

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum held at 12.00 pm on 28th June 2025 at Bow Idea Store, Gladstone Place E3 5GT

Present: Paul Ash (Committee Member), Cllr. Nathalie Bienfait (observer), Rebecca Binus, Neil Esberts, Jane Hay (Chair), Sue Johnstone, Stephanie Lieber, Mike Mitchell (Secretary), Meg Mitchell, Cllr. Abdi Mohamad (observer), Bob Philpotts, John White (Committee Member),

1. Welcomes and apologies. Jane Hay welcomed everyone to the meeting. The following apologies had been received – Gordon Parker, Kate Gould, Abdul Hye (Committee Member), Lauma Kalns-Timans, Shafiq Pandor (Committee Member), Chris Smith-Brown.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 20th July 2024. The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the business conducted.

3. Report on Forum activities over the past year.

A written summary of the Forum's activities had been provided, and Jane Hay highlighted key points:

Council Redesignation achieved. The forum was re-designated by Tower Hamlets in December 2024 for a further five years. The Committee is grateful to our local councillors and the Regeneration Committee) for their support in achieving this

Committee strengthened. The Forum Committee met 5 times during the year. Abdul Hye and Jane Hay joined the committee in January. Jane was appointed Chair at the March meeting, and had since met with committee members to discuss future roles and responsibilities.

Scrutiny of planning applications. The Committee had agreed criteria for reviewing planning applications within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and responded to a number of development proposals, including:

- A new Community Centre as part of the Caxton Hall redevelopment
- The future of the former Growing Concerns garden centre site in Wick Lane
- The redevelopment of the Clare House site in Hawthorn Avenue
- The proposed redevelopment of Texaco petrol station at 53 Grove Road into housing
- The application for a major redevelopment of Bow Wharf

Other activities. The Forum had pursued concerns with the Council over the lack of published information concerning the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL

contributions are made by developers to Councils to mitigate any negative impacts from the build affecting the area. Where a Neighbourhood Plan is in place, 25% of the CIL contributions paid by developers to the Council should be spent in the plan area. (The amount is 15% for areas not having a neighbourhood plan.) For Bow, the CIL catchment area set by Tower Hamlets does not align with the Neighbourhood Plan Area, and we will be seeking to change this in future.

Looking ahead. Now the Forum has been redesignated this is the right time to review our mission and key priorities for the 5 year designation period. The Forum also recognises that we need to grow our membership, improve communications and raise funds for our activities. We will be working on this over the next few months.

4. Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2025. Mike Mitchell presented a very brief financial summary, as no income or expenditure had occurred during the year. Incidental expenses during this period had been met by the committee. The Forum had a bank balance of £435 at the end of March.

5. Election of the Forum Committee. Mike Mitchell took the Chair in order that Jane Hay could be proposed as Chair of the committee. Jane Hay was then duly elected as the Forum Chair, and resumed chairing the meeting.

The following were then elected: Secretary: Mike Mitchell; Treasurer: Shafiq Pandor; Existing committee members re-elected: Paul Ash, Abdul Hye; New members elected: Chris Smith-Brown and Lauma Kalns-Timans (both of whom had provided supporting statements circulated in advance of the meeting).

6. Any Other Business There was no other formal business and, after inviting everyone present to share briefly about themselves and their interests in the area, the Chair brought the meeting to a close.

An informal discussion followed which included the following topics: the planning application for Bow Wharf, the redevelopment of Lemon Tree House on Bow Road, planning permission granted for a 145 flats in a 23-storey block to replace Clare House in Hawthorn Road, the mix of businesses on the Roman Road, exploring local people's priorities for CIL expenditure, congestion along St. Stephen's Road and the proposed new drug recovery treatment centre at John Onslow House.