

## MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

The next meeting of the Forum will be held at 6.45pm on Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>

At the Calthorpe Project, Gray's Inn Road

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters Arising
4. Conduct of meeting. Some of the items we discuss may arouse strong feelings. Please be respectful of people who hold differing views, and do allow others to speak without interruption

### 5. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTMAN DENTAL HOSPITAL

- This proposal has been widely publicised and was the subject of a Camden Council public meeting in November. The proposal is at pre-planning application stage. University College London, who will be developing the site, intend to submit a planning application sometime around Easter 2019, when there will be a formal consultation period.
- **A member of the University College London development team will give us a brief talk** on their proposals. They may or may not show us illustrations of their proposals, depending on whether they are adapting the existing display material to include amendments to the proposals.
- The proposal is for the new building to house a Centre of Excellence for Dementia Research and an attendant out-patients facility run with University College London Hospital, and then an apparently unrelated provision for academic teaching facilities for the Maths Department at UCL. It appears that although Dementia Research is the “showcase” of the development, occupying 50% of the space, the unrelated maths teaching space will occupy 30% of the space.
- In brief the initial proposal for the development shows that the façade of the existing building remains (the white stone-faced archway and the red-brick raised entrance with steps). This façade contains a line of offices/admin/functional rooms, then there is a wide long corridor open to the skies running parallel to the façade, with access from Gray's Inn Road and St Andrew's Gardens. Behind the open-air corridor is a large structure rising to a height above the existing Dental Hospital, which will occupy most of the site. At the eastern end of the development will be another quite bulky tower adjacent to the student accommodation on Langdon Close. There are also two floors of underground rooms to house scanners and other such huge machines. The initial proposals also show walkways through the building, a small public access square, lots of green landscaping etc. Overall, a very nice-looking development, which will accommodate a lot of workers, will be a busy, active spot, and which will open up additional walkways for the public.
- However, there is a down-side. The beautiful design may not be the right one for this area. The proposed buildings are large masses, designed to accommodate the

stated needs of the dementia project, the outpatients and the unrelated academic teaching facility. The proposal as it stands will overshadow and overwhelm the New Calthorpe Estate and the Calthorpe Project. It will affect residents of Trinity Court. The proposed service access will be via Wren Street and Langdon Close, so we need to see how this will sit with on-going traffic-flow changes in our area. The demolition and building work will irritate and inconvenience most local residents.

- **Julie Riley will speak for the New Calthorpe Street Residents**
  - **The Calthorpe Project** is an autonomous body run by local trustees; they are in discussion with the UCL development team at the moment. They will let us know their position in due course.
  - **Trinity Court Residents** – those spoken to hate the thought of the noise and dust from the demolition and building work, but have not yet voiced a general opinion on the proposal.
  - **The Forum** has been asked to comment on the UCL scoping application (scoping = expected impact of new buildings on existing locality) and we have put in a holding reply pending the results of this meeting. The Chair will report back.
- **The meeting is now open for general comments**

## 5. CAMDEN'S TRAFFIC PLANS

**Open discussion on local teething problems with the recent traffic changes and solutions which could help smooth the transition.**

- a. The Forum supports the Camden Traffic Plans, which include changes of traffic flow in side streets. The aim of this is to reduce vehicular use of side streets, to help reduce air pollution. We support this aim fully.
- b. Now most of the changes have been made, the teething problems in our area need discussing. The Forum know from members that there have been some issues round the northern end of Pakenham Street, and the junction of Wren and Pakenham Streets. Are there other problems emerging from the traffic re-routing??
- c. It would be useful to discuss how the perceived problems can be resolved.
- a. Camden have just issued their Draft new Traffic Strategy for local comment. The Forum has posted this on our Website: [mountpleasantforum.org.uk](http://mountpleasantforum.org.uk) . Please read it if you have the time.
- b. It is a useful plan which increases work in reducing air pollution and encourages walking and bicycling. These are issues we've debated before and approved. However, we'll discuss this new Strategy (2019-2041) in depth at our next meeting.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.** We have a deadline to complete editing and restructuring the final Plan by the end of the year. The Plan will then be circulated to you all and submitted to Camden and Islington. (**Ed Denison** will speak briefly on our progress)

## 7. FORUM ADMIN MATTERS.

- We welcome Gail Sulkes as a new executive member. Gail is kindly replacing Francois Smit, as one of the representatives for the Islington side of our Designated Area, and is formally and duly welcomed.
- We have no Treasurer although we are actively asking members to volunteer. In the interim Julie Riley (exec member) is talking to our former Treasurer, Bruce, and is kindly taking over his records and his on-going work on our present grant application.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING T B A**