

**THE SOHO NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**  
**FSG ACTIONS 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

**ATTENDEES:**

Lucy Haine (LH)  
Jace Tyrrell (JT)  
Joan Moynihan (JM)  
Matthew Bennet (MB)  
Matt Smith (MS)  
Tim Lord (TL)  
John Wallace (JW)  
Blyth Dunk (BD)  
Neil Drinkwater (NW)  
Peter Parker (PP)

- **LH** gave thanks to Jace for guidance and support for the forum
- **JT** advised that NEWC will nominate Dee Corsi (interim CEO) to join the forum
- **JM** has agreed to become the vice chair, **LH** invited others from the business groups to become joint chair and Jamie Poulton agreed to take on this role
- **LH** updated on the accounts. Current balance of £2k. Placemaking London has been paid £4,800. Metro bank requires 2 people in person to make transfer which can create delays in allocating funds. **LH** advised that we have been granted £3k of ward budget for ongoing work on website and other collateral. **LH** has a potential web developer contact at £20ph. Expect a total cost of £800-1k for website updates.
- **LH** advised that CIL budget stands at £384k - 60k assigned
- **LH** has enquired to CIL forum as to whether CIL money can be used for admin costs by the forum. This request is being considered by council officers and the guidance will be updated. Consistent CIL governance across all forums is being considered.
- **LH** Placemaking London - Dan will join the next meeting. We now have a guidance process in place for CIL projects up to £50k - **LH will arrange to this to be added to the website**. **MB** noted that detailed scoring should be removed from the spreadsheet when added online. An example can be included, but not project specific scores.
- **MS** gave a short business round up. Group had discussion on changing office use habits following lockdown.
- **JT** updated on footfall trends and spending.
- **MB** discussed the potential to add solar power across Soho, including consideration of whether the forum could undertake feasibility research project on potential solar starting with a larger building. Forum discussed issues of electrification of buildings, grid capacity, and what the forum can do to support the move to renewable energy and resilience. **Rosie to enquire with Adam Scott.**
- **MB** suggested that the forum write to the council to enquire as to what they see as the most climate resilience risks and the actions that they are taking. This should include water and drainage capacity. **MB to circulate some initial questions for the forum to consider which can then be shared with Adam Hug or other senior council officials.**
- **JT** updated the forum on action the council is taking to address number of 'candy stores' – steps are being taken on business rates to provide relief if tenants are providing a community benefit.
- Forum discussed concern about the change in use in Soho, move away from retail to hospitality. Concern over loss of amenity.
- **TL** updated the forum on concerns from residents about increased noise at night and the impact that is having on resident health and desire to remain in Soho.
- **MS to share a link to the Westminster sustainable city charter.** [Statement of Intent: Delivering a Sustainable City Charter - Westminster Property Association](#)
- **TL** advised that toilets are being reopened across Soho, including Carnaby. Forum agreed that the toilet provision needs to be better addressed across Soho.

### Ongoing CIL projects:

- **LH** advised that the recycling research project had good media coverage and WCC will appoint an enforcement officer to Soho who will also support education, paid for by the council.
- **TL** updated the forum on air quality and traffic monitoring projects - 2 cameras remain - council have responded to say that may look at traffic and AQ monitoring. TL has introduced Ontec. Includes AI reporting on traffic numbers.
- **JW** updated on the parish school gates - existing gates will be repaired rather than replaced if the mechanism can be fixed. John has identified a firm that can help with this. £15k has been allocated and expected to cost £5k, with work to take place in the next month or so. John noted that the vertical playground at the school is beginning to age and may need to be replaced. **MB** advised that there is a nearby Landsec project that could be approached for support. Initial cost expectation would be £30k. **Blyth (BD) to ask Landsec technical team to take a look.**
- **LH will review progress on greening, including Golden Square.**
- **TL** updated on the toilet provision survey (cost £38k) - TL will recirculate the proposal.
- **NW** Community space - has spoken with Geoff Barraclough who advised that all estate offices are under review.

### Future proposals:

- **LH** Equal access to St Anne's gardens - church has done a review and expect approx. £80k cost. They are keen to crowdfund and this could be a potential CIL project - more details to follow - design work has been done
- **PP** Children's Playground - Peter advised that the council have completed designs for St Anne's gardens. **TL to find out how the council intends to communicate progress.**

AGM - intention to take place in January. Date to be agreed.

### AOB:

**JT** – noted the work of action.org - business to put corporates in touch with community groups. Forum can make bids with could be funded.

**LH** closed the meeting.

**Matt Smith**  
Head of Sustainability