

Notes from Hyde Park Forum AGM, Saturday 28th Nov 2015, 10am, All Hallows Church Café

1. Attendance Present: Rev Heston Groenewald, Lydia Groenewald, Dawn Carey Jones, Dmitrijs Oginskis, Howard Eaglestone, Amanda Jackson, Ying Ho, Wendy Cook, Cllr Walshaw, Bill McKinnon, Mohammed Iftikhar, Marian Charlton, Pav Akhtar, Mick Jolley, Wain Beckford, Barbara Mitchell, Freda Matthews, Jan Betts, John Davison, Magda Szymanska, Sue Buckle. **Apologies:** Simon Hall, Andy Sloss, Adele Beeson, Cath Adams, Mark Stanton, Pravin Dayalji, Nathan Clark, Mary Osborne.

2. What is your favourite Hyde Park thing / memory / photo?

Attendees spoke about their favourite memories, experiences and places of/in Hyde Park, including: walking in Woodhouse Moor in autumn; students holding hands in the sunshine walking through Woodhouse Moor; growing up on Hyde Park Road; Hyde Park Corner; Unity Day; a cherry tree in Ash Grove now cut down; Brudenell Social Club; Hyde Park Picture House; Maumoniats (now closed) and Abu Bakr; Royal Park School (now demolished). People attached photos to a map and marked on the map where they lived and where their favourite memories and places in Hyde Park were. PC Iftikhar spoke about the un-ideal positioning of the local police station in relation to the Hyde Park Area.

3. Forum Business

Dawn and Heston summarised what the Forum had achieved over the past year, which included: having Area and Forum officially designated; setting up four policy sub-groups - Housing, Green / Open Space, Culture and Arts, Cleaner & Healthier Hyde Park; getting funding to employ a planning consultant; responding to the Site Allocation Plans consultation; setting up a web site and facebook page; having a logo designed; having "We Love Hyde Park" stickers designed and printed; drafting our vision and objectives; commenting on the Chestnut Avenue Planning Application; carrying out consultation, including at Burley Lodge Centre, All Hallows Church Café, Makkah Masjid, Brudenell School, Hyde Park Picture House, Unity Day at Woodhouse Moor. Names of those who had been carrying out committee roles to date were read out and everyone was happy for them to continue in their roles. Mick Jolley was also elected to the committee, meaning the committee consists of: Chair, Heston Groenewald; Vice Chair, Wendy Cook; Treasurer, Bill McKinnon; Secretary, Dawn Carey Jones; Pav Akhtar; Sue Buckle; Howard Eaglestone; Simon Hall; Mick Jolley; Dmitrijs Oginskis; Andy Sloss, Cllr Walshaw.

4. Policy Group Discussions

The meeting divided into two groups to discuss policy intentions relating to either green / open space and a cleaner, healthier Hyde Park, or housing and arts & culture.

Things talked about in the **green / open space and a cleaner, healthier Hyde Park group included:**

- Designating greenspaces that aren't designated in the Site Allocations Plan.
- Looking at the population density of our area in relation to the green space available.
- Compiling a register of gardens in our Area.

- Having a green corridor linking Burley Park to the Rosebank Millennium Green to Woodhouse Moor.
- Having little greenspaces everywhere like in Berlin.
- That the Royal Park site should be made a green area as quickly as possible (as per the condition for approving building on Chestnut Ave site in 2014).
- Protecting Woodhouse Moor by declaring it to be a park of special historic interest.
- Having info boards & QR codes on Woodhouse Moor.
- The possibility of Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Plan supporting Woodhouse Moor.
- Woodhouse Moor providing green space for neighbouring areas that have none.
- Greening some of our streets.
- Thinking not just about bin issues but coming up with original and unexpected ideas for a cleaner and healthier Hyde Park.
- Gathering people that can garden or who want to learn how to, so they can help create greenspaces.
- Inviting children from local schools to educate them in the beauty of planting trees and flower bulbs and how to not drop litter and to love Hyde Park.
- Having a planting day.
- Our residential streets having 10mph limits.
- Having signs like in North Hyde Park which say, "Shhh - residents live here."

Things talked about in **the housing / arts and culture group included:**

- Need for smaller properties suitable for older residents.
- Need for new build properties not all being flats - houses are required for people to feel they have something to progress on to.
- Back to backs traditionally being part of the housing progression route.
- Need to build proper practical family homes to retain and attract new families into the area.
- Need for mix of businesses to be maintained to retain residents.
- Cultural offer being part of how residents are retained in Hyde Park.
- Woodhouse Moor drawing people in to area.
- Noise and rubbish and physical environment still being reasons why people are drawn away.
- Checking what policies Headingley Neighbourhood Forum have drafted as their plan is very much focused on managing demographic imbalance.
- LCC's intention to inform neighbourhood forums of planning applications in advance.
- Need to be positive in approach to planning.
- That relocation of police station would be beneficial.
- Safety in area being a significant concern amongst students.
- The 2023 capital of culture application.
- Need to promote history alongside culture.

5. Next Steps

After a very busy year the Forum decided that everyone involved should have a break until the next Forum meeting in January 2016.