
MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

NEWSLETTER 6 (JANUARY 2017)

Happy New Year to you all! It's going to be a busy year - when we will begin to see the positive results of our hard work.

1. OUR PROJECTS FOR PERIOD JAN-APRIL

We are going to monitor air pollution, go on an architectural walk-about and commission a green audit.

We are going to write some chapters of our Plan

We will have an up-dated fully functional web-site

We will have hired "our" town planner and organised our professional team to monitor the development of our plan.

We will hold our AGM at the March meeting - where new officers can be elected or existing officers re-elected (see 8 below).

2. ADOPT AN AIR-MONITOR TEST-TUBE - late Jan/early Feb

We are obtaining some equipment from Clean Air organisation so we can monitor the air in our neighbourhood. This is a do-it-yourself Citizen Science project.

We will fix the test tubes at the correct height to selected lamp-posts in our area, keep them in situ for the necessary time, send them off to the laboratory, receive the readings and collate the results.

We need you to "adopt a test-tube". That means you set up a test-tube, keep an eye on it (that it doesn't get vandalised or otherwise damaged), recover exhibit at stated time, fill in the appropriate paperwork and send it off to the lab.

You will get instruction sheet! Easy-peasy! Do take part.

We have approached the Christopher Hatton primary school to see if they will take part, and maybe run a school project about citizen-science/air pollution issues, in conjunction with the Forum.

We hope to do this work in late January/ early February, and you will be asked to take part!

3. ARCHITECTURAL WALK-ABOUT - Feb 18-19

Ed Denison has kindly offered to lead a "walk-about" session through our neighbourhood area on the weekend of Feb 18th - 19th.

The purpose is to decide on architectural designs which contribute to our neighbourhood, and those which do not. We hope to arrive at examples of an acceptable standard of design which we can request of all developments within our area.

We need to know which days and times suit you and how many people might wish to take part. Most people seem to prefer Sundays, it seems, and we suggest the walk starts at about 10am. Please take part. The more the merrier!

Let Judy Dainton or Ed Denison know what days and times you prefer and we can then flesh out the details.

4. COMMISSIONED HELP - who is who

We have asked round, contacted various people and organisations, and received quotations for project work. The Executive has seen all the paperwork. Decisions have been made.

We have asked **Charles Snead** to conduct a green audit on our neighbourhood area in February. Charles is a planner with TfL, but also runs a company "Green Engineers" which specialises in green issues.

We have asked **Victor Goodstadt** to be "our" town planner and he has accepted. You can research Victor on Google and see that he has impressive town planning credentials and has worked on some interesting projects. He has advised other Neighbourhood Fori, so he knows what we need to do. Also, he is acquainted with Sue Vincent, who will be monitoring our day-to-day work on our plan, so there should be no conflict of interest there. We think we are lucky to have his interest. It is expected that Victor will start working with us in May 2017

Finally, our excellent **Sue Vincent** has volunteered to monitor the structure and drafting of our plan - which could not be more fortuitous, since she knows us, knows our area, and shares our interests. Many, many thanks Sue.

5. FUNDING FOR 2017

Bruce has prepared and forwarded our accounts for our grant expenditure to Dec 31st 2016. (*Copy of account is enclosed*).

We are applying for the next interim tranche of our total grant money and expect to receive that in February - to be spent by March 31st. The amount we have applied for is to cover room hire, printing, remainder of website work, fees for green audit etc. The amount we are applying for is quite small (about £2,000).

Our next large application for funds will come at end of March when we apply for the majority of our remaining grant fund - to cover professional fees, design and printing of draft plan, etc etc. You will be kept informed.

6. WRITING OUR PLAN

I'm drafting some of the information we already hold into relevant chapters: history of neighbourhood/present situation and some legal stuff. I will circulate finished product in due course for your comments.

Ollie, Ed and I plan to draft the chapters on commercial re-development, architectural standards, air-pollution & green issues by mid-March.

Sue Vincent will overlook the drafts and help us with planning references. As we complete each section we'll forward them to the Forum members.

The plan is to have that part of the plan written by the AGM in March.

7. WEBSITE

Work proceeds. Architecture, style and base-colour are all decided and text is being written and downloaded in next couple of weeks. Ollie and I are writing text. Thanks to all who contributed pics and opinions. Well done all round.

8. AGM AND ELECTIONS ON MARCH 20

At the moment officers are:

Chair: Judy Dainton, **Secretary:** Miles Hansard, **Treasurer:** Bruce McDougall, **Executive Committee:** Elena Henson, Julie Riley, Ed Denison, Oliver Bennett, Josie Vos.

All have expressed willingness to stand again; however, do remember the election is open to all Forum committee members. Please express your interest if you want to take part. Anyone can be proposed up to, and at, the actual meeting on March 20; applications are welcome

9. COMMUNITY FESTIVAL JUNE/JULY AT CALTHORPE PROJECT

Forum may join forces with the Calthorpe Project to co-host the local Community Festival this summer. We envisage having a stall, publicising our draft report, and giving a talk/display (maps etc) for general community participation and press coverage. Your comments on this suggestion would be welcome.

10. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FORUM QUARTERLY MEETINGS on Monday evenings, at the Calthorpe Project at 6.45pm

March 20th AGM, June 19th, September 18th, December 11

PROJECTS - Adopt a test tube - early February; Architectural walk-about 18-19 Feb

As always, thanks so much for your continued support. As you know, we rely on your input and value your views. Please write in and let us know what you think.

Judy Dainton and the Forum Executive Committee.

09/01/2017

