

Lee Forum

Annual General Meeting on 24 September 2019, 7.30 - 9.30pm Old Tiger's Head, Burnt Ash Road, Lee, London SE12 8RF

M I N U T E S

1. Welcomes and Apologies

The Chair of the Lee Forum, Sarah McMichael, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave thanks to The Old Tiger's Head, in particular the Landlord Chris Lurcook, for the use of their venue.

Apologies had been given by Jan Bylanski, Richard Cains, Chris Frazer, Cllrs Mark James and Jim Mallory and Catherine McRory.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Election of committee

The Chair was grateful to all those who were standing for election to the Committee.

Oliver Crispin named those standing for election to the Committee. Each candidates had provided a case for their candidacy which were presented. As the number of places was the same as the number of candidates standing for election they were voted in by a show of hands at the meeting.

The following people were duly elected for the coming year:

Peter Cleary
Carole Hicks
David Brining
Nicolette Duckham
Pippa Bampton
Gillian Deal
Marcus Mayers
David Ford
Sarah McMichael
Gill Stoker
Peter Richardson
Patricia Richardson
Rozina Visram

4. Treasurer's report

Marcus Mayer presented the Lee Forum annual accounts to the meeting.

Profit & Loss Account:

Income:

Grant funding		0.00
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Expenditure:

Consultancy	0.00	
Meeting Costs	258.86	
Postage	0.00	
Website, Filing, Admin	818.00	
Stationery	0.00	
Printing and Distribution	904.00	1980.86

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Balance Sheet:

Asset and Liabilities:

Cash at bank	<u>22.14</u>
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Reserves:

P& L Reserve 2018	2003
P & L Reserve 2019	<u>-1980.86</u>
	22.14

Marcus reported that the Lee Forum had recently made a successful grant application for £2k from Locality, which it was considered would be sufficient to complete the neighbourhood plan process.

The Chair commented that the Forum had avoided significant consultancy costs because of the significant contributions to the Forum's activity from volunteer committee members.

A question was asked about a credit showing on the accounts for 2017-18. Marcus explained that consultancy work had been accrued in 2017-18, shown as a credit in the accounts and paid in 2018-19.

The accounts were approved.

5. Report on Lee Forum's work in the past year, neighbourhood plan consultation results and work planned for the coming year

5.1 Chair's update

Mark Rochell was stepping down as joint chair of the Lee Forum and Sarah McMichael thanked him for all he had contributed and achieved in the formation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chair updated the Forum on the local listings contained in the neighbourhood area.

A report was given to the meeting on neglected buildings which had been reported to the Boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich; two had environmental orders placed upon them as they housed residents. The Chair was pleased that significant progress had been made by the Boroughs in addressing the neglected buildings in the neighbourhood.

5.2 The Lee Forum Neighbourhood Plan

Patricia Richardson outlined the process for consulting on the draft Lee Forum Neighbourhood Plan. The majority of respondents were local residents and business owners.

Other local groups had also been helpful in commenting on the draft Plan, including FUSS, Manor Park User Group and Lee Manor Conservation Society.

All statutory consultees had been contacted, however not all had responded. Of the bodies who had provided feedback, the Boroughs of Lewisham and Greenwich had been supportive and the Environment Agency had sent a supportive and positive response and made helpful suggestions for inclusion. Sport England had suggested that the Plan could include 'Active design' features. TfL sent a detailed response asking that the plan make more references to it's own projects such as Vision Zero than it currently does.

The various local authority, London and national planning processes and requirements were outlined.

Patricia summarised the results of feedback from the public consultation. 115 responses had been returned with an average of 83% of respondents supportive of the Plan's policies.

5.3 River Quaggy trail

The Chair gave a presentation which highlighted the priority projects listed in the draft Plan. Public realm in Lee High Road and the Quaggy River trail were two examples.

The Chair updated the meeting on the response of Greenwich to the provisions in the Plan relating to the River Quaggy trail. It was clear that this project would be long-running and complex. Expertise had been offered by specialist agencies.

Local infrastructure funding options which may be available through Lewisham and Greenwich were explained.

Fly tipping was an issue highlighted in feedback to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation. The Chair advised everyone to get and use the 'Fix my street' mobile app with which you can send a photo and address of the problem area to get it fixed.

All comments on the draft Neighbourhood Plan were welcomed and are being fully considered and addressed where possible by members of the Forum Committee.

5.4 Catherine Ashcroft gave a presentation on a project underway to rewild the water meadow on Weigall Road

Catherine is a local resident and is working on the Weigall Road flood defence for the river Quaggy which is owned and operated by the Environment Agency. It is a tucked away space and not open to the public. Catherine's idea was to develop a meadow on the flood plane. Her project plan was carefully proposed to the Environment Agency (EA) and gave an emphasis on partnership and shared responsibility. The EA agreed to the proposal. Immediately it had made such a difference to the space just to stop the monthly mowing of the meadow.

A volunteer day on 23 September had been a success with many volunteers attending including the Woodland Trust, EA and local residents helping to improve the site in preparation for planting.

A second volunteer day would be arranged in November to plant shrubs. The local firefighters have agreed to put bird boxes high up in trees. The project will be ongoing.

The Lee Forum welcomed the initiative and thanked Catherine for all she had achieved to date. The meeting noted additional greening and environmental projects in the area.

5.5 Hugh Ridsdill-Smith, Leegate traders

Hugh had set up a Woodworking premises and a business in Leegate Centre. A recent theft had galvanised him to become involved in the local issues with businesses in and around the Leegate centre.

A group with 30 members has been set up to:

- Improve communication,
- support each other and
- help create the conditions to thrive

St Modwen requested a meeting with the group and opened a channel for discussions on what can be done with the Leegate Centre in the interim before the redevelopment plans are approved and works get underway. These might include Christmas lights, improved recycling, community events and installations. A sense of possibility is emerging, which was welcomed by the Forum.

Everyone was encouraged to come to the Leegate Centre and talk to people and use the shops and services. There was support for Christmas lights at Leegate, which could be raised as a funding opportunity for the Lee Green Lives fund, or maybe St Modwen.

5.6 Rachel Bowyer and Ana Sutherland gave a presentation on their plans for the rejuvenation of the New Tigers Head

Ana and Rachel are Blackheath residents, respectively an architect and interior designer by profession.

Their vision for the disused pub site is a Creative workspace, social lounge and a connected community destination. They had researched opportunities for disused spaces and visited the New Tigers Head when it opened briefly for remedial works. They had created an

installation to show their vision for the potential re-use of the site which was showcased at an exhibition called New Narratives.

Ana and Rachel detailed many benefits to the local community arising from their proposed development, including:

- Local educational and cultural hubs can be tapped into in the development of the New Tiger's Head.
- It could become a place for local people to work and spend leisure time in a vibrant social hub.
- It would be of benefit to the local community to use local skills.

The history of the pub was outlined. It had been unused since 2006. The owner and sales agent have been approached. The site is for sale for £2.5m but its value is £1.2m. The difficulties with the potential regeneration project and in particular the purchase of the site were explained. Dialogue has been opened with the owner but there is a very long way to go to reach a sensible deal. The two issues to be resolved are the sale price and the revenue streams for the potential projects. The next steps were outlined.

The potential re-use of the pub was warmly welcomed by the Lee Forum, and Ana and Rachel were thanked for their presentation and work on the project to date and in the future.

6. Proposed changes to the Lee Forum constitution

The Chair explained the rationale for the proposed changes to the Lee Forum constitution, circulated as tracked changes before the meeting. The key amendment was that the roles of the Secretary and Media Officer will be subsumed by the other Committee members.

In addition to key amendment to remove two officer posts, other specific changes are set out below:

2. 6. originating and supporting projects

5. e. The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair, ~~Secretary~~ Treasurer, ~~Media Officer~~ and other officers as it sees fit.

References throughout the document to the Secretary and Media Officer will be removed or, where these posts had responsibilities, replaced with the Committee.

7. k. 21 members ~~or one fifth of the membership if fewer~~ shall constitute a quorum at a General Meeting.

8. a. The Forum's accounting period shall be annual, ~~ending twelve months after its inaugural AGM.~~

c. Treasurer and one other **designated** Management Committee member.

The changes to the Lee Forum constitution were approved.

7. Close

Sarah McMichael was warmly thanked by Patricia Richardson for all she had done to lead the Forum to achieve its success to date. Her energy, stamina and resolve were appreciated.

The Chair thanked all presenters and everyone for coming to the meeting. She appreciated the involvement and collaboration from the Forum committee members and thanked local groups and other individuals for their contributions and continued support for the Forum.