

Kennington, Oval & Vauxhall Forum

Pedlar's Acre Hall, 1 Opal St, SE11 4HQ

(side of North Lambeth Housing Office, 91 Kennington Lane, SE11)

7th April 2009, 6.30 for 7.00 pm

Minutes

- 1.1 **Present:** Maureen Johnston (in the Chair), Frank Manning, Alison Packer, Celia Stothard, Ian Adams, Chris Cossey, Dilys Cossey, Priscilla Baines, Gordon Johnson, Marilyn Evers, Richard Moberly, Tricia Anderson, Mark Harris, Mary Acland Hood, John Slattery, Amina Abdulkadir, Veronica Ledwith, Cllr Steve Morgan, Cllr Andrew Sawdon, Cllr John Kazantzis, Frances Forrest (minutes).
- 1.2 **Officers in attendance:** Dawn Haines, Lambeth Policy Manager, Priya Madharji (Transport for London)
- 1.3 **Apologies for Absence:** Jill Gregson, Angus Aagaard, Charles Pender, Ivan McCracken, Kate Hoey MP, Alison Kennedy, Cllr Gavin Dodsworth, Cllr Rob Banks.
- 2 **Minutes of Forum held on 27th January 2009** These were agreed as an accurate record with the correction of spelling in the name section
- 3 **Matters arising, not elsewhere on the agenda** LINK it was confirmed that KOV would join this organisation in its own right.
- 4 **Chair's report and news from Board Members**
 - 4.1 PFI Lighting Programme – pavement repairs Ian Adams introduced this item. As the old lamp standards were removed, paving to restore the footways was being carried out very badly. Windmill Row had been particularly affected. Safety fences had been left by contractors, presumably working to the PFI contractors DW Greenwood. Fitzroy Frank was the Lambeth officer responsible for managing the DW Greenwood's contract. Ian Adams had repeatedly tried to make contact. Dawn Haines kindly agreed to pass message on to relevant council officer.
 - 4.2 Kennington Parking Sub Zone: Ian Adams said his complaint had gone to Stage 3 so far without resolution and he would probably be referring the matter to the Ombudsman. Although consultation had taken place in November with some ward councillors, the Council had not done what it had undertaken to do, namely carried out a six month review after implementing the subzone. Chris commented that he had been pursuing the matter since 2005 regarding a group of Kennington Lane residents (and their visitors) between Kennington Cross and Tesco who were excluded from the subzone, but had nowhere near to park in the

larger zone. Residents in Montford Road, Windmill Row were included.

- 4.3 Cllr Morgan agreed to take both matters up regarding why the Council had failed to consult and Kennington Lane residents' position.
- 4.4 **Farmers' Market** at the Oval: Tricia Anderson introduced how Oval Partnership were planning to increase numbers using the farmers' market in St Mark's Churchyard. A meeting would shortly be held with Lambeth Parks who maintain the land and a children's play area was proposed. KOV had supported the work on this aspect of the public realm plans for the Oval.
- 4.5 Gordon Johnston on behalf of Friends of Kennington Park (FoKP) reported that they were holding a photographic exhibition closing on 4 May, and being judged on 11 May at the Durning Library. The first prize would be £25, second £15 and third £10. 100 copies of their winning entries, on postcards, would also be given to the winners.
5. **Chair's report:** website, Lambeth Forum network, 5 x Expo events, North Lambeth event proposed for October with a theme of People and Place – respect for our environment. Maureen would be seeing Lambeth officers with her counterpart from WaCoCo (Waterloo Community Coalition) before the end of the month to discuss further.
6. **Arts Lav at Kennington Cross:** Celia Stothard reported on the progress made with the Arts Lav project. Arising from road widening proposals in 2001, the project business plan had been accepted in 2005 and negotiations were currently taking place for a reformed (as a social enterprise) FoKX to take on a 6 month lease of the lavatories and undertake basic repair work, in partnership with Tomorrow's People. If awarded, a much appreciated donation from Lambeth's Ward Purse for security work would enable a proper security gate downstairs and waterproofing. An anonymous bequest to North Lambeth Parish was also likely to be used for a condition survey. Electricity and a clean water supply was needed. A health and safety inspection had been carried out. The outcome would be professionals, colleges, schools, and the community in general would be able to rent the space, which would bring education, jobs and investment to the area. A new marketing strategy had been developed for Tomorrow's People's flower stall, and they were now seeking external orders and commissions from businesses. So far 11 people had benefited from the opportunity for work experience with Tomorrow's People. www.fokx.org.uk had more information and a blog.
7. **Cycle Docking Stations in North Lambeth:** Dawn Haines (Lambeth Transport Policy Manager) and Priya Madharji, Transport for London's Stakeholder Co-ordinator, introduced the Mayor's proposals for cycle docking stations across North Lambeth for the cycle hire scheme. There would be 400 such docking stations throughout London's zone 1. with a total of 6,000 bicycles. The Mayor wanted a docking station every 300 metres. Lambeth had volunteered to be part of the project, which the Mayor wanted to be implemented by May 2010. Some were proposed to be on the pavement, some on the carriageway where they would take up 3-4 carparking spaces but would not be an obstruction to pedestrians. Planning permission and traffic management orders would be necessary for each docking station. About eight were proposed for private land. TfL was negotiating with the private owners so they were not located on the

map. 33 locations were on the map already, a total of 26 docking stations was wanted within North Lambeth. About 20,000 households had been sent information regarding the project. Scheme providers had not yet been selected. Helmets would not be provided but subscriptions packages were being considered which would give discounts on helmets and other personal cycling clothing. Windmill Row, Lower Marsh, Sancroft St and Black Prince Road all had tree root and iron work issues which would have to be taken account of. Comments from the floor were that cyclists needed to be prevented from cycling on pavements, the scheme was too rushed and not necessarily wanted in this area, and that there was a need for more cycle parking places. Concern was expressed at possible loss of car parking spaces.

8. **Support for Lambeth Businesses – Cllr John Kazantzis, Lambeth Council Cabinet Member for Business and Enterprise** John Kazantzis Cabinet member for Employment and Enterprise, said he was responsible for minimising the impact of the recession in Lambeth, particularly affecting employment and enterprise. The Lambeth Business desk had been launched last month with a hotline for businesses. It had a business friendly focus and aimed to assist with any issue to do with the Council. This was the second year of the Lambeth Business Awards, and three finalists had come from this area (Social Enterprises, young entrepreneurs and the winner of best customer service). Although public procurement contracts could not be ringfenced to Lambeth businesses, Supply Lambeth events and seminars were being held to encourage local businesses to compete for public sector contracts. A Lambeth Enterprise Board had been newly appointed with more business members to advise on how businesses including small ones could survive the recession. A credit crunch task force had been set up and had developed an enhanced role for the Business Desk, signposting businesses to other agencies where they could get information and advice. The Council was looking to encourage the 'Wedge' loyalty card (rewarding people for shopping in a variety of local and independent shops) which currently operated in the Lower Marsh area.

He pointed out that business rates were set by central government rather than the local government, and also that the 2% increase was to be spread over the next two years. Small businesses may benefit from business rates relief. The Council was exploring the possibility of a Business Improvement District (BID) for Vauxhall. This was very popular in many areas, but if approved would have to be financed by the businesses themselves who at least would get something out of it. BIDs provide additional services for their area over and above what is already supplied, such as additional recycling facilities, deep cleaning or additional security. A ballot would have to be held amongst businesses to agree to set one up and every three years thereafter. Frank commented that the business rate relief needed to be pushed more, that waste collection from businesses could be much cheaper, and that the differential in parking zone costs affected businesses. By and large the cycle stands were considered useful. Cllr Kazantzis replied that the council's commercial waste collection activities were usually enforcement only, as most businesses preferred arrangements with private companies. It was agreed that KOV was in general in favour of the idea of a BID for the Vauxhall area.

9. **The Beaufoy building:** Cllr S Morgan reported that the Council's Corporate Committee was in charge of the Beaufoy and would be making a decision on 22 April about the future of the Beaufoy building. The Young Foundation were

bidding to create a school for 300 students, together with workshops and an arts and crafts museum. Positive feedback had been received already. The viability of the site to host both a museum and a school was being assessed. The Corporate Committee would be looking at what is best for the Beaufof charity.

- 10. Lilian Baylis (former) site, Lollard St** Cllr Morgan said there would shortly be a partners' meeting regarding the future use of the former Lilian Baylis school site. A community vehicle i.e. a group to manage everything was to be set up of users of the site i.e. Ethelred Nursery, Sports Action Zone and All Nations Church, with the Council. Heads of Terms were to be agreed amongst the parties and the community ownership of the site would be established. The priority was the long term viability. Marilyn E said she hoped there would be a very tight equalities conditions and Cllr Morgan emphasised that there would be and that everyone would be able to use the site. He confirmed that the Ethelred Youth Club and Lollard St Adventure Playground were no longer included in the project, and that a 99 year lease was being considered for the former school site.

11. AOB

- 11.1** Michael English asked what Lambeth's plans were for the future funding of the Forum. Maureen said the Lambeth Forum network had to decide how to divide £50k for the year, amongst 11 Forum bodies .
- 11.2** Friends of Durning Library invited everyone to their meeting on 20 April which would be addressed by Peter Jones, the Director of Cultural Services, a review of library services had been commissioned.
- 11.3** Maureen asked if there was interest in tours of the Cinema Museum if the next Forum meeting/ AGM (9 June) was held there and people responded positively.