**Minutes of the Norwood Forum Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 16 June 2018 (1:00pm)**

**The Portico Gallery 23 Knights Hill SE27 0TS**

**Committee Members (2017-18) present:** Noshir Patel (Chair), Gloria Orosungunleka (Vice-Chair), Sunil de Sayrah (Treasurer), Colin Fenn, Su McLaughlin and Jan Ware

**Also present:** Sarah Coyte (Lambeth Council)

26 Norwood Forum members

Tim Stephens (Admin.)

1. **Welcome from the Chair**

Noshir Patel (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from: Anne Crane, Graham Pycock (Norwood Planning Assembly) and Kim Stanway (Spacecraft).

1. **Minutes of last AGM (1 July 2017)**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 1 July 2017 were agreed by those present as a true record, with no matters arising.

1. **Proposed changes to the Constitution**

Agreed: To approve the suggested amendments to the Constitution as set out in the report, subject to it being noted the word “audited” would not appear in proposed new para. 5b.

1. **Community group presentations**

The Treasurer explained the different format used this year to identify local community groups, in the fields of culture, mental health and youth, to work with in collaboration over the forthcoming year. The meeting received presentations from the following community grant recipients over their proposed work:

Rathbone Youth Project: to cover the costs of a visit to central London landmarks for 15 young people

Mencap; to hold a sing along event at the new cinema for all adults including those with mental health difficulties.

Black History Month: event at October 2018 West Norwood Feast, costs of African drumming, dance and yoga (other events were being provided free of charge).

West Norwood Wonder: holding fringe events alongside Fest Norwood 3 – 12 August 2018. Grant to meet the costs of inclusion in festival programme.

Recipients of last year’s grants had all been invited to this meeting to make a presentation on how the grant had been used. A representative of Emanuel Church Youth Group outlined how the grant had been spent. Maria Kwofie confirmed that Spacecraft was now a successful ongoing knitting project that continued to meet on Wednesdays (10am-12noon) at The Old Library.

1. **New West Norwood library: update**

The Head of Lambeth Library Services (Susanna Barnes) and West Norwood Library Manager (Maria Kwofie) gave a presentation on progress on the expected opening of the new Library in the late summer 2018. The flooring is currently being laid, shelving would follow next and then the first tranche of books would be ordered. 30 public computers for adults and four terminals for children would be provided, and discussions were in hand with Lambeth IT and Virgin on the public internet to be installed (and the cinema would have a separate network). A positive meeting had been held with Picturehouse on issues of mutual concern such as use of the community room and courtyard. It had been agreed vaping would not be allowed anywhere in the building. A soft opening was likely and a firm date was not available, but an official opening event would be held.

In response to questions from those present, the internet would not be intended for use outside the premises, the shared areas such as basement toilets meant it was unlikely that it would be possible for the Library to open earlier than the cinema (but this was still being considered), and noise issues throughout the building were being carefully considered so as to enable quiet working in the library. A collaborative approach was very much the objective of both the Council and Picturehouse. Also, continuing the current close working relationship with the Rathbone Project, established whilst being accommodated in The Old Library, was very much intended. Lastly, two suggestions raised would be given consideration:

* Naming the Community Room after Nettlefold
* A possible entrance direct to the proposed new West Norwood Cemetery Visitor centre

The Chair thanked Susanna Barnes and Maria Kwofie for attending to provide such an illuminating progress report on the progress being made on the very welcome new Library.

1. **Chair’s report**

Noshir Patel (Chair) presented his oral report, covering the following highlights of the work of Norwood Forum during 2017-18:

* He thanked all his colleagues on the committee and in particular Sunil de Sayrah without whom the committee would not function, and the administrator.
* The re-launched website and well-received newsletter; he encouraged local community groups etc to advertise their events via these media. Some 20 newsletters were sent over the course of the year, reaching 6,000 addresses (including via Facebook).
* The brand new Logo with the strapline “Connecting the Community” better reflecting the function of Norwood Forum.
* Despite the dwindling bank balance, some amazing local organisations that help to make Norwood such a wonderful place to live had been supported. These included Spacecraft, Playing out, Wingit and Friends of Norwood Park. Financial support was also given to Norwood Planning Assembly as well as two Christmas Parties: patients and carers at the Deerbrook Surgery and the Norwood Pensioners Group.
* He described the Streetworks project as a real roller coaster ride. The Norwood Forum is a major partner in this groundbreaking scheme. For the first time, the local community was consulted before any changes were proposed, and whatever the shortcomings of the consultation may have been, the principle has been established that the community can drive forward improvements in their environment and not simply accept or reject changes proposed by the Council.
* Finally, he hoped someone else would feel able to put themselves forward as Chair for the next year.

Councillor Jane Pickard proposed a vote of thanks to the Norwood Forum Committee and especially the Chair, Noshir Patel, for a successful year, and this was agreed unanimously.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Sunil de Sayrah (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2017-18 (written summary tabled at meeting). Income totalled £5,000 (Lambeth Funding Network (LFN) grant), expenditure £9,782, with carried forward reserves of £7,881.

Sarah Coyte responded to questions on LFN funding by outlining the reduction in available funding (50% reduction to £50k across 12 Forums, though only 10 usually submitted a bid), and confirmed that this grant was intended to meet infrastructure costs and not community grants. The prudence shown by the Forum was welcomed.

A separate account was being maintained for Streetworks (as set out on the balance sheet), and this facility was also to be offered to the Friends of West Norwood Station.

The accounts were agreed.

1. **Election of Norwood Forum Officers and Committee**

The Chair stood down and handed over the election process to Sarah Coyte. The tabled paper set out the Committee membership for 2017-18 and the nominations received for 2018-19. As no positions were contested, a formal election process was not required and the 2018-19 Committee would be:

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| Chair: | Noshir Patel |
| Vice-Chair: | **Gloria Orosungunleka** |
| Treasurer: | Sunil de Sayrah |
| Secretary: | Jan Ware |
| Ordinary Committee members: | Ana Capone |
|  | Anne Crane |
|  | Colin Fenn |
|  | Kim Hart |
|  | Su McLaughlin |
|  | Philip Virgo |

Sarah Coyte gave her thanks to those serving on the Committee, including their time and expertise devoted to the Streetworks project. All this work was carried out on a voluntary basis, and should not be underestimated.

1. **Question time**

Questions from the floor centred on the Streetworks project. The Chair outlined:

* The background of traffic deaths and other accidents at the Tulse Hill gyratory and resulting community petition to the Council.
* The TfL wish to remove the gyratory and the Council’s success in linking this to earlier improvements to Norwood Road and establishing a community led project to determine the design of these works (unlike the earlier works carried out at Knights Hill).
* Some eight community co-design workshops were held on the Norwood Road phase and to determine the preferred design for the Tulse Hill gyratory. A local architect was employed to lead on this work.
* For Norwood Road the widening of pavements was favoured, along with the diagonal crossing at York Hill and Lancaster Avenue junction, new much needed pedestrian crossing at Harpenden Road, Copenhagen crossings of side streets, and street furniture and planting locations were also considered.
* There had been inevitable project management challenges and not all works had been undertaken in the order wanted by the community.
* The road resurfacing was now held up by Thames Water and UKPN Network which wanted to undertake infrastructure works but had yet to programme these essential works.
* More cycle parking was to be provided along the newly widened pavement and this should assist with preventing cars parking illegally on the footway. Better enforcement was key to addressing this problem.
* Station Rise at Tulse Hill station had been revamped, and again better enforcement was needed to prevent cars parking on double yellow lines. Infrastructure had been installed for the mooted street market. A new design for the alley way was produced by pupils of Elmgreen School and this was the basis of the works to be carried shortly by Govia.

The Treasurer indicated that community representatives on the Steering Group had found it not always possible to get their wishes through the Council’s bureaucracy. The principle though was established of a community led project rather than a project imposed on the community.

The Chair confirmed that the availability of new disabled parking along Norwood Road was still under consideration.

Tim Bellenger outlined the work being undertaken by the Friends of West Norwood Station. Following a recent site meeting with Govia, the opportunity to provide an art installation on the station and Knights Hill railway bridge, as well as pigeon proofing etc, was to be explored. Community input to the art installation would be sought, as well as ideas for the necessary funding. Forthcoming repairs at the Thurlow Park Road railway bridge, wish to improve the Norwood Road railway bridge, and use of the Poetry Slabs pollution reducing fabric were also mentioned by others present. The Norwood Forum Committee would discuss the West Norwood station proposal.

The planters provided by Greening West Norwood and the need for local residents to take responsibility for their maintenance was discussed.

1. **Close of meeting**

The Chair thanked everyone for contributions, and the meeting closed at 2:45pm.

Chair

Norwood Forum

13 July 2019