

FitzWest was designated as a NF for the area known as FitzWest by WCC on 6th Feb 2015.

<https://committees.westminster.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=271>

This is an application to renew our designation of the NF for Fitzrovia West.

Our constitution -latest version approved by an AGM on 25 June 2018 declares that

quote

Membership of the Forum is open to all those who live or work in the area or are elected members of any council whose ward falls within the Area. It will have a minimum of 21 members.

Day-to-day business will be managed by an elected Executive Committee which will report regularly to the Forum

All meetings of the Executive Committee and Forum will be publicised on the website and will be open to the public to encourage maximum participation.

Mission

Our mission is to ensure that Fitzrovia develops as a habitable, sustainable and neighbourly community through all means available including planning, collaborative working and community enterprise.

Objectives

- To promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of Fitzrovia, collaborating with Westminster Council and other relevant bodies;
- To produce, and help to implement a Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Development Plan that delivers the vision of the Forum and the wider community;
- To help foster community spirit and encourage local democracy and civic pride.

unquote

Our executive committee meets every 4-6 weeks, with membership of local residents, small businesses and NWECC. In the past, we had members from the business community – Langham Estates and LCD estate agents.

The committee raised some funding from Locality, WCC Ward members and business donors.

We were able to secure the services of an advisor, and commission a Green Area survey.

Since formation, first as a steering group and then as an executive committee, we have been working on the creation of a Neighbourhood plan for the area.

We collected key statistical evidence of our designated area, taken from the census, WCC database, data on conservation areas, data drawn from maps, BIDs and so on.

In a series of public meetings and our AGMs in Oct and Nov 13, April & July 14, June 15, Jan 16, June 2018 and 13 May 2019:

We identified the community's priorities, concerns and aspirations, first through discussions, then work groups, asking for feedbacks and comments.

Comments were also made on our website, or during and after meetings.

We obtained some comments and feedback from the business community, WCC officials and NWECC's representative on our executive committee.

Details and reports of the public meetings can be seen on our website

<http://fitzwest.org/webpress>

The most relevant one relates to our 13 May 2019 meeting:

<http://fitzwest.org/wordpress/the-plan/agm-and-exhibition-13th-may-2019/>

We have produced several drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan and have consulted widely on it. An exhibition and public meeting were arranged in 13 May 2019 to consult more widely. Consultants, Urban Movement, produced soft landscaping and 'healthy street' proposals for a number of streets in the plan area, such as Foley Street and Langham Street. Ove Arup worked up a scheme for Market Place for the New West End Company. In addition, the Regulation 14 pre-consultation produced a number of detailed comments from public agencies and other stakeholders. The Forum has now requested a 'health check' on the most recent draft. When other documents are completed a formal submission will be made to Westminster City Council.

Other work done by FitzWest:

We are active participants in the Oxford Street District project run by WCC.

We worked with major stakeholders in our area: NWECC, OVE Arup and Great Portland Estates to produce a plan to regenerate Market Place, and submitted a successful CIL bid for £151k to meet the costs of the initial work phase.

We successfully campaigned for the creation of a play area in FitzWest- an area was set aside for that in Riding House Street, funded by WCC CIL, and we currently work with the local school to enhance the play area by the creation of a living Wall.

We regularly take part in various forums such as the 'forum of all WCC forum', we work closely with our neighbouring forums [Marylebone, Mayfair, Soho], sharing concerns such as air quality traffic and pollution. We work with major stakeholders such as New West End Company [they have a representative on our executive committee] and meet with Crown Estates.