

Minutes

Friends of West Barnes Library Committee Meeting

17th July 2018 at 7.15pm

1. Present

- Toby Ewin (Chair)
- Rachel Taylor (Vice-Chair)
- Penny Price (Treasurer)
- Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library & Heritage Services)
- Theresa Clarke (Committee Member)
- Alison Honor (Committee Member)
- Eloise Bailey (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

2. Apologies

- Karren Whyte (Library Manager)
- Brenda Brevitt (Committee Member)
- Dan Griffiths (Secretary)
- Madeleine Maguire (Committee Member)
- Mary-Jane Jeanes (Committee Member)
- Sarah McAlister (Committee Member)
- Hina Bokhari (West Barnes Ward Councillor)
- Carl Quilliam (West Barnes Ward Councillor)

3. Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of last meeting were approved. No matters arising.

4. Head of Libraries & Heritage Services Report

AH confirmed that Merton have allocated £200k in their budget for 2018/2019 – this would be Merton's contribution towards redevelopment of West Barnes Library. This sum will be carried forward into future year(s)' Budgets until the redevelopment actually goes ahead.

5. Library Manager's Report

- New childrens' activities from September include a yoga group.
- Sacred Heart School will start library visits from September.
- WBL are engaging more with Blossom House.
- Year on Year May 2018 visitors down 24%. Slightly down across borough, but more significant at WBL.
- Stock issues down 7%.
- Programmes running across the borough that it is hoped will encourage usage.
- Summer reading challenge has started.
- Merton are running partnerships across borough, e.g. computer classes, Kids' coding classes, Dementia friendly libraries.

- W/c Oct 8 – Libraries Week. Hoping to get all 325 libraries in London to run special events & activities on that day. Merton likely to get press interest. Wimbledon will have an immersive film event & a library themed disco.
- Continuing with Young People's engagement & hoping to expand across the borough.
- Karren has been doing a lot of work on stock & is making improvements to WBL.

6. Officers' Reports

No reports were provided

7. Any Other Business

- The possibly impact on footfall of the road works commencing in Grand Drive for 20 weeks & impact on Raynes Park and WB Library was raised.
- AH advised that the Library IT system will be replaced in near future.
- Committee noted that there is no street signage in Claremont Avenue indicating the library is the other side of the station. AH will look into this.
- Committee raised possibility of a door into the garden, making it more accessible, and felt this would help increase usage. AH advised that there are no funds available at the moment and the priority is on repairs & maintenance. But AH will add it to the 'wish list'.
- TC requested that the next newsletter should include a request for help/advice in regard to redecorating the children's section of the library. Also, to advise that the new membership cards are now available in the library.

8. Crossrail 2

The committee then discussed and have identified the following questions to be raised with Crossrail 2:

1. How close are they to going out to consultation and what is their process and timeframe for the consultation period?
2. Can they clarify how they intend to engage with local community groups and how they are selecting said groups? While it was good that they had in mind to consult with FoWBL, they should also be thinking of e.g. local faith groups (e.g. the local Anglican bishop has an office in Raynes Park), local schools, the Residents Association, local business association(s), the Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields?
3. Will they include the local councillors in all meetings as representatives of the local community?
4. How much information/ what level are they prepared to share?
5. What are they proposing re the existing two level crossings?
6. Do any of their proposed plans affect West Barnes Library, Motspur Park's shops, and/or local parks and, if so, how?
7. What scope is there for FoWBL to share information with a wider audience?

The committee also discussed:

- whether the Friends should attempt to engage with all other local community groups in advance of any further news from Crossrail 2
- Is there a Financial report on viability of Crossrail 2 publicly available?