



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 25 April 2018

The annual general meeting was held at St. Stephen's Church. Over 40 people attended.

### 7:05 p.m.

- Chairman Suzanne Forte SF welcomed attendees and explained that the Westbourne Neighbourhood Association WNA and Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum NHENF continue to co-exist, the first as a residents' association and amenity society, and the second as a neighbourhood forum for the purposes of writing a neighbourhood plan.
- She thanked Amanda Coulson, head of the Westminster North planning team, and Bayswater councillor Richard Holloway for attending, and later John Zamit, Chairman of our neighbouring residents' association SEBRA.
- Adhering to pre-election rules, councillors were not invited to address the group, but she thanked them for their help with neighbourhood improvements and their comments and support for the Neighbourhood Plan. She reminded attendees that WNA/NHENF is a non-political organisation and that candidates may be in attendance, and that all parties had been notified of and invited to the meeting.
- SF apologized that although she had had an email confirming the attendance of our neighbourhood watch officer, he did not appear to be coming.
- SF thanked Cye Elliot for making her office available to WNA/NHENF for members to leave subscriptions and sign up to receive printed copies of the Neighbourhood Plan, St. Stephen's Church for being the fund holder for our neighbourhood planning grant, Roger Hulme for bartending, and the committee for their time and efforts.
- ELECTIONS – SF directed attendees to the list of committee members standing for re-election and asked if there were any other nominations. There were none, and attendees were happy to vote as a group, and all were re-elected. Committee members are:

Suzanne Forte  
Richard Perkins  
Sarmila Bose  
Louise Terry  
Jessica Staddon  
Andrew Pilkington  
David Rea  
Sheila Keating

- Treasurer Louise Terry presented the accounts. The balance of the previous year was £9,181 and the balance this year was £9,609. Accounts were adopted. SF explained that although membership subscriptions were waived so that all in the area could be members, the organisation still had expenses for printing, public insurance and events, and larger goals for public realm improvements, so donations would be gratefully received.
- Membership Secretary Jessica Staddon said that membership had increased to over 300.
- Richard Perkins gave an in-depth presentation on the status and goals of the Neighbourhood Plan, thanking all who had participated in the consultations, surveys and workshops. He emphasised its alignment with the proposed new London Plan. The plan was on display, and attendees were encouraged to review it. A copy of the draft will be put up on the NHENF website [www.nottinghilleast.org.uk](http://www.nottinghilleast.org.uk) as soon as possible.
- Sarmila Bose gave a presentation about plans for this year's Carnival. Several committee members met with Matthew Phillip, director of the Tabernacle, who is on the new management team. He reported that the Carnival is to be open, transparent and inclusive. Local communities will be much more involved and suggestions are welcome. Half of the stewards will come from the local area, they will be paid, and anyone interested should contact the Carnival organisers at [nhcarnival.org](http://nhcarnival.org). Artistic merit will be fundamental, and those who don't meet certain standards or violate decibel limits will not be invited back next year. Residents are being asked for suggestions about loo numbers and locations and any other ideas. Children's day will be focused on children, and the goal is to broaden this celebration to be a truly multi-cultural event. The route will be reversed as it used to be to avoid overcrowding. An additional website for more information is [carnivalvillage.org.uk](http://carnivalvillage.org.uk).
- SF explained that the architects for a new development at the corner of Westbourne Grove and Hereford Road were not going to be presenting because they were still incorporating changes in response to residents'

association's comments. She explained that this new proposal was for a boutique hotel with two arcades open to Westbourne Grove lined with artisan stalls leading to a central courtyard also lined with artisan stalls. The façade would be brought forward in line with the flanking buildings but there would be a greened terrace at the first floor over the entrance and open space in the courtyard at the back. Sainsbury's was not a part of the proposal at this stage but a grocery store was not ruled out. WNA/NHENF along with other recognized amenity societies were asked for comments and our group requested more information about drop-offs and deliveries as compared to Sainsbury's, construction time, whether a grocery store and cash machine might be included, and traffic patterns for the arrival and departure of guests. The developers have promised to keep local residents' associations in the loop. She read comments from residents that included regret over the loss of Sainsbury's and concern about additional traffic and pollution as well as positive comments about the possibility of this regenerating the east side of Westbourne Grove, additional jobs, additional tourism that would help local businesses, the fact that as a high street location, this site was better as something other than housing and a hotel would be a good option, and the suggestion that Sainsbury's might relocate to one of the empty spaces nearby.

- SF asked for questions and comments. Representatives from the Hereford Road Association expressed concern over the impacts of traffic related to hotel services and the arrival and departure of guests, loss of Sainsbury's, especially for those with mobility problems, and the disruption that would occur from a construction program that includes basements. A resident of Hereford Mews expressed concern for the remaining residents there about the impacts of a courtyard and shops open to the public right outside their doors along with the negative consequences of the associated noise. SF questioned AC and JZ about the amount of empty retail space on Westbourne Grove, and asked about the loss of office space that has been blamed for a decline of patronage of local restaurants, especially during the lunch hour. JS pointed out the risks and negative effects to an area of empty flats that are merely investments for overseas owners. AC and JZ commented that emphasis is on housing, and there has been some conversion of office space to provide additional housing, and that according to the larger city plans, offices are encouraged in central activity zones. Other discussion ensued and it was concluded that all should wait for more information from the developer before making final comments about the WG/Hereford Road scheme.
- AP asked for clarification about dividing and amalgamating residences. AC replied that the council had been flexible about amalgamating to create

family-sized accommodation but there is also an emphasis on creating more housing. While in some areas houses have had basements converted to separate flats, in areas such as ours with original family-sized houses, the preference would normally be to maintain family sized houses. However, policy was always being refined.

- Reverend Jeremy Allcock, Vicar of St. Stephen's Church spoke about the structural renovations taking place at the church and the importance of maintaining this beautiful 150 year old structure, and told us of the large numbers of people who use this church for many purposes each week. He thanked those who had provided financial and other support, and invited attendees to see the work in process.

**8:40 p.m.**

- Meeting adjourned and guests remained for pizza, wine and conversation.