

SOMERSTOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING PROJECT

SHADOW FORUM PLANNING MEETING

SOMERSTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesday 10th January 2012

3:30- 5pm

ATTENDEES

Finnula Campbell	Somers Town Community Organiser
Vijya Patel	Somers Town Community Organiser
Jennifer Hugh	38-60a Levita House Tenants Association
Dave Hoefling	Chair of Tenants Association
Patricia Byczek	New Horizon Youth Centre
Cllr Roger Robinson	Somers Town & St Pancras Ward Councillor
Rob Inglis	Arts Exchange
Peter Brayshaw	Somers Town & St Pancras Ward Councillor
Katie Matthews	Francis Crick Institute
Ben Frimston	Origin Housing
Ashley Adkins	OpenPathways
Cllr Samata Khatoon	Somers Town & St Pancras Ward Councillor
Jamie King	Somers Town Community Association Youth worker and local resident
Nicola Wright	Somers Town & St Pancras resident
Peter Ward	Camden Community Police & Consultative Group
Helia Evans	Ossulston Tenants and Residents Association
Angora Tuohy	Somers Town resident- St Augustine's House
Sarah Elie	Somers Town Community Association (Chair)
Alex Charles	Voluntary Action Camden (Minutes)
Donna Turnbull	Voluntary Action Camden

1. Welcome and Introduction

Attendees were welcomed by the Chair and asked to introduce themselves to the group. Sarah explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to:-

- Discuss and agree members for the Somers Town neighbourhood planning forum
- Process terms of reference
- Agree local priorities and reach out to local residents
- Agree future meeting dates

2. Brief History of Somers Town Neighbourhood Planning Project Donna Turnbull

Background

- Neighbourhood planning is a provision in the Localism Act and is guided by specific regulations.
- Local authorities have specific obligations within these regulations e.g. approving a neighbourhood forum and adopting a neighbourhood plan if they are fit for purpose.
- Consultation on guidelines has just closed so it is expected that they will be finalised by end March.
- Council endorsement of the plan/forum/boundaries etc. is dependent on evidence that the community, as a whole, has engaged with the process and agree with any planning proposal put forward.
- Community development work is vital to ensure the plan is inclusive.
- The council have recently arranged workshops for communities interested in the neighbourhood planning process.

Somers Town Project- Overview

- Neighbourhood planning is community driven and supported by legislation; the first time as such that legislation has supported this kind of approach.
- Camden Community Empowerment Network / Voluntary Action Camden began working with the Somers Town community in advance of the Localism Act to get a 'head-start' about how the neighbourhood planning process might work.

- Have established good working relationships with council planning officers who have assisted with technical guidance on Local Development Framework / Place shaping plans and have attended planning events.
- Two events were conducted between September and December with Somers Town residents, business, institutions and voluntary organisations.
- Learning from past events has been incorporated into a report of 'recommendations and suggestions' to take into consideration in future planning.
- The suggestions presented are suggestions only, and are to be considered in more depth with local stakeholders today, and at future meetings.
- The project now needs leadership to take forward different aspects of the planning process.

3. Concerns, Challenges and Opportunities

Open discussion

Concerns

- Tenants and Residents Associations should not be excluded from the forum as they are democratically accountable and able to speak on behalf of the tenants and residents they represent
- This process should be led by the community, and therefore shouldn't resort to how things were done in the past - historically this has always taken a top-down approach

Challenges

- Somers Town boundary not set-in stone but the suggested boundary was agreed upon in previous meetings
- *Cllr Robinson* noted that the St Pancras area was not included within the boundary. *Sarah Elie* explained that the neighbourhood area must be a manageable size and the suggested Somers Town boundary itself, already covers a large area.
- Ensure that all people who want to get involved, can do, which means widely disseminating information to people who may not have already been contacted

- Whilst the plan needs to include existing organisations and groups it should also include those who don't normally get involved.
- How do we utilize experience already out there, engage those not already involved and reach everyone to ensure the plan is inclusive.

Opportunities

- People who are interested, have the time and who genuinely want to take the plan forward, will do so.
- For the plan to be effective it ought to draw on the experience of existing organisations and TRA's in the area, even if that may seem risky.
- People in Somers Town are already community-minded and want to be involved.
- Those who already have similar experience e.g. those involved in setting-up the SRB partnership board (*Gillian Hall, Fran Herron, Jeff Hopwood*) could potentially offer advice and guidance to the process and provide examples of what has and hasn't worked in the past.

4. Actions

For the Next Meeting

PROPOSED FOR MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY, 5 – 6:30pm

- **Sarah/Donna to work on a letter of invitation**
- **Donna to contact Jeff Hopwood and confirm he can attend the meeting**
- **Sarah to draw up the agenda**
- **Donna Turnbull to summarise information from work already undertaken e.g. with young people (ST & NHYC) and older people (STCA) into a plan and/or briefing paper.**
- **Roger to email Donna details of existing plans for the area e.g. restoring the old market, Councillor priorities, to include on the plan / briefing**

Outreach

- Provide neighbourhood planning publicity for community organisers to take to residents etc.
- Attendees to contact interested people and invite to the next meeting (see below for people mentioned specifically).
- Individuals to record who they have spoken to and inform Sarah Elie of any correspondence for recording in central database. Sarah to forward this information to VAC.
- Contact residents not represented by a tenants or residents association, including private tenants and residents.
- Jamie King to coordinate film project with Somers Town youth- A Walkabout of the Area.

Attendee	Who they will contact	Why
Cllr Roger Robinson	Gillian Hall Fran Herron NISA Somers Town Coffee House Other business links Manpreet Dillon Father John Sue Croftwood	Advice/Guidance Advice/Guidance Business contact Business contact Business contact Business contact Business contact? Faith
Jennifer Hugh	residents in her block	Local residents
Dave Hoefling	Add NP to agenda of his TRA's AGM	Local residents
Rob Inglis	Arts Exchange	Local residents
Cllr Samata Khatoon	Edith Neville Primary	Primary school
Sarah Elie	Sally Warren, Plot 10 DISC Age UK	Local VCS- play provision Disability Older people

	British Library NOVOTEL Shaw Theatre	Business Business
Katie Matthews	Heads of both primary and secondary school	School, parents, youth
Donna Turnbull	Robert Taylor, Camden Federation of Private Tenants Jeff Hopwood	Private tenants (uncontacted) LBC
Helia Evans	Ossulston TRA	Private tenants / leaseholders
Ashley Adkins	Block of social enterprises in Chalton Street Attitude is Everything LGBT forum	Disability
Peter Ward	Derek Nesbit New police sergeant	TRA and chair of SNP Community safety
Nicola Wright	Oakshot Estate	Local residents but not represented by TRA
Jamie King	Organising film with young local residents	Youth
Patricia Byczek	New Horizon Youth Centre	Young people