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**Norwood Forum Committee**

**Wednesday 28 October 2020 at 5:00pm**

**Zoom meeting**

**Minutes**

**Present:** James Davis (JD), Kim Hart (KH) (Vice-Chair), Su McLaughlin (SMcL), Gloria Orosungunleka (GO), Noshir Patel (NP) (Treasurer), Sunil de Sayrah (SdS) (Chair) and Philip Virgo (PV)

**Absent:** Ibtisam Adem (IA), Anne Crane (ACr).

**Also present:** Gerry Evans (GE) (Lambeth Council), Councillor Jackie Meldrum (JM)(Lambeth Council); Jessie Huckin (part item 3 only); Tim Stephens (TS) (Administrator)

Sunil de Sayrah in the Chair

1. **Notes of last meeting: 16 September 2020**

Approved.

Norwood Road (Tulse Hill railway bridge) West Norwood Cemetery Mural: JM had double-checked and the Council’s position was that all Network Rail invoices had been paid.

Ward boundary review: JM advised that the larger proportion of public comments had been made on West Norwood and Streatham, so she thought the Commission might prioritise these areas in its response. The draft Commission proposals were expected in January 2021.

1. **Treasurer’s report**

The Forum had £10,640 at bank, before other commitments for the remainder of the financial year. Finance was available to invest in new projects and community grants in the three wards. PV confirmed the community safety budget would be needed for leaflet printing.

1. **Chair’s and Vice-Chair’s report**

(a) Christmas parcels for local pensioners

SdS reported that as the usual Norwood Pensioners’ Group Christmas lunch could not be held because of Covid-19 restrictions, a proposal was being developed to provide Christmas boxes to the NPG and other groups. A discussion was held on possible contents: home-made food (roll, mince pie and savoury), Christmas card and song sheet, cracker.

GE suggested information on contact services (assistance, befriending etc) could be included (source Age UK?).

PV asked if those in home isolation or care homes could receive boxes.

Feast (and potentially Mutual-Aid) volunteers could be available to deliver the boxes and talk to the recipients on their doorstep.

Approved with an estimated budget of £250 for up to 200 boxes.

Project delivery: first week of December 2020

(b) & (c) [Window Wanderland](https://norwoodforum.org/wild-norwood-2020) and [Wild Norwood festival](https://norwoodforum.org/wild-norwood-2020) (28 November – 12 December 2020):

funding already agreed (£500)

KH reported on the promotion undertaken and progress with registration of participants. She has also developed an extended programme of events:

Window Displays:  
In people’s homes  
Great North Wood project with London Wildlife Trust in shops and with schools  
Expanded Festival Programme highlights:  
Films: with West Norwood Free Film Festival - online with a live finale film in St Matthews car park  
Talks: headline Tim Smit, Eden Project  
Walks: treasure hunt with More Than Weeds  
Books: reading from Lev Parikian - books 'set free'  
Outdoors: various from South London Botanical Institute  
Music: headline Lisa Knapp

Food: foraged cooking demo  
Art: exhibition at 400 Rabbits  
Craft: Jessie Huckin workshops (see (d) below)  
Online: Tree Talk app, Footway maps

Festival participation was being promoted through the usual channels including leafleting and to Council TAs and RAs via the lead Council officer, and attendance at TA meetings was being pursued (one TA meeting would be attended the following week). JM would discuss with Councilor Sonia Winifred and suggest any other avenues to increase involvement from hard to reach groups.

Practical support from other Committee members would be welcome.

Approved, with an estimated budget of £500.

(d) Community grants applications: process.

KH reported on the production of an online application process; KH to send link to committee members for any feedback.

First application: West Norwood Feast/Wild Norwood festival workshops:

Jessie Huckin attended to present proposals for two workshops at November and December Feasts: 50-60 craft boxes with materials for a play tile, craft tutorial, and tile firing. If Feast was cancelled the boxes would be given out via another venue such as Portico Gallery. She then left the meeting.

Funding application approved: £250

Consideration to be given for the future on how to deliver to families in isolation

(e) West Norwood Feast community stall staffing: Sundays 1 November and 6 December. 1 November Feast was in some doubt due to weather forecast of high winds; decision due on Friday. A rota was in the course of preparation.

(f) Streetworks

SdS briefly outlined the current situation. JM agreed to establish position on the completion of the outstanding Streetworks projects for Norwood Road. SdS to provide a written brief. It was understood TfL had put the gyratory project on ice, due to TfL funding problems. JM reported that further delays to the Norwood Road resurfacing works were mooted due to planned gas and electricity mains works. JM would seek a full update from the Head of Highways, project officer and lead Member: Councillor Anna Birley.

(g) COVID-19 catch up meeting with other neighbourhood stakeholders

KH reported on the useful updating meeting involving 16 organisations, and a further meeting before Christmas was likely. The Norwood Forum website COVID-19 information had been updated accordingly.

1. **Community Safety Partnership**

PV reported on:

* His work with KH on updating the [Norwood Community Safety Partnership website](https://norwoodforum.org/norwood-community-safety-partnership) pages.
* [Lambeth Made](https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/better-fairer-lambeth/project/lambeth-made) plans for children and young people; to be published on the website once available: four skills hubs with one in West Norwood and satellite access so teenage participants can avoid the need to cross post code gang boundaries.
* The forthcoming zoom meetings and involvement of other community groups:
* Youth Engagement Thursday 5 November 2020 (10:30-11:30am)
* Health and Welfare Thursday 12 November 2020 (10:30am-12.30pm)
* Schools, Skills and Jobs: to be arranged (to cover work experience and job creation)
* Planning for a public zoom meeting
* The requirement to contact those in need via other means than phone or email. The Christmas boxes and Feast offered leafleting opportunities – for different audiences: older people and children & local people.
* His work to bring in people working in various relevant fields who happened to live locally.

1. **Registration of small pockets of green or garden space as open space**

Further to the last meeting JM asked Norwood Forum to consider taking on the role of seeking the declaration of small parcels of open green space as Assets of Community Value. In various local streets there were small green areas which had been assumed to be in council ownership but sometimes had no title or were privately owned; e.g. Bloom Grove, St. Julian’s Close, Leaf Grove and Becondale Road. The position had come to light when the green space at St. Peter’s Close was put up for auction and sold; as things stood the plot was unlikely to be given planning permission for development but the government proposed planning law changes might change this position.

On the basis that:

* A list of such spaces across the three wards would be provided
* The local residents concerned would do the initial work on the necessary application, and
* No costs would fall to the Forum

it was agreed to undertake this role.

1. **Heritage issues**

Blue Plaques: TS reported that all 21 plaques in phase 1 from the Arriva bus garage to Tulse Hill station had now been installed, with a location map now posted on a [new web page](https://norwoodforum.org/blue-plaque-scheme). The map would be produced as a leaflet for that weekend’s launch at West Norwood Feast, and all plaque hosts had been informed. Phase 2 was now at the research stage, and worked up ideas from committee members would still be welcome.

Lambeth Local History Forum: SdS reported that the Lambeth Heritage Festival with 40 events and 1900 attendees had been a success; the Forum was now a member and TS would be the usual representative. The Council review of people monuments and place names with slavery and colonialism connections was discussed {see website story [here](https://norwoodforum.org/news/04-oct-20/public-debate-slavery-related-monuments-and-street-names)}. 30-40 such individuals had been identified, and the public consultation on the review was now expected from 19 November 2020. SdS had declined an interview request from the BBC. There was a discussion on mooted alternatives to removing statues and signs – with alternatives including additional explanatory signs and education and modern slavery. The published review would give the Forum the opportunity to publish informative articles about those local individuals identified in the review.

1. **Planning applications and pre-applications**

* 50 Thurlow Park Road, SE21 8HZ: potential objection
* 339 Norwood Road and 3 Thurlow Park Road, SE24 9AH: to be considered by Planning Applications Committee (03.11.20)
* Any others.

Not discussed due to absence of AC.

1. **Local economy**

Station to Station is funding West Norwood Feast to operate a Christmas Fair on Saturday, 12 December in place of the Christmas Lights Fair inside St Lukes which would not be possible this year. Lambeth Council no longer fund Xmas lights, and Floral Hall have previously donated the Christmas trees. SdS to follow up tree with S2S.

1. **Forum community co-ordination role**

Not discussed.

1. **Forum communications**

KH reported there were increasing social media interactions with social media posts most days. The next newsletter was due that Friday, and would pick up recently published website stories. Committee members were invited to draft any stories on issues they were aware of that had not already been published on the website (required by Friday morning). The website had been revamped with new sections on Wild Norwood, Community Safety Partnership and Local History.

1. **Other business**

SdS reported he was to move soon to outside of London (date to be determined), but would wish to remain Chair until 31 March 2021. The future of the position was to be discussed by the committee officers, but if any committee member wished to be considered for the role, or had any views, they should contact him.

Next meeting: date to be decided.

The meeting ended at 6:38pm.

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| **Action Points {last date discussed)** | **Who** | **When** |
| 1. GDPR and data protection: annual review {15.07.20} | KH/ TS | June 2021 |
| 1. Defibrillator: research costs, national scheme, possible locations {19.11.19} | JD |  |
| 1. Clean air: a public update to be prepared {14.01.20} | SdS and ACr |  |
| 1. Streetworks Steering Group: future activity {19.09.20} | SdS |  |
| 1. Norwood Community Safety Partnership: cycle of zoom meetings {28.10.20}:  * Youth engagement zoom meeting (05.11.20) * Health & welfare zoom meeting (12.11.20) * Schools, skills, jobs: TBA * Public zoom meeting | PV/KH | Nov. – Dec. 2020 |
| 1. Window Wanderland and Wild Norwood 28 November – 12 December 2020 {19.09.20} | KH |  |
| 1. Blue Plaques {16.09.20}:  * phase two * worked up ideas | TS  All |  |
| 1. Next Community Conversation {16.09.20} (ideas: all) | SdS/KH/NP |  |
| 1. Online banking: potential {16.09.20} | NP |  |
| 1. Small parcels of land: Assets of Community Value {28.10.20} | JM |  |
| 1. Local listing (NPA) {16.09.20} | SdS |  |
| 1. Station to Station: quarterly meetings {16.09.20} | KH |  |
| 1. Paxton Time Bank: liaison and publicity {16.09.20} | SdS |  |
| 1. Xmas boxes {28.10.20} | SdS | 05.12.20 |
| 1. Community Chest grants: consult on online form and promote for applications {28.10.20} | KH |  |
| 1. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods: respond to correspondent {16.09.20} | NP |  |

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| **Action Points {last date discussed)** | **Who** | **When** |
| 1. Electric scooters: local enforcement {16.09.20} | JM |  |
| 1. Streetworks: Norwood Road {28.10.20} | JM with SdS |  |
| 1. Position of Chair and committee membership {28.10.20} | SdS/KH/NP  All |  |