

**STREETS AND WALKWAYS SUB (PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION)
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 3 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Streets and Walkways Sub (Planning and
Transportation) Committee held at Committee Room 3 - 2nd Floor West Wing,
Guildhall on Tuesday, 3 May 2022 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Graham Packham
Deputy Randall Anderson
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Deputy Alastair Moss
John Edwards
Deputy Edward Lord
Judith Pleasance
Deputy Susan Pearson
Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Ian Hughes	- Environment Department
Olumayowa Obisesan	- Environment Department
Gillian Howard	- Environment Department
Shani Annand-Baron	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristian Turner	- Environment Department
Melanie Charalambous	- Environment Department
Clarisse Tavin	- Environment Department
Giles Radford	- Environment Department
Bruce McVean	- Environment Department
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Deputy Shравan Joshi, and from Ian Seaton.

**2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN
RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In accordance with Standing Order no. 29, Deputy Graham Packham was elected Chairman for the ensuing year. No other expressions of interest were received.

The Committee congratulated Deputy Graham Packham on his election, and the newly-elected Chairman thanked the Committee for their support.

The Chairman welcomed new members to the Committee: Alderman Ian Luder, Deputy Edward Lord, Susan Pearson, Judith Pleasance, and Ian Seaton. The Chairman also thanked departing members for their service: Peter Bennett, Christopher Hill, Jamie Ingham Clark, Oliver Sells, and John Tomlinson.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

In accordance with Standing Order no. 30, John Edwards was elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year. No other expressions of interest were received.

The Committee congratulated John Edwards on his election.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Committee received the report of the Clerk.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED, That the public minutes of the meeting of 15 February 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings, noting that Deputy Marianne Fredericks had attended the meeting via Teams following its change of start time.

The newly-elected Deputy Chairman noted that he would be monitoring legibility of Barbican Highwalk signage (item 19 of minutes of 15 February 2022).

A Member asked for an update on Item 8 of the minutes of 15 February 2022 (motorcycle parking bay on old Jewry), and the meeting heard that, following a consultation exercise, two responses had been submitted that were broadly favourable and that one of the Pay & Display bays was to be allocated to motorcycle parking (as previously agreed by the Committee).

7. COOL STREETS AND GREENING PROGRAMME: CITY GREENING AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

A Member commented that the project should aim to level up what appeared to be an uneven provision of green space in the City, and that such an aim should be added as a factor in decision-making around where to site trees.

A Member asked for residents to be consulted on the project, and for new bids to be involved.

A Member asked whether the Committee was involved in planting in City gardens, and the Committee heard that responsibility for City garden-planting presently lay within the realm of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee.

A Member asked whether the St Peter Cheap green space (Wood St/Cheapside) would be renovated as planned. The Committee heard that a planting and seating review was being considered for that space.

A Member asked about the timeframe for information about whether the current blockage of the roadway at Finsbury Circus would become parking space. The Committee heard that feedback on a site visit planned to take place in early May would be provided.

A Member commented that a masterplan would be helpful, that more pop-up green spaces would be welcome, and that further work with building managers/owners would be useful in the management of open spaces.

The meeting heard that a masterplan would be submitted to future meetings, and that partnerships were being rolled out.

A Member asked whether owners of private land were being encouraged to nurture green spaces, and the meeting heard that private landowners were being strongly encouraged to continue their involvement with green space designs.

A Member asked what public realm areas could be enhanced, and what priorities might lie within such areas. The meeting heard that criteria considerations were being drawn up as part of a Gateway 3-4 report, and that trees would be planted during the October to March planting season.

A Member asked for clarification on the Urban Greening Factor (referenced on p.24 of the agenda pack), and on the risks around large trees potentially damaging nearby older buildings.

The Committee heard that the Urban Greening Factor was to be used to a greater extent, that potential achievements varied greatly, and that realistic targets were being drawn up. The Committee noted that foundation protection was a risk but that planting was done carefully to take into account nearby structures.

A Member asked whether the criteria could be submitted to the Committee ahead of any planting, and the meeting heard that some criteria could be submitted.

A Member asked whether there was any scope for greater ambition that could encompass sponsorship, and the meeting heard that further studies would be required to increase the 100-tree minimum, and that maintenance was a key consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Committee

1. Approve the commencement of the project;
2. Approve the release of £80,000 from the Cool Streets and Greening programme for staff costs, fees and site investigations to reach the next gateway;
3. Note that delivery will be phased across 3 years with an initial Gateway 5 (Chief Officer approved) report in autumn 2022 to enable tree-planting to take place in the next planting season;

4. Note the total estimated cost of the project at £1.5-2.5m.

8. CITY CLUSTER VISION - WELL-BEING & CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE: JUBILEE GARDENS IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director Environment.

A Member asked what consideration had been given to skateboarding, and the meeting heard that skateboarding had been taken into account in design plans to make the area less appealing to skateboarders.

A Member commented on the appeal of 'cigarette flowers', and asked for clarification on the provision of rubbish bins, and the meeting heard that it was likely that a further bin would be added.

A Member asked whether Yorkstone would continue to be used over and above permeable paving, taking into account absorption capabilities and skateboarding appeal. The meeting heard that permeable paving was sub-optimal because of underlying materials, though mixed paving was an option being considered.

A Member asked whether there would be enough seating, bearing in mind the curves. The meeting heard that some existing benches could be used and that there was enough straight edge to accommodate a range of seating options with no loss of seating.

9. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The meeting received the Outstanding References, and noted that any discussion related to Beech St would take place in private session due to the local elections taking place on 05 May 2022 and the involvement of the London Borough of Islington in the matter.

Beech St (in Public section following 05 May 2022 election): The meeting heard that discussions with the London Borough of Islington (LBI) were ongoing, and that LBI had expressed concerns around potential additional traffic on Fortune St and the impact on Golden Lane. Islington have expressed a preference for an area-wide approach to addressing the air quality issues on Beech Street. It was also pointed out that LBI were not working at the same pace as the CoL Corporation, and that CoL was expecting to engage with the new post-election Executive Member for Environment & Transport to reinvigorate high-level discussions as well as embarking upon a full consultation to encompass the views of local residents.

A Member sought clarification on whether that consultation would include opportunities for stakeholders to make their views known offline, and the meeting heard that a range of in-person initiatives were also planned and that information could be submitted for inclusion in Ward newsletters in mid-June.

A Member asked whether accident figures relating to scooters were available, and the meeting heard that accident figures could be provided in July 2022. A

Member commented that potholes and grills were a significant hazard, and that dockless vehicle parking continued to be an issue.

A Member asked for clarification on wider consultation around Beech Street, and the meeting heard that consultation was expected to be launched at the end of May 2022.

A Member sought clarification on the existence of plans for when Tower Bridge was closed, and pointed out that it was likely that a new Chinese Embassy would be created at the former Royal Mint site that was likely to attract attention. The meeting heard that the risk of spontaneous demonstrations was an ongoing issue across the Square Mile and that the dynamic response to disruption was well-organised in conjunction with City of London Police.

A few Members expressed concern around potential damage to Tower Bridge, and a Member asked whether there was merit in encouraging vehicles to use Southwark Bridge during diversions rather than the less robust Tower Bridge, notwithstanding a greater risk of disruption due to demonstrations. The meeting heard that concerns around risks to Tower Bridge had been expressed to TfL, that further reports would be submitted on TfL's findings, and that enforcement by Southwark was proving to be effective.

10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE

A Member asked for clarification on aspirations and an overarching articulation of the vision for Bank Junction that has included the creation of a piazza space in the area (which would involve re-routing buses), and commented that internal Corporation resources needed to be assessed.

A Member commented on the importance of clear road signage in the area and the role of signage positioning in avoiding any interruption to their legibility.

The meeting heard that a meeting on 31 May would encompass a deep dive into Bank Junction plans and heard an overview of design plans submitted so far, a major deliverable being more pedestrian space.

A Member commented on the appeal of illuminated cycle lanes in other places that used sunlight to charge. The meeting heard that dedicated space in the City was limited, and consideration was being given to reducing traffic to enhance the cycling experience among other things.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The meeting heard that the Chairman of the parent Committee would attend the Considerate Contractor Award event later in the month.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, That Members agree to exclude the public.

The meeting ended at 12.30

Chairman

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