as Mount Street Gardens and Berkeley Square.

**4.0 Minutes of last meeting, actions & matters arising**

- JT confirmed that all actions from the previous meeting had been taken care of.
- The September minutes will be ratified at the next meeting.

**5.0 Referendum Update**

- JT confirmed we are 2 weeks away from our referendum.
- AS explained we have been corresponding regularly with the membership to ensure everyone was registered.

- JT confirmed that all SG members had received their voting forms.
- AS confirmed that flyers and letter drops have been distributed.
- RF to drop some flyers into Fr Dominic at the Farm Street Church.
- JT confirmed that the open meeting had 40 attendees.
- JB clarified at the meeting what the purpose of the plan is and the influence it can have.
- JT confirmed that the Knightsbridge turnout for the referendum has c. 200 voters.
- AS confirmed support was given by the Mayfair Times.
- AS to call Evening Standard to see if they would feature the referendum within their publication.
- RF confirmed importance of noting what the plan does address.
- JT confirmed that there is a target to get 10 votes each for the referendum date.
- AS confirmed results should be posted on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, we are enquiring whether a room at Westminster City Council will be available for the SG.
- JT thanked AS for her contribution to the referendum marketing effort.

## **6.0 Forum Updates**

### **i. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

- JT expressed JB's view that we use the general meeting to facilitate a discussion on how to allocate the CIL the MNF will receive.
- RF queried whether there was guidance around the process of CIL allocation. JT confirmed only in a general sense.
- RF suggested that those areas disrupted by development should receive the benefit of the CIL funding that the development contributed.
- JT confirmed that the MNF gets 25% of the CIL.
- JT reminded the SG that in the plan the CIL allocation was targeted at public realm, public conveniences, during the consultation there were other issues on improvements
- GM confirmed that developers have a responsibility to mitigate disruption from development.
- RF expressed the need for objectivity around assessing opportunities to use the CIL so as to best serve the Mayfair community.
- GM confirmed that we need to reach out to the community to understand how this should be spent.
- JT confirmed we have asked Forsters to help us navigate the allocation of a large amount of funds.
- KG asked whether the responses Grosvenor received on their Grosvenor Square conversation.
- GM confirmed the need to take initiative, perhaps create a list of 20 things that could be done, and then ask the community what they like.
- JT confirmed that the Westminster City Council CIL allocation goes to more strategic schemes such as greening on Marylebone High Street.
- JT queried whether it is too early to go 'live' on CIL discussion, it needs more thought and debate by the SG first.
- GM confirmed it needs to be mentioned, perhaps suggesting we will come back in the new year.
- GM queried if at the GM we will confirm what the Forum's role is going forwards.
- JT confirmed that there are 3 functions: review of the planning applications, review of CIL and keeping in touch with community needs.
- ACTIONS ON CIL – put on general meeting agenda and bring this back to the SG for further discussion in the coming months.

## **7.0 Preparation for November's General Meeting**

- JT requested that all ensure the SG members attend the general meeting if they can.
- JB suggested agenda:

1. Announce result
2. Ratify Sandheep and Scott
3. Financial Update (Forum and CIL)
4. Role and Remit of the Forum

- JT questioned whether there are ways to engage with the wider community.
- KG explained the importance of tapping into key local issues for different groups.
- SC confirmed that Shepherd's Market businesses benefit from being owner occupiers which tends to mean that stakeholders have a longer term interest in the area. There is still an issue with apathy on longer term issues.
- SC confirmed that most engagement comes from the homelessness issues.
- RF confirmed his opinion that there is a role for the MNF to play on advocating on such issues to collaborate on issues.
- JT confirmed that crime in Mayfair has increased 220% in the last year. That is the highest increase in London.
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#### **8.0 Dates of 2020 SG Meetings**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 3pm for planning and 4pm for SG. OA to diarise.

#### **9.0 Any Other Business**

- JT confirmed that NWECC have completed a residents survey to 21,000 residents in the West End, the results will be available at the end of the year, JT suggested this is shared at a future SG meeting.
- NWECC Christmas Party of 13<sup>th</sup> November, hosted at Fenwick from 5pm.