

LONDON FORUM OF AMENITY AND CIVIC SOCIETIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12th OCTOBER 2022

Draft Minutes

by ZOOM video conference from 6:30pm.

Present: Ben Derbyshire, President; Nicky Gavron, Vice-President; Peter Eversden, Chair and representatives of:

Amwell Society; Barnet Residents Association; Barnet Society; Bermondsey Street; Brixton Society; Camden Civic Society; Ealing Matters; Ealing Society; Enfield Society; Finchley Society; Gidea Park Civic Society; Hammersmith Society; Highgate Society; Islington Society; John Innes Society; Just Space; Kensington Society; Kew Society; Ladywell Society; Lodge Lane Residents Association; Mapesbury Residents Association; Osterley & Spring Grove Residents' Association; Osterley and Wyke Green Residents Association; Penge Forum; Pinner Association; Queen Anne's Gate Residents Association; Sydenham Society; Telegraph Hill Society; Thorney Island Society; West Hampstead Gardens and Residents Association; Westcombe Society.

Apologies for absence had been received from the Netherhall Neighbourhood Association

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all those members who had joined the Zoom meeting.

2. Minutes of the AGM 12th October 2021

The Minutes of the 2021 AGM had been placed on the Forum website. No changes had been suggested, and they were agreed, *nem. con.*

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that the 'Review of the Year' in the Annual Report, which had been circulated to members, described in detail the work that had gone on during the year. He thanked the London Forum team and member societies for their input. He emphasised a few points, particularly the disappointment that London Plan Guidance documents, to which the Forum

contributed, and which should have appeared shortly after the Plan itself in March 2021 had been so seriously delayed with redrafting and reconsultation. They were needed to guide Councils on characterisation, the sustainable use of small sites and suburban densification with design coding. The date now expected for their appearance was January 2023, and the open meeting about them must wait until then.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill replaced the failed 'Planning for the Future' White Paper's proposals but contained unacceptable centralisation of local decision-making criteria and interference with the purpose, scope and content of the next London Plan. These issues were explained in an *Insights* article together with what the Forum had done about them in its work to influence amendments to the Bill in its committee stage with the help of Conservative MP Theresa Villiers who had proposed a dozen amendments one of which was for a Third Party Right of Appeal for a community against an unsatisfactory planning decision. The new proposal for a Growth and Infrastructure Bill added urgency to all this. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill Committee was about to continue its debate on its clauses and the Forum would watch for the results with a view to briefing MPs and Peers on changes to press for in the next stages of the Bill through Parliament.

The London Forum was disappointed that the Transport Secretary provided inadequate financial support to the Mayor for Transport for London which limits investment in projects essential for supporting development and for retaining bus services.

There had been a broad welcome for the new *Insights* publications and the contribution by members was appreciated.

The Chairman concluded by saying that there had been a lot for the Forum to cover in the year and he hoped members shared his pride in what had been achieved. He thanked the members of the Executive and the Planning, Environment and Transport committee for their hard work. Also, to Ben Derbyshire the new President and to Nicky Gavron the new Vice President for their help and support.

4. Financial Report

Mr Speak took the meeting through the accounts, which had been circulated. There had been a surplus of £3101. Subscriptions had risen by £34 because new members more than counterbalanced the two resignations. The generous donation from Alan Baxters offset the rent that the Forum would have had to pay for the facilities at the Gallery. Expenditure had fallen, largely because the workshops that had been subsidised in 2020-21

were not repeated; it would increase in 2022-23 because of the web redesign, which should be complete by Christmas 2022; there should also be expenditure on refreshments (offset by donations) when face-to-face open meetings recommenced. The insurance premium had risen, because the policy had now been tailored more precisely to the Forum's requirements. Some of the Forum's reserves had been moved to Scottish Widows, and when markets stabilised, he would move a large part of them to FSCS protected deposit bonds. A review of strategy had begun, and its results would have implications for the use of the Forum's reserves.

5. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts for 2021-22

Ms Hogben (Finchley Society) proposed and Ms Mitchell (Amwell Society) seconded the approval of the report and accounts; they were approved *nem. con.* Mr Bach expressed the thanks of the Trustees for the work that Mr Speak performed, which went well beyond the remit of a Treasurer including advice on governance matters generally.

6. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner

Mr Speak said that after many years Mr Egan was leaving the post; he thanked him for his work; Mr Miles Storey, treasurer of the Westcombe Society had offered himself as Mr Egan's successor. He proposed and Mr Bach (Kensington Society) seconded the appointment of Mr Storey. This was approved *nem. con.*

7. Election of Officers and Trustees

The Chairman said that the present officers were willing to continue except for Mr Myers, the Secretary, who would remain a trustee but no longer had the time for the secretary's job. No new person from a member society had come forward, and Ms Birks, an existing trustee, was willing to become acting secretary. The four trustees who were retiring in rotation - Michael Bach, Andrew Bosi Mary Hogben and John Myers, had been nominated. Their election en bloc was proposed by Tim Stevenson (Lodge Lane N12 Residents Association) and seconded by Chris Souvlis (Telegraph Hill Society) they were elected *nem. con.* There had been a late nomination, who could not be put up for election in 2022 but could be co-opted onto the Executive Committee with a view to election in 2023.

8. Other business

There was none.