



**MEETING NOTES**

**28<sup>th</sup> September 2006 – German Gymnasium –Board Room**

**Chair – Satnam Gill/Geoffrey Roper**

Number of attenders: 23 plus 2 Camden officers (Robert West, Angela Ryan)

Geoffrey Roper (Chair); Satnam Gill; Peter Coppack; Helia Evans; Angela Inglis; Jean James; Andrew Bosi; Una Sapietis; Diana Shelley; Phil Jeffries; Maia Kramer; Aileen Hammond; Federica Ambrosini; Norman Sheppard; Herman Tribeling; Henrik Rothe; Rob Inglis; Alphonse Buapanao; Lisa Tang; Ryan Kemp; Michael Edwards, Miriam Harriott, Hugh Lake

Apologies: Cllr Russell Eagling; Abdiwalu Mohammed; Abdullahi Botan; Abdul Rahman; Joynal Uddin, Jackie Casey

Issue	Action
<p><b><u>Forum Elections</u></b></p> <p>Geoffrey Roper was elected chair. Del Brenner was elected Vice Chair in his absence and subject to his consent.</p> <p><b><u>Co-ordinating Group</u></b></p> <p>Una Sapietis; Satnam Gill; Helia Evans, Lisa Tang and Del Brenner (in his absence) were elected.</p> <p><b><u>Forum review (March 2005 to August 2006)</u></b></p> <p>Last paragraph on page 2 – might be read as if there was full agreement by Forum members in favour of planning permission being granted for the initial planning application. The question as to whether Forum members wanted planning permission to be granted for the</p>	



application was never put to Forum members in any of the PAL workshops, and some members would like it on record that the granting of planning permission for the original and revised outline applications did not have full Forum agreement.

It was explained that the paragraph was written in relation to the response submitted to the DC Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March '06 on behalf of the Forum in accordance with the agreed procedure. However, some members pointed out that the Forum had no opportunity to agree this response.

It was suggested that a clause be added to the first sentence in paragraph 2:-

**“which did not include a position statement for or against the application in principle”**

**Forum members broadly agreed with the review and thanked the Chair.**

### Future of the Forum

RW- So far the Forum have remained a constant presence throughout the process, have developed planning and other interests and knowledge, and is an interesting arena for consultation and a range of local communities available for discussion.

Some stakeholders may have lost some interest in consultation; others perform a monitoring role like GLA, English Heritage etc. The Camden planning team are still in place to enable the authority to fulfil its regulatory roles, although the future of the Islington team is unclear. Councillors' views of the Forum are unclear.

If the group gets too small and unrepresentative it will not be able to function effectively.

It was suggested that it would be useful to look at the role of the Forum, whether it is for the sharing of information or whether it has more than a consultative role.

Some considered that the Forum was very valuable for information, but does not have a negotiating role. It needs to get Forum's views across to the developers. The Forum could not claim to be a “parliament” as the elected members already exist.

There were said to be some (unspecified) models around to show how the Forum could work. From '96/'97 there has been a mechanism for dealing with detailed planning applications where representatives from local groups have

GR to action

round table discussions. This involved members of other groups and it worked quite well, the key issue being that at the discussions people talk to each other as equals.

It was suggested that the Forum needs more resourcing and support, but some present asked what needed to be funded. RW- confirmed that the Council do not have resources to offer. It is essentially about those who wish to be involved taking a bit of time in specific roles. The stakeholders will not fund the Forum but may provide for refreshments and administration. If Argent funded the Forum then members would need to review their independency. Concerns were nonetheless raised about the lack of funding and it creating a problem because, if the Forum is not well run and information not recorded, then it would cease to be democratic.

It was suggested that the Forum needs to meet with some frequency and therefore a schedule of meetings should be agreed. A member advised caution in agreeing the frequency of meetings, as a degree of flexibility needs to be retained.

### Implementation Panels

RW- confirmed that he has met with all the relevant stakeholders and that everybody has signed up in principle to the pattern of interrelated groups shown at the previous meeting. The next step is for the Forum to think about the roles that they can play in the various groups. The Forum should not just be a development control consultation panel, but should embrace opportunities for getting involved in more diverse ways, e.g. evolution in design of all buildings, public realm designs, design of public spaces, construction impacts, design of particular facilities, accessibility etc.

RW- advised that although the KXCAAC has an independent statutory role he couldn't see a reason why they should not participate in the suggested design implementation panel. Their remit is local to the KX and Regent's Canal Conservation areas, plus three conservation areas located in Islington. Support was given for the consultative design implementation panel but it was suggested that five other amenity groups be included on the panel. RW advised that this could make it very unwieldy and they would anyway be able to respond to specific consultations and attend as invitees; Forum reps have been set into the panels as a special case for local people. Final membership and other arrangements have yet to be decided.

The groups are not formal decision-making groups. It is an

offer for those who are interested, to attend meetings and give feedback to their groups. It is an initiative to try and open up the process and involve local people. If the group becomes too formal and stringent, stakeholders and Forum members may lose interest.

### Employment and small business

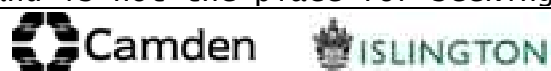
It was requested that email addresses of those people who are interested in the plight of small businesses, arts, hard-to-reach groups and accessibility be posted on the website. It was also requested that a phone number be published on the website of the relevant person(s) to contact in relation to securing jobs.

RW- advised that there may be a slight misconception as a lot of this has already been done but not communicated very well. There is the KX Business Forum made up of 360 businesses. They are facilitated and given an opportunity to network. It was suggested that those on the Business Forum should be asked to attend job fairs so that they could be of some benefit.

RW- confirmed that there was a need for a complete re-design of the website. He would be happy for Forum members to volunteer, and work with them about how the site should be designed. A member, speaking from his experience as editor for the KXRLG website, said that a website as important as this should not be dependent on voluntary and unpaid labour. RW- confirmed that he was referring to getting ideas of how it should be designed and not the maintenance of it.

KX Central has a very daunting programme and communication is going to be critical. There was concern about the decrease in attendance of Forum meetings and felt that it was probably because people felt out of their depth. It was requested that officers produce a glossary and information pack introducing the KX central scheme for dissemination to lay people. This information should not just be posted on the website as some groups would not have access or understand English, therefore alternative arrangements will have to be made. RW- agreed to canvass the facilitators for their views. A concern was raised about breaking the unemployment cycle particularly in Somers Town, and how the Council will ensure that the hard-to-reach groups are made aware of discussions about local employment and procurement. RW- advised that he would work with colleagues in regeneration to ensure that they publicise events to the relevant parties. However, there is also an onus on the Forum to let Camden know about those who wish to attend. It was also confirmed that it is a working group and is not the place for seeking

**RW to action**  
*(note that the Camden website already carries many contact details under jobs and employment)*



jobs.

### **Meeting notes 4<sup>th</sup> September '06**

On page 3, a paragraph needs to be reworded for clarification. It should be an obligation for the developers to attend and take part in the Construction Impact Group. RW- confirmed that this is being explored as part of the S106 agreement.

Some members considered that the notes were too long, whilst others considered them to be an invaluable source of information.

**Forum members voted on whether the notes should be a shorter version or more detailed. It was agreed that the notes should stay as more detailed.**

Some suggested that identification should be given on who said what at the meetings. RW- felt that this is unnecessary and could be intimidating.

It was suggested that members need to know who represents each sub-group that forms part of the Forum. These sub-groups could have specific interests and then other members of the Forum could use them to raise/identify issues and ensure that the reps relay these to the relevant people. **This issue was not resolved.**

### **A.O.B**

RW-confirmed that the proposed Section 106 Agreement will be reported to the Development Control Sub-Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> November '06, and that the Council will endeavour to publish the report as soon as possible in advance of that meeting. However, he envisages that it will be published nearer the time of the committee date.

A representative wanted confirmation that the comments made by KXCAAC and Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust had been sent to all Forum members, and asked for the Forum members to endorse them. **This issue was not resolved.**

**Next meeting:  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 – Committee Room3A, 7pm-9pm**