

Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum, held at 2.30 pm on 16th July 202 at St Paul's Old Ford

Present: Forum committee members: Alex Holmes (Chair) Mike Mitchell (Treasurer), Eddie Blake (observer), Seth Pimlott, Will Tanner.

Other local residents: David Burbidge, Andrea Davidson, Simon Levey, Mary Meek, Meg Mitchell, Theresa Talian.

1. Welcome and Apologies

Alex welcomed everyone and invited each person to share briefly a little about themselves by way of introduction.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Rachel Blake, Patricia Hernández, Lee Sargent

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 30th November 2021

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of business conducted at the AGM. David Burbidge asked what the status of the Forum was, and it was explained that in London, where there aren't parish councils, neighbourhood forums are the bodies established under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act to produce neighbourhood plans.

3. Report on Forum activities over the past year.

A written summary of the Forum's activities had been provided, and Alex summarised the main points of this. It had been a long journey since the plan process began in 2016 but the past year had seen progress.

The Forum committee continued to meet monthly online during the year. We organised the required (Regulation 14) 6-week public consultation on the plan (15th March – 22nd April 2021) during which the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) for the Olympic Park, pointed out that two small areas of land in our plan area adjacent to the west side of the A12 fell within their jurisdiction.

Plan area boundary updated

The boundary of the plan area was subsequently amended by a Council cabinet decision on 30th June to exclude these small areas of LLDC land. A second Regulation 14 consultation over the impact of the boundary changes on the plan was carried out from 5th July - 15th August.

Plan updated

The draft plan was then updated in light of the representations received in both consultations and submitted to the Council with the required supporting documents on 15th October.

Final public consultation

The Council then carried out its statutory (Regulation 16) 6-week consultation between 6th December 2021 – 7th February 2022, extended because of end of year holidays. The plan

was updated once again in response to representations received and submitted for independent examination at the end of February 2022.

Independent Examination recommendation

The examiner, Jill Kingaby, issued her report on 31st May. This said the plan met legal requirements and, subject to minor modifications, recommended that it proceed to referendum. The regulations state the local authority should issue a decision notice on the examiner's recommendation within 25 days of the report, but the Mayor and lead member have asked for more time to consider the plan. LBTH planning officers have told us they are expecting their report will be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 1st August.

Support received

The Forum has been supported by a consultant, Chris Bowden from Navigus Planning throughout the plan-making process, which has been facilitated through small annual grants from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

There was discussion about the neighbourhood plan area, which covers Bow West and Bow East wards, excluding the area to the East of the A12 (Fish Island) and also about who is eligible to vote in a local referendum. Anyone entitled to vote in ward elections for local councillors is entitled to vote in a referendum.

It was not known how much notice the Council needs to give for the referendum which it is responsible for organising. (It was learnt subsequently the minimum notice is 25 days). The referendum will have a yes/no question. If there is a 50% + 1 majority the Council must make the neighbourhood plan as soon as reasonably practicable.

4. Financial report

A financial report was presented to the meeting by Mike Mitchell. This showed income for 2021-22 of £2,635 and expenditure of £2,280. The closing cash balance at 31/03/2022 was £355.

2,000 leaflets for the referendum (£225) had been paid for in advance. Given the effectiveness of leaflet distribution in local referenda, it was agreed that Mike would find out the cost of having up to 10,000 leaflets printed and distributed, and if possible, apply for a neighbourhood planning grant to cover the additional cost.

5. Election of Forum Committee

The following were elected to serve on the committee for the year ahead by a show of hands: Alex Holmes (Chair), Lee Sargent (Social media), Mike Mitchell (Treasurer), committee members: David Burbidge, Eddie Blake (observer status), Seth Pimlott, Will Tanner.

6. Any other business

David Burbidge asked about the role of the Forum once the plan is adopted. A major role would be to monitor the use of the plan regarding future planning applications. David was keen to consider how it might be possible to apply the plan more broadly, for example over housing issues the area faces.