

**Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum**  
**Wednesday, 12 December 2018**  
**Living Centre, 7–8:30pm**

**Minutes**

1. **Present:** MR, Lita Smith, Sarah Smith, Slaney Devlin, Cllr Paul Tomlinson, Margaret Stobo, Herman Tribelnig, Mary Wood, José Mansilla, Fran Heron, Emma Morgan, Nicole Van Den Eijnde, Richard Harrison, Steve Denholm, DonnaTurnbull, Niyah Ahamed,

2. **Apologies:** Cllr Roger Robinson, Cllr Samata Khatoon, George Cochrane, Diana Foster

3. **British Library Lands**

Nicole Van Den Eijnde (Global Generation) and Emma Morgan (British Library) talked through their plans to open a community garden – The Story Garden – as a meanwhile use on the British Library lands. Global Generation have been running the Skip Garden in King’s Cross for the last few years. There would be a community garden, community kitchen, office, roundhouse/meeting space, polytunnels for growing food, a nursery to grow plants for community use and community allotments. A separate project between STCA and Central St Martins would be for a MAKE space – where residents could try their hands at woodwork, pottery, etc.

Current opening hours would be Tues–Sat, with two evenings a week. Residents pointed out that many would only be able to access the site evenings and weekends, so it would be good if opening hours reflected this.

Current plans are for allotments to be for groups rather than individuals or families. Again, residents thought a mix would increase local uptake/meet local demand.

FH thought it would be good for the space to sometimes be used for entertainment – open theatre productions, picnics, etc.

There won’t be a café on site as this would compete with the British Library cafés, but it is possible that locally grown food could be sold to the library.

MR thought some of the space could be used as temporary, safe accommodation for those currently sleeping rough.

It was agreed that there was a local need for cheap, healthy food. It would be good if the garden could form links with Chalton Street Market.

It was agreed that the space should be kept dog free.

The application is currently in planning and, if approved, they are hoping to plant the garden in the spring and open to the public in May.

4. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:**

**3iii)** There is currently £23,116 CIL money currently available for St Pancras & Somers Town.

**4i)** Cllr Danny Beales is attending the 13 February meeting to answer questions on the CIP.

**4iii)** Maria Fidelis School's plan to leave part of the building, concrete-filled, on Phoenix Road rather than complete a party wall agreement with 42 Phoenix Road is unacceptable and Camden have referred the matter to its planning enforcement team.

**4vi)** Alex Smith (Camley Street Neighbourhood Forum) is coming to the January meeting to discuss their neighbourhood plan, currently out to consultation. The plans are currently on display at 5PS.

5. **Developments**

**HS2.** At the Traffic Working Group it was reported that the utility works on Chalton Street and Phoenix Road are no longer necessary. However, major utility works will be taking place on Eversholt Street, meaning the road will have to close for some time next year.

MW voiced concerns about rubbish collection, reporting that utility works always led to rat infestations in Drummond Crescent/Doric Way.

There was general concern that less able residents would be trapped in their homes if the buses on Eversholt Street were stopped. A minibus or taxis would be needed to help people get out to groups/shops/medical appointments, etc.

RH reported that children in Regent High School were already suffering, particularly those living on Regent's Park Estate who were living in a very noisy environment. Getting around is becoming more difficult. The schools need to be better informed about HS2 works.

**Maria Fidelis.** The built heritage and decorative arts are being destroyed. Residents are very upset. Stained-glass windows have been saved and the school is fundraising to fit them in the new building.

**St Pancras Hospital.** The NHS Trust are returning in March to show us further proposals.

6. **Air quality**

The Somers Town air quality report is now on the website. StD thought we should make people more aware of the poor local air quality, by wearing gas masks, encouraging people to turn off their engines, etc. FH thought more needs to be done to get acknowledgment of the dangers of cumulative impacts.

**Action: DT to send a link to local planning guidance on air quality, currently in consultation.**

7. **AOB**

A working party is being set up to look at the forum and progress the plan.

8. **Dates of future meeting:** 9 January 2019.