



**10th July, 2008 FORUM MEETING Notes - Committee Room 3, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street**

**Chair - Geoffrey Roper** (Regent Square UR Church)

**Present - 14**

Del Brenner (Regents Network); James Brander (Camden Cycling Campaign); Councillor Nasim Ali (Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association-KCB); Bill Lee (KXRLG); Lisa Tang (Friends of the Regent Canal/TBCG); Stephan Schulte (York Central Residents Association/Kings Cross Access Campaign); Angela Inglis (KXCAAC); Marian Larragy (KXRLG); Aileen Hammond (Camden Civic Society); Richard Lee (KXRLG); John Lee (Somers Town People Forum); Helia Evans (Ossulston TRA); Phil Jeffries (Cally Rail Group)

**In attendance**

Anna Strongman and Oliver Bennett (Argent); Richard Kirby (LB Camden Kings Cross Team)

**Apologies**

Michael Edwards, Hugh Lake, Diana Shelley, Peter Coppack, Angela Ryan. It was noted that the Forum meeting clashed with clash with St Pancras & Somers Town Area Forum and Islington West Area Committee

**Notes of Forum meeting held 22/05/08**

Agreed, with correction of the name 'Nurat Qureshi' to Murad Qureshi, AM, and correction of words quoted from DB on p3 regarding building proposed for R2 to "Using brick as it is concrete is missing an opportunity." The Chair reminded Forum members they have the opportunity to correct reports of their remarks within 5 working days of issue of Notes by email; corrections should be emailed direct to [Angela.Ryan@camden.gov.uk](mailto:Angela.Ryan@camden.gov.uk)

**Additional business** not otherwise covered in the agenda: Canal - the Musical.

**Network Rail's feasibility study into a footbridge from York Way**

SS, concurring with Network Rail(NR)'s policy of single entry to Kings Cross station for security reasons urged the footbridge (originally idea of LB Camden



For more information contact Camden's King's Cross team on 020 7974 5009/2565 or email [kxteam@camden.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@camden.gov.uk)  
Or Islington King's Cross team on 020 7527 2297/3505/2381  
email: [kxteam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@islington.gov.uk)



planners), referred to in Arup report as 'the possible new footbridge at Wharfdale Road. JB pressed that it should be 'cycle- and foot-bridge'.

RK explained that this cycle/footbridge was identified in the 2004 Camden/Islington Joint Planning and Development Brief. At this time Camden carried out a rough feasibility study to establish costs, this suggested a ballpark estimate of £8m. The Argent main site Section 106 Agreement makes provision to receive the Western footprint of the footbridge up to 2012, Argent made it clear that they would not pay for this bridge. Network Rail have made it clear that they will not fund the cycle/footbridge but they were willing to accommodate it passing over their tracks (in the Section 106 Agreement for Kings Cross Station NR agree not to impede the footbridge).

RK said that at the Camden Development Control Committee that approved the station works all the members were supportive of Wharfdale bridge (as were Camden officers). Whilst there was discussion about the possibility of a free-standing pedestrian/cyclist bridge Network Rail made it clear that they were not prepared to consider this. Camden Members accepted their position and the vote was on an amended resolution just to widen the scope of a feasibility study to include an extended Network Rail's platform bridge. This is exactly what the Network Rail ARUP's study does. Camden have asked Buchanans to review the ARUP report. The problem is funding the bridge, potential sources are LBC, LBI, LDA, TfL, Argent, Network Rail? Any funding would be subject to the normal "cost/benefit" assessment.

A flier 'Let Us Through' was distributed for a public meeting to be held 16/07/08. RK: LB Camden Officers would have difficulty attending that meeting; they would prefer to attend one called by NR in August.

**Argent's Community projects** Anna Strongman, Development Manager (Regeneration) and Oliver Bennett spoke about initial activity. AS works on regeneration projects, also arts and play. OB is supervising building of the Construction Training Centre. AS - Approach is to fulfil section 106 commitments in best way possible, also ongoing engagement in community projects linking to other partners and delivery agencies. AS has already had contact with J Sainsbury's and the Guardian. They were seeking input from community



For more information contact Camden's King's Cross team on 020 7974 5009/2565 or email [kxteam@camden.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@camden.gov.uk)  
Or Islington King's Cross team on 020 7527 2297/3505/2381  
email: [kxteam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@islington.gov.uk)



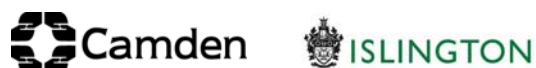
partners; focus this year on employment training, CTC and beginning to think about Skills and Recruitment Centre Also looking to work with local businesses, involvement in King's Cross Business Forum, support to Centa (Women's Enterprise Officer); local sourcing, links to Camden Town Unlimited, Cultural Bloomsbury, etc. Public art - developing overall art strategy. Argent wish to work with people who have a long term commitment to Kings Cross such as Create KX. Events at the German Gym; artist-in-residence; future commissioning of art works. Working with Camley Street Nature Park. Also a focus this year on schools – OB: Code of Construction Practice provides for local schools to come round the construction site, subject to safety considerations. Already 685 school children, approx 250 of whom were from the Central Impact Area have been reached (part K of section 106). AS - Kings Cross Business Action Group aims to co-ordinate Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts of businesses engaged in KX Central. Argent staff were also seeking to update information in some of the supporting documents issued with the outline planning application and to develop measurement tools to assess the positive strengths of the area surrounding Kings Cross.

Comments concentrated on Islington contacts (LT and others); the Water Space Strategy (DB); the stubbornly continuing deprivation and poverty indicators (PJ); importance of link with business (NA) and the need for staff competent in the various local community languages (HE). There was a feeling that many community organisations were being missed, what were the reasons why most Islington schools had failed to respond to first contacts; (NA)were Argent going to contact every organisation on CINDEK? RL: can all the organisations embedded in the area join in preparing community development strategy? AS responded: Argent are doing an audit; anyone with information can feed it in. AS welcomed any contacts from community group. Noted importance of communication. ML urged the desirability of an employment panel co-ordinating and helping people through e.g. from training into work placement. JM spoke of the combined social impact of KX development and proposed Euston Station redevelopment; could outside consultants be appointed to advise on their combined impact?

### **Reports from implementation panels**

#### **Construction Impact**

PJ reported. Quarterly Monitoring Report dated 9/6/08 had only been emailed shortly before the meeting. Forum members were reminded that Construction



For more information contact Camden's King's Cross team on 020 7974 5009/2565 or email [kxteam@camden.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@camden.gov.uk)  
Or Islington King's Cross team on 020 7527 2297/3505/2381  
email: [kxteam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@islington.gov.uk)



Liaison officer Richard Gethin can be contacted on [info@constructionatkingcross.com](mailto:info@constructionatkingcross.com) or Freephone Helpline **0800 328 8840** during working hours & 9-13 Saturdays. *Kings Cross Construction News* was distributed. Current operations were at the stage of scaffolding erection, temporary landscaping, noise monitoring. LB Camden has designated an Environmental Health Officer post for Kings Cross Central; collaboration between LB Camden and LB Islington in this regard is being established. In subsequent discussion SS saw a broad umbrella role for the Forum as the place to which all agencies should come. DB expressed the view that LB Camden wanted to close the Forum down but we had shown the determination to continue. GR pointed to the Forum's role as expressed in its governing document: the Aims and Objectives listed in section 3 of KXDF's Terms of Reference.

#### **Design/Access**

DB gave an oral report of the joint meeting of Design and Access panels. Only 6 of those present came from the community. Site R2 was considered; he had pressed for re-opening of York Road underground station only to hear the suggestion dismissed. DB proposed that the Forum request that the context (setting) of Gasholder 8 and the Gasholder Triplets be settled in the near future so that further adjacent site blocks are not defined in further Reserved Matters applications in such a way as to negate the significance of the gasholders in the urban scene. Forum agreed to a motion, proposed by DB and seconded by JB to request proposals from Argent on the setting (context) of the Gasholder and Triplets in view of their iconic worldwide status. The Director of Culture and Environment and the Chair of Development Control Committee at LB Camden were to be informed of this resolution adopted by the Forum. PJ reminded the Forum of the request to all panel representatives to circulate reports in advance of Forum meetings.

#### **Open Meeting/Event proposed for October 2008**

DB brought a proposal from CG for a different kind of meeting with controversial views to be expressed by well informed speakers before a wider audience who might be invited by good advance publicity. He circulated his own concept for such a meeting *The Kings Cross Euro Quarter*. In his opinion KXDF should hold a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 such meetings per year. RL spoke of the importance of connecting up DB's proposal and what AS and OB were doing. ML



For more information contact Camden's King's Cross team on 020 7974 5009/2565 or email [kxteam@camden.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@camden.gov.uk)  
Or Islington King's Cross team on 020 7527 2297/3505/2381  
email: [kxteam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@islington.gov.uk)



questioned how long it had been since 'settlers' began coming to Kings Cross; speakers should not be imported from beyond Forum and its member organisations; it would be a waste of a meeting to raise points mentioned in *The Kings Cross Euro Quarter* flier; the local employment debate would be more fruitful. NA supported this point; employment and health were key issues. PJ spoke about equivalent quarters of continental cities which had experienced similar impacts.

The Forum agreed to one such meeting with no commitment to repeats until we had learned from experience; Forum resisted the topics as outlined on the handbill and passed the choice of subject(s) and speakers to CG meeting on 24/07/07.

### **Employment and training issues**

The full report from KXRLG's meeting on Employment and Training in the Kings Cross Central Regeneration held on 10 April 2008 had been circulated by email. ML summarised what took place and spoke further of a meeting with youth club members at Blessed Sacrament church and their vast ignorance of the Kings Cross Central and the possibility of relevant careers. She wished to propose creation of an employment and training panel

The hour of 9pm having passed, the Chair declared the end of the meeting. ML expressed disappointment that her proposal to create an employment and training panel had not been put. The Chair also expressed disappointment that agenda items (8) Recent planning applications and how to access them and (9) Planning Response Team preparations in light of Camden's arrangements for future consultation had not been reached and they would have to be communicated by email.

Dates of future Forum meetings: 11<sup>th</sup> September (AGM/aka annual review meeting) and 13<sup>th</sup> November



For more information contact Camden's King's Cross team on 020 7974 5009/2565 or email [kxteam@camden.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@camden.gov.uk)  
Or Islington King's Cross team on 020 7527 2297/3505/2381  
email: [kxteam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:kxteam@islington.gov.uk)