

Minutes of Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Wednesday, 11 October 2017
Living centre, 6.30-8pm

For all news, please refer to the website www.somerstownplan.info

Present: Slaney Devlin, Helia Evans (Ossulston Estate TRA), Chez Dhaliwahl (British Library), Jose Mansilla, Donna Turnbull (VAC), Anwar Zaman, Michelle Rispin, George Cochrane (British Library/Stanhope), Cllr Paul Tomlinson, Niyan Ahamad, Richard Harrison (late)

1. Welcome and Introduction.
2. Apologies: Fran Heron, Wendy Priolo, Cllr Roger Robinson, Diana Foster
3. Minutes of last meeting were agreed. Note HE is the secretary of Ossulston Estate TRA.
Item 1: HE to attend Central Somers Town CIP construction management meetings.
Item 6: PT reported there were concerns that leaseholders may face large fire safety bills from Camden.

4. Environmental Justice Inquiry/ Greening, Air Quality, Noise and Light

DT and HE reported that the three meetings of residents' evidence in September and October were well attended and very interesting. The need for health and environmental impact assessments for major developments was obvious, as well as the need to monitor NO2 regularly throughout the plan area. A report will be ready in the new year and used to lobby candidates in the local election. DT circulated a list of initial actions.

Action: Members to study list and see what suggestions could be taken up by the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Heritage.
SD and Diana Foster to meet Richard Simpson (Camden's Heritage & Design Champion) to discuss Somers Town heritage and buildings that should be acknowledged in the Euston Station Design Planning Brief. There is also the possibility of a Somers Town conservation area that recognises its unique character as a pattern book of twentieth century social housing. The Neighbourhood Plan should have a section on heritage that covers listed buildings, the Local List, conservation areas and community assets.

6. Schools
A large part of the Plan area is covered by schools and nurseries. This should be acknowledged in the Plan. We should be promoting work experience, apprenticeships and job opportunities with developers. We could direct CIL money towards schools. We should also consider asking our schools to open up their grounds in the holidays. RH said there were barriers to opening up schools, including financial barriers, but he had an open mind.

7. Housing

As we are now a CIP area, we should include a Residents' Charter on estate regeneration within the Plan. This could be worked up by a group that included TRAs and others.

8. HS2

SD has attended HS2 working groups on air quality and trees, traffic and utilities, and station design. Trees have been planted in Somers Town to offset those lost in St James's Park. It looks as if the air quality in Somers Town and the surrounding roads is worse than originally thought in the Environmental Statement. We still have no news on the utilities works proposed in Somers Town; trial holes have been dug in Eversholt Street.

9. Other Developments

British Library – nothing to report.

Crossrail 2 – nothing to report.

CIP – work starting on Polygon Road Open Space/Plot 10 at the end of the month.

42 Phoenix – developer appealed planning refusal and got it overturned.

Maria Fidelis – residents reported the works are noisy and dusty. Chalton House residents have lost light.

10. Date of Future Meeting

8 November 2017, Living Centre; 6:30–8pm

13 December 2017, Living Centre 6:30–8pm

11. AOB

Need to organise an AGM.

DT reminded the Forum that the Plan designation runs out next year so we will need an extension.