



Herne Hill Forum Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 16 November 2021, 8pm, via Zoom

Present

Beth Taylor (Chair), George Hornby, Peter Hore, Robert Holden, David Taylor, James Leabeater, Fred Taggart, Nick Paul, Giles Gibson, Maude Estwick, Jasia Warren, Alice French

Apologies

Carolina Fox, Tricia Keracher-Summerfield, John Frankland, Jim Davidson, Mary Burguieres, Sian Dragonetti

Check all participants successfully dialed in & able to see/hear/talk

Everyone was able to see, hear and talk

Declarations of interest

None

Minutes from the last meeting / Matters arising

The committee approved the minutes from the last meeting on 19 October 2021.

Item	Summary and actions	Responsible
1	Finance update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We have got the financial documents, debit card and card reader back from Jonathan, so the bank account is secure. However, the accounts have not been completed and we do not have the Quickbooks login back yet.There have been no applicants for the Treasurer role, so we all need to be more proactive in looking for a new Treasurer.The deadline to submit our application for LFN funding has been extended to end December 2021.Proposal: Seek Jonathan's resignation immediately, before we find a new Treasurer.Approved: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain.Action: George to ask Jonathan to resign.Action: Everyone to share the Treasurer advert as widely as possible.	George, all
2	CIO application update	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We have had further questions from the Charity Commission relating to our CIO application, and we have answered them. There is still no indication of the timescale for approving the application, just that they have an enormous backlog.	
3	Station Square maintenance budget (and piano)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A Station Square maintenance budget of £250 was approved in September 2020. Of this, £238 has now been spent. Request for further funds to be approved to spend on things like a new lock and chain for the piano, bin liners, etc.	Jasia



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maintenance work on the wooden train was paid for separately as it is a higher amount. Proposal: Additional £250 for the Station Square maintenance budget. Approved: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. 	
4	Litter pickers to lend out	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have 10 litter pickers in the lock-up. It was suggested that we offer to lend these out to member of the community if they want to arrange their own litter picking sessions. This could be advertised on social media, through our newsletter, and word of mouth. It was also suggested that we arrange and run HHF litter picking sessions. Both of these ideas were the initial plan when we applied for grant money to purchase the litter pickers, so it is a totally appropriate use of that asset. Proposal: Lend out litter pickers to the community. Approved: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. Proposal: Organise HHF litter picking sessions. Approved: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. Action: Alice and Jasia to arrange lending out litter pickers and a HHF litter picking session. 	Alice, Jasia
5	Defibrillator project	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dulwich Society is compiling a list of defibrillators in the local area. Jasia will take the defibrillator from Robert and find a home for it. Action: Jasia to collect the defibrillator. 	Jasia
6	Reimagining Herne Hill junction	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jon from Bespoke is happy to have a meeting with the HHF committee to discuss the proposals. It was agreed that this is best done on zoom, at 8pm on Tuesday 30 November. This will be based on the presentation that was previously shared, there is no new material at this time. Although there is interest, there is no political appetite or bandwidth to take this project forward before the elections next year. There is also a concern that it could become a political issue used in the run up to the election. In the meantime we could contact TfL to find out their views, talk to local groups to see what they want, and get together a local ask for whoever is elected, of things that we want for Herne Hill. The proposals are not to be shared publicly until after the elections next year. Action: Alice and James to arrange the Bespoke meeting. 	Alice, James
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee discussed the congestion on Croxted Road and whether there are any short term solutions or actions that could improve the situation. The main aim overall needs to be reducing the number of car trips, however, this is difficult. 	James



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: James to speak to Jon at Bespoke about any possible changes (eg change to the traffic light sequencing) that might help Croxted Road in the short term. 	
7	Hustings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee would like to arrange hustings in advance of the election next year. This would be held about 2 weeks before the election date. The election is Thursday 5 May 2022, so the hustings would be on the 26, 27, or 28 of April 2022. We have previously used the upstairs hall at Herne Hill Baptist Church, and Giles has hosted the event, which has gone well. We discussed the number of wards to include and agreed to do Herne Hill ward in Lambeth and Dulwich Village ward in Southwark. If we included Thurlow Park ward as well it would mean there were too many candidates to facilitate any meaningful discussion on the night. Norwood and Brixton Forums are also arranging hustings and Norwood Forum may include Thurlow Park ward. We discussed safety, and agreed that it works much better to hold an event like this in person, rather than on zoom. We would inform the police Safer Neighbourhood Team of the event and take advice from them. We could ask for questions in advance, this could be used to create a list of questions and ensure that there is a clear focus on issues relating to Herne Hill specifically. However, we would not share the questions with the candidates in advance. It can be difficult to get candidates to commit (and at this stage we do not even know who the candidates are). We will focus on the four main parties and if we can get them to attend, then the other candidates will follow if they can. Action: Alice to enquire about booking the upstairs hall at Herne Hill Baptist Church. Action: Alice to contact Norwood Forum to find out if they are including Thurlow Park ward in their hustings. Action: George to speak to the Conservative and Green Parties to check availability for 26, 27 and 28 April 2022. Action: Peter to speak to the Labour and Liberal Democrat Parties to check availability for 26, 27 and 28 April 2022. 	Alice, George, Peter
8	Retrofit Herne Hill	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that HHF run a Retrofit Herne Hill event/s at Station Hall to share information about modifications to existing housing. This was initially imagined to be a trade fair type event, however, it has proven difficult to find good suppliers who would like to attend as they already have a lot of work. Therefore it is suggested that we run a series of seminars and workshops on topics such as different energy sources, what grants are available for modifications, whether it's possible to do things bit by bit or all at once, planning issues that may arise, etc. 	Jasia



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A potential funding source has been identified – the ‘Together for our Planet’ National Lottery fund. Applications close on 18 November. Proposal: Apply to ‘Together for our Planet’ to fund the Retrofit Herne Hill project. Approved: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. Action: Jasia to complete and submit the ‘Together for our Planet’ funding application. 	
9	Suggestions for uses of £5k LFN Grant to be committed by 31/12/2021	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have held off applying for this as we do not have up to date accounts. It has now been agreed with LFN that we can apply without our accounts. The money needs to be committed by 31/12/2021. Proposal: Apply for LFN grant with the funds to be split between contractor pay, subscriptions (eg Mailchimp), and the Retrofit Herne Hill project. Approved: 9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain. Action: George to complete the LFN application form and send it to LFN. 	George
10	AOB	
10.1	December committee meeting date	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was agreed that the December meeting would be held on 14 December 2021 (one week earlier than usual) to avoid being too close to Christmas. 	
10.2	Issues in Herne Hill town centre	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is still a problem with pigeon poo under the railway bridge. George wrote to the council officer responsible for this and got no response. It seems that staff from Elsewhere (the new café in the unit under the bridge) are cleaning some of it up themselves. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lot more rubbish than usual on Milkwood Road and outside the train station. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are some new homeless people at the train station and in the underpass. Jasia will report this at the Station Square meeting and there is a team that speaks to homeless people so she will let them know. 	Jasia
10.3	Road sweeping	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few people reported that both residential and main roads in the area have not been swept for 7 weeks. There is a build up of fallen leaves which causes difficulties such as making it harder to clean up dog mess and blocking drains. Some residents are sweeping their own sections of street. This has been raised with local councillors and MPs with no response. It is likely linked to staff shortages caused by Brexit. 	

Next committee meeting – Tuesday 14 December 2021 at 8:00pm via Zoom