

Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Wednesday, 13 March 2019
Living Centre, 6:30–8pm

Minutes

1. Present: Slaney Devlin (Chair), Michael Parkes, Donna Turnbull, José Mansilla, Fran Heron, Diana Foster, MR, Herman Tribelnig, Niyah Ahamed, Kevin Doherty, Joan Doherty, Helia Evans, Sarah Smith, Lita Smith, Rienzi Trento, Malcolm McFrederick (Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust), Wendy Smith (Moorfields Eye Hospital)

2. Apologies: Richard Harrison, Cllr Roger Robinson, Penny Jones, Fr Paschal Worton, Lil Scott, Steve Denholm

3. Update on St Pancras Hospital by Malcolm McFrederick of Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust and introduction to Wendy Smith of Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

MM updated on the St Pancras Hospital consultation and next steps.

- A new mental health hospital will be built at Highgate, replacing St Pancras Hospital beds. No beds will be lost. JM said the new hospital is likely to be within Camden once the ward boundary review is completed.
- There will be new community mental health centres at Greenland Road and St Pancras Hospital to provide integrated primary and community healthcare.
- The St Pancras Hospital site will be redeveloped to include NHS services and housing. Forum members were pleased to hear there would be keyworker housing, but emphasized that any affordable housing would have to be for social rent to be affordable to local people.
- The Trust hopes to appoint a masterplan developer late summer/early autumn.

WS introduced the proposal for Moorfields to move to the St Pancras Hospital site.

- They are currently consulting on how services are used. Moorfields is seen as an outstanding organization but users say the current building is not fit for purpose.
- UCL's department of Ophthalmology would also move to the site, fully integrating research and healthcare.
- SD commented that when a design for a new hospital at St Pancras appeared in the press at the beginning of the year, people were upset that they hadn't been consulted. WS explained that this was a competition to appoint the architect and that design on the actual building hadn't yet started.
- There was a brief discussion about what eye services local people use.
- SD asked both MM and WS for local people to be consulted both as service users and as neighbours facing major construction.
- DF asked that the historic importance of the site and buildings be considered in any development.

4. Minutes of February 2019 were agreed, once SD corrects the spelling of Lil Scott's name. These will be uploaded onto the website. Please let the chair know if you'd like your name anonymised.

Matters arising: repairs on housing were often shoddy and could cause more problems than they solved.

There is a lack of suitable housing for disabled people locally and it takes too long for existing homes to be adapted. Ward boundary changes – Somers Town should include St Pancras Station and the Ted Baker site.

5. HS2

The proposed closure of Eversholt Street has been put back to June/July at the earliest. HS2 and their contractors CSjv are looking at whether a mobility bus, dial-a-ride or door-to-door replacement service for bus users would best meet the needs of those unable to walk distances. A group of disabled people had visited the Euston area with HS2 and CSjv to highlight access problems and talk about their concerns.

Action: SD to arrange a meeting with the wider community and HS2 to try and work out the best bus replacement and other issues.

6. Euston Masterplan – Lendlease

Lendlease are the masterplan developers for the Euston area. They will be designing the offices and homes around the new HS2 station. They are also looking at building above Euston Station on Eversholt Street.

Action: SD to invite Lendlease to future forum meeting.

AOB

i) The Heritage workshop on 9 March in the Living Centre was an enormous success, with fascinating film and talk on Gilbert Bayes.

ii) The British Library Story Garden will be starting on site from 18 March.

iii) Phoenix Road Linear Park consultation will be starting in April.

Action: SD to invite them to a future forum meeting.

iv) Roadworks and lane closures on Midland Road are causing congestion and increased traffic through Somers Town. Frustrated drivers are driving on the pavement at Brill Place. The Ossulston Street/Mapledon Place crossing is becoming more dangerous to cyclists.

v) TfL have applied to extend the cycle stand on Doric Way to compensate for closures west of Euston Station. This will make emergency access from Euston House dangerous and will create a barrier trapping pedestrians on the pavement on what is quite a dangerous area.

Action: SD to object to the planning application.

vi) Community safety. Members report an increase in antisocial behaviour, visible drug use and crime. They want to see action on CCTV cameras. FH reported that the DMC are pursuing a community safety hub at Amptill, but this will take time to set up.

Action: SD to find out if CIL money is being used for community safety in Somers Town.

Date of future meeting

10 April 2019, Living Centre, 6:30–8pm