

# MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

NEWSLETTER 5 OCT/NOV 2016

Such a busy time - we all have been working so hard! That's why this newsletter is late, and includes information for a six week period.

1. **Our first public consultation (September) successfully completed!** Again, many thanks to all of our members and friends who helped distribute **3,000 leaflets and 30 posters throughout our Neighbourhood Area in a door-to-door drop.** Well done everyone!

We made some new friends and contacts. We had many interesting replies, including responses on our website, and met some new participants at our Forum meeting in September and at our seminar in October.

The point of this very low-cost exercise was to raise our local profile, let local people know what we are doing, and invite all our neighbours to voice their thoughts on how this neighbourhood should develop.

One of our defined duties is to consult the wider local population at all stages of our work, and we should be rightly pleased at our progress on this front.

2. **Forum Executive meeting October.** We met to review our finances, set out a programme of work for the next six months, review progress of the CRtBuild project etc. Ed told the meeting about a proposal to embark on a second CRtBuild project. It was noted that the work on local statistics still had not started.

The Exec decided

- To spend a maximum of £2.000 on re-modelling our website. The cost-benefit rationale was that an efficient and attractive website would be one of the Forum's most useful tools for public consultation.
- To write a job specification for the website work and put the work out for tender. A working party - Julie, Oliver, Bruce, Ed and Judy - were designated to do this work. To put the tenders out, receive replies and appoint a website designer by the first week in November and have the work underway by mid November. (*see below*)
- To authorise an application for a second CRtBuild project (*see below*).
- To circulate a skeleton Neighbourhood Plan to the membership so that everyone could see the form our work was beginning to take. ( for December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting)
- To make an application for the second tranche of grant money in December. The working group for this would be Bruce, Graeme and Miles - Judy would obtain some information on contributors' fees and potential costings.

The projected time-table for the next six months (January - June) was decided as

- Establishment of working groups (December)
- Local Statistics (? when)
- Air Pollution studies (for March meeting)
- Green Audit (for June meeting)
- Set out detailed work details for writing sections of our Neighbourhood Plan
- ? hiring in "our own" town planner? - now, or in July-December period?

There was a difference of opinion about hiring in "our own" town planner within the next six months or whether to undertake this work in the following July-Dec period. It was agreed that Judy would sound out costs and possible candidates, and that the Forum should decide on this part of the timetable at the public Forum meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

We noted that the work on our Neighbourhood Statistics has not yet begun and we should try to get some of that work completed in time for our next public meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

3. **Community Right to Build.** Ed reported to the Exec in October that the Forum had submitted our current CRtBuild project to Camden Council, and MPA now wished to start on a second CRtB project to gain planning permission for the rest of the Royal Mail site within Camden ( ie the land between our first CRtBuild project and the Post Office Museum). The Forum would apply for a second revenue stream to cover the costs of this work and MPA Ltd would project manage the project.

The cost-benefit analysis of this suggestion was that

- it would cost the Forum no money from their own grant-revenue and would be grant-funded from a separate revenue stream.
- The project would be managed by a dedicated team, so would not require more work from the Forum.
- The information would be included within our Neighbourhood Plan and would contribute to our overall community offering.
- The gain of this further planning permission would strengthen the hand of MPA Ltd and its business colleagues (our consortium) in their effort to purchase the whole of the Royal Mail development site.

The Exec agreed to this proposal and the Forum has submitted a grant application to fund this work. A full report will be given at the Forum public meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

4. **Website make-over.** Three tenders were requested and two were received. The Forum has appointed Sheila Lawson/Platform 3 to re-design our website over the period November - January. Our first meeting was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> to commission the work; to set out what we would like to see and what we could afford. We held a very useful meeting and the first section of the work is now underway. The deadline for the change-over to our new website will be March 2017.

5. **Our "Let's Get Started" Seminar on October 29<sup>th</sup>.** This was well attended (*20 full-time attendees and about 30 people (coming and going) in all*). We were particularly pleased to see so many new faces from the local area. People attending said it was of interest and that the afternoon was time well-spent.

Thanks to all who attended, to the Calthorpe Project (*who hosted the event*), to Create Streets (*the organisers*), and to the speakers.

In excellent and detailed presentations, Biljana Slavic (*architect and town planner*) took us through the various stages of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Keith Moffit (*West Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum*) told us about their own experiences producing their successful Neighbourhood Plan.

The session finished with drinks and sandwiches, and general networking. All in all, an enjoyable and useful day!

Both presentations can be found on our current website.

6. **Finances and Grant Applications.** A working group - Bruce, Graeme, Miles, Ed and Judy are meeting shortly to decide on the details of our application for our next tranche of grant money. There will also be discussions at a Finance meeting on Oct 20 about the management of the potential two strands of revenue funding (Forum working income and CRtBuild2 expenses) and a final decision will be made about bank accounts. The Treasurer will give a full report at the meeting of December 12<sup>th</sup>.

7. **Air Pollution Meeting Camden Town Hall November 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Judy attended on your behalf. This was a fairly run-of the mill general presentation of current air pollution policies from the GLA and from Camden Council. Keir Starmer also spoke. This was all part of a concerted local authority/GLA effort to raise local awareness of the new city-wide campaign on the dangers of air pollution in London. I will post their information on our website. You should note that their intentions are absolutely fine and seem to correspond with our own expressed views, so it seems that the Forum does or will support these policies. This is good from our point of view. (*Whether these authorities can achieve their laudable aspirations only time will tell!*)

At the meeting I made useful contact with **Camden Air Action Citizen Science Air Quality Project 2016** and am in correspondence with them about our own concerns about our area. **Interesting fact - their air monitor project shows a reading of 61 for Coram's Fields for NO2 pollution ( diesel fumes) which is well within the danger zone!**

More news on that front later.

That's all for now - more than enough I would think! Thank you all for your sterling work and support. As always .... **Onwards and Upwards!**

Judy Dainton on behalf of the Neighbourhood Forum Executive.

13/11/2016