

**Roman Road Neighbourhood Forum
Steering Group meeting minutes**

Date	7.30pm, 14 th February 2017
Venue	Arts Pavilion, Grove Road, E3

Attendees (Steering Group members)	Mile End Old Town Residents Association (MEOTRA)members
Sarah Allan (Acting Chair)	
Mike Mitchell (MM)	
Tabitha Stapely (TS)	
Nadia Wilkinson (NaWI)	
In attendance	
Danielle XXXXXXXX	
(Public Works)	

No.	Issue	Action
1.	<p>Apologies for absence from Steering Group</p> <p>Alex Holmes, Torange Khonsari, Lee Sargent, Nick Wicks</p>	
2.	<p>New Attendees / Introductions</p> <p>The Steering Group members introduced themselves, followed by the members of MEOTRA</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 25th January 2017</p> <p>The minutes were received by the meeting</p>	
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4.

Discussion on Forum name.

In view of the attendance of MEOTRA members and the concerns they had about the process to date, it was agreed to widen the discussion about the Forum name to the overall Neighbourhood Plan process.

Concern was expressed by MEOTRA members about a range of matters, including: limited knowledge about the Neighbourhood Plan process, the lack of publicity about this specific neighbourhood plan initiative, the overall process proceeding too quickly without their involvement, the designated area being too large, and the focus being too much on the Roman Road area.

Sarah Allan explained that Neighbourhood Planning was an attempt by the Government under the 2011 Localism Act to apply the benefits of neighbourhood planning in local parishes in a national context. Sarah summarized this new process in four stages

1. Designation of the neighbourhood plan area
2. Designation of the neighbourhood plan forum (the body set up in the absence of a local parish council) to develop the plan.
3. Detailed work to develop policies and projects to form the neighbourhood plan
4. Independent examination of the proposed plan and a local referendum on the plan

Steering group members accepted that MEOTRA had felt excluded from the process, and apologized for weaknesses in our public consultation efforts to date.

It was emphasized that the current Steering Group, formed after an initial public meeting in February 2016, had sought to make contact with as many local groups as possible with limited resources.

A leaflet was currently being designed, 10,000 copies to be printed, explaining the intention to produce a plan, and inviting people to a General Meeting of the Forum on Saturday 25th March (venue to be confirmed).

The process was therefore still in its early stages, and a great deal of work remained to be done to develop the detailed policies and projects that will make up the plan.

The Steering Group invited MEOTRA to join in the process so that their detailed local knowledge could help shape the plan and ensure that issues such as transport, which affect the whole area, can be addressed more effectively.

It was acknowledged that the effectiveness of neighbourhood plans to influence planning decisions was unknown, but it was the best available tool and was worth pursuing. Local groups working together offered more hope than individual groups working alone.

MEOTRA members agreed to consider being represented on the Steering Group. It was emphasized that this will involve willingness to share in the tasks needed to carry the process forward.

5.	<p>Publicity leaflet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaflet to be sent to designer by 17th February - Leaflet to be paid for 31st March (the deadline for all grant expenditure)TS - 	TS
6.	<p>Review of programme for the plan.</p> <p>Item deferred. It was stated that the present round of government funding for 2015-18 requires expenditure to be completed by the earlier of 6 months of a grant being awarded, or 31st December 2017. Approximately £3,000 of additional government funding was available, plus a possible maximum of £6,000 funding for technical assistance</p>	
7.	<p>Plans for next general meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss these at the next Steering Group meetig. Nadia Wilkinson reported she was exploring the possibility of the meeting being at the Chisenhale Gallery</p>	ALL
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>	
9.	<p>Next meeting date for steering group</p> <p>7.30 p.m. Wednesday 1st March</p>	