

Minutes of the Public Realm Forum

6 April 2018

Members Present:-

The Assistant Director Transportation and
Highways Commissioning (Chairman)

Councillor R Grover

Also in attendance

Councillor R Thompstone
Councillor J Marshal
Interim Strategic Lead Commissioner - Highways
Strategic Lead Entrepreneurial Barnet and Welfare Reform
Commissioning Lead Environment
High Streets & Town Centres Investments Manager
Mr Phillip Davies (Conservation Expert and constituent)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Philip Cohen
Councillor Dr Devra Kay

Councillor Stephen Sowerby

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed those present to the second meeting of the Public Realm Forum and noted the apologies.

2. FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE - TO NOTE THE FINAL VERSION

The Chairman introduced the item and the intentions of the updated Terms of Reference.

The Commissioning Lead Environment noted the comments that had been made to the Terms of Reference following a discussion at the previous Public Realm Forum had been included within the final version.

The points included were:

- That the Public Realm Forum is to cover the whole Borough – not just conservation areas.
- The Public Realm Forum would like the opportunity to review emerging schemes / projects to look at best practice and value for money.
- The Terms of Reference should include that “the role of the Forum is to develop an integrated management approach”.

All agreed to sign off the final version of the Terms of Reference.

3. PRESENTATION ON PRINCIPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

The Chairman introduced the item and the intentions of the discussion.

Philip Davies provided a presentation on best practice covering the areas below:

- Integrated Townscape Management: 10 Key Points
- Paving
- Corporate Branding and Signs
 - Street Name Signs
 - Boundary Signs
 - Park Signs
- Regulatory Signs

The Public Realm Forum discussed several areas highlighted in the presentation. The Public Realm Forum thanked Phillip Davies for his presentation.

ACTION

- The forum agreed to review some schemes / areas mentioned within the presentation and consider applying some of the decluttering ideas where appropriate at the next meeting.
- Agreed that a letter should be written to utility companies regarding old and abandoned items such as the ventilation column shown in the presentation.
- It was noted that a draft Signage Policy does exist and the forum agreed that this would be useful for the Borough, to communicate where and when we put up signage. Re (Reginal Enterprise) are working on the policy. It was agreed that a draft version of the signage policy should be presented to a future Public Realm Forum.

4. PRESENTATION ON GOLDERS GREEN TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

The Chairman introduced the item and the intentions of the discussion.

Strategic Lead Entrepreneurial Barnet and Welfare Reform provided a presentation on the background to the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy, the consultation and engagement which has taken place to date, the key findings to date and the timeline for the production and approval of the final Golders Green Town Centre Strategy.

The Public Realm Forum discussed several areas highlighted in the presentation. The Public Realm Forum thanked the Strategic Lead Entrepreneurial Barnet and Welfare Reform for the presentation and information provided.

ACTION:

The Public Realm Forum agreed that:

- Councillors from the following wards should be invited to future Public Realm Forum meetings when the Golders Green Town Centre Strategy is going to be discussed – Childs Hill, Golders Green and Garden Suburb.
- Agreed that it would be useful for the Strategic Lead Entrepreneurial Barnet and Welfare Reform to present an update on progress at the next Public Realm Forum.

5. FORWARD PLANNING

Potential items to be added to the work programme and associated actions were;

- **Best Practice Examples.**
Review a suggested area highlighted within the best practice presentation or a project such as a Town Centre.

- **Emerging Technology – including Electric Vehicle Charging**
The council are looking at both free standing units and lamp post charging for electric vehicles. We will also be using existing infrastructure differently in the future such as Wi-Fi in lamp posts.
ACTION: Phillip Davies to review examples of best practice for electric charging points.

Dates for meetings in 2018, agendas and minutes are publicised online - <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=957>
The next meeting will be held on 7th September 2018.

6. ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.