

Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum AGM meeting minutes

Date	3.00pm 21 st April 2018
Venue	St. Paul's Church, St. Stephen's Road, E3 5JL

Steering Committee:

Lee Sargent – Secretary
 Alex Neil – Chair
 Mike Mitchell – Treasurer
 Sarah Allan
 Nadia Wilkinson
 Torange Khonsari

Other Attendees:

Robert Philpotts, Chrystabel Austin, Paul Pearce, Debbie Frazer, Sarah Bland, Craig Brown, Stuart Holdsworth, Sue Johnstone, Margaret McGinley, Ben Priestley, Asma Begum, Val Whitehead, Natalya Palit, John White, Stephanie Dowker, Gavin Scott, Samos Wykenham, Zoe Portlock, Jyoti Turner

Minutes:

Item	Issue	Action
1.0	<p>Report on Forum activities during the past year</p> <p>Alex Neil welcomed everyone to this, the first AGM of the Forum. The Forum Steering Group had met monthly during the year, working to a timetable which aimed to have a Neighbourhood Plan adopted by July 2020.</p> <p>The Steering Group had liaised with a wide variety of local individuals, community groups and businesses, and with LBTH planners. An application for the Neighbourhood Area was submitted, and formal designation of the area was agreed by the Council on 12th February 2017. In May a public General Meeting of the Forum was held, at which a draft constitution of the Forum was discussed. An application for designation of the Neighbourhood Forum was then submitted to LBTH in August 2017, with the Forum being officially designated by the Council on 16th August 2017.</p> <p>During the autumn the Steering Group developed its engagement strategy, deciding to divide the neighbourhood area into 8 sub-areas and seek ambassadors for each of these to promote the neighbourhood plan in their area. Alex gave special thanks to the area ambassadors, who had subsequently helped promote the work of the Forum.</p> <p>During January and February, a series of public consultation events had been run in the sub-areas. These were carried out with the invaluable help of an EU Erasmus Programme student and Public Works, a not-for-</p>	

	<p>profit community architecture practice that has been assisting the Forum. These events included work with children in Olga Primary School. The draft report of this series of consultation events has been shared today in the earlier workshop.</p> <p>The challenge for 2018 was to build participation in the neighbourhood plan process, continue to gather evidence and consult with a wide range of people and organisations, and develop specific policies and projects to include in the plan.</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p>Financial report and statement from treasurer</p> <p>A financial summary had been circulated prior to the meeting, and the Treasurer, Mike Mitchell, summarised this. The Forum's sole income for 2017-18 had been a Neighbourhood Planning grant from the Dept. of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Expenditure for the year was £1,987.50, the two main areas of expenditure being publicity through social media (£920.00) and public consultation meetings (£792.50).</p> <p>The Forum was eligible to apply for a further government grant of approximately £5,000 in 2018-19, and there was a possibility of some additional funding because the neighbourhood area had over 25,000 residents. A package of technical support was also possible.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Election of Forum Committee officers and members (By show of hands)</p> <p>3.1 Election of Chair The Chair was taken by Mike Mitchell for this item of business. Alex Neil confirmed his willingness to stand for election as Chair, and in the absence of any other candidates, a vote for election proceeded. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Alex Neil being appointed as Chair.</p> <p>3.2 Election of Treasurer Alex Neil resumed chairing the meeting at this point. Mike Mitchell confirmed his willingness to stand for election as Treasurer, and in the absence of any other candidates, a vote for election proceeded. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Mike Mitchell being appointed as Treasurer.</p> <p>3.3 Election of Secretary Lee Sargent confirmed his willingness to stand for election as Secretary, and in the absence of any other candidates, a vote for election proceeded. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Lee Sargent being appointed as Secretary.</p> <p>3.4 Election of Membership Officer Nadia Wilkinson confirmed her willingness to stand for election as Secretary. In the absence of any other candidates, a vote for election proceeded. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Nadia Wilkinson being appointed as Membership Secretary.</p> <p>3.5 Election of Media Officer Natalya Palit and Jyoto Turner expressed a willingness to share this role, Natalya being familiar with Mailchimp, and Jyoto being confident in writing posts. The meeting agreed that a division of responsibilities could be worked out over the coming weeks. A separate vote was taken for each, and both Natalya Palit and Jyoto Turner were appointed unanimously.</p>	

	<p>I'm not sure if Craig was voted on as Outreach Officer or simply as a Committee Member.</p> <p><u>3.6 Election of Outreach Officer</u> Craig Brown expressed his willingness stand for election as Outreach Officer. In the absence of any other candidates, a vote for election proceeded. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Craig Brown being appointed as Outreach officer.</p> <p><u>3.7 Election of other Committee Members</u> No further committee members were appointed.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>4.1 The idea of a Community Land Trust (CLT) being formed</u> Sarah Bland, an architect, shared with the meeting a new initiative she was involved with to explore the possibility of setting up a Community Land Trust to help people continue living in the area who could not afford to buy a property on the open market. She explained that Community Land Trusts are a form of community-led housing, set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes. CLTs act as long-term stewards of housing, ensuring that it remains genuinely affordable, based on what people actually earn in their area. Sarah was in contact with the national CLT network and was exploring what was the most appropriate business model to adopt. She had opened discussions with Clarion about two possible sites in the Old Ford area, but these were at an early stage. Sarah invited Forum members to contact her if they were interested in exploring the initiative with her.</p> <p><u>4.2 Mile End Old Town Residents Association (MEOTRA)</u> John White told the meeting that the draft public engagement report discussed at the workshop which preceded the AGM didn't adequately reflect the points made by MEOTRA members at a recent consultation event, which had also included the Antill and Medway sub-areas. The meeting's Chair invited John to submit the likes, dislikes and 'something we need to work on' points of those attending from MEOTRA, so that they could be included in the final report. It was agreed that the draft final report would be circulated prior to it being signed off.</p> <p>A member of MEOTRA told the meeting she had stopped receiving monthly Forum newsletters after January. It was agreed she would check with the Membership Officer that her correct email address was held by the Forum.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting.</p>	