

# HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM LOCAL AGENDA 21 FORUM

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Minutes of the Executive Committee held at the  
Lilla Huset, 191 Talgarth Road on Monday, 27 January 1998

**Attendance:** David Wardrop (Chair), Kerree Aherne, Mary Corrall\*, Mike Lachowicz, Pat Cox (LB H & F), Abbas Ali\*, Anthony Lambert, Ieuan Prys-Davies, Michael McDermott, Dido Berkeley\*, Cllr Louanne Tranchell. (\* Observer)

1] **Apologies of absence:** Richard Adam, Paula Smith, David Webb, Sue Ingham

2] **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December:** These were agreed as being a true record.

3] **Matters arising:** None

4] **Open Space:** It was agreed that the following dates should be confirmed with both venues:

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Sands End, Fulham	12 April
Our Lady of Fatima, Community Centre, White City	19 April

*a] Planning:* An overall Planning Group comprising Kerree Aherne, Romy Shovelton and Richard Adam would be convened by Kerree Aherne upon the return of Richard Adam. The Group will review Publicity also.

*b] Event Management:* The Planning Group will work with locally-based members near both venues; Dido Berkeley (Fulham) and Abbas Ali (White City) have agreed to participate.

*c] Costing:* Mike Lachowicz will pass a summary expenditure of the previous Open Space to Kerree Aherne.

5] **Future Search Group:** The Progress Report will be presented by Richard Adam at the next meeting

6] **Introduction of newly set up Transport Group:** Anthony Lambert reported that he had agreed to lead this and this was welcomed by the Committee. He stated that he was seeking an early meeting with Chris Church, Local Agenda 21 Advisor to the Sustainable Development Unit of the UN Association. He reported his dismay that the LB H & F had declined to add its support for the Road Traffic (Reduction) Bill and agreed to write to the Chair of the borough's Environment Committee asking for an explanation.

7] **Indicators:**

*a] Recycling:* The Chair reported that the Council had instituted major changes in its staffing arrangements. Officers hitherto working closely with the Forum had been made redundant and a new officer, Phillip Rathbone, Group Officer, Environmental Promotion had taken over. The Chair

reported his conversation with Mr Rathbone who had stated that the borough would be concentrating on a multi-borough initiative prior to any consultation programme. Further, he stated that he knew nothing about the Forum's correspondence with his predecessors. The Forum shared the Chair's disappointment with this state of affairs and requested him to write to the Chair, Environment Committee raising its concern and asking for the resumption of a worthwhile dialogue.

*b) Transport:* A document listing work on sustainability indicators undertaken in Merton Council was discussed and Pat Cox agreed to loan a copy to Anthony Lambert.

*c) Health:* Kerree Aherne agreed to provide for the next meeting data for the Health Indicators.

*d) Employment:* The Chair confirmed he needed to review data currently available from the Borough, prior to the setting up of appropriate indicators.

*e) Social Change:* The Chair would ask Jane Wilmot (Chair, HAFAD) and David Webb (Forum member, HAFAD) for a progress report on this initiative.

**8] Development, Fulham Football Club:** Dido Berkeley reported on her application to the High Court (13 February), setting out to reopen this issue. She aims to show that the proposed development will result in encroachment of the river, adversely affecting the river's value as a Nature Conservation Area of metropolitan importance (UDP 1994, policy EN27). This should be resisted and her application should be seen as a test-case. Her application turns on these three issues:

*a) NRA guidance* The lack of resolve shown by the National Rivers Authority (now the Environmental Agency) in determining its stance on the protection of the river bank influenced several important statutory bodies which had turned to it for guidance. Their collective vacillation contributed to the adverse decision reached by the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Ironically, shortly after the Inspector's decision, the Environment Agency indicated that it would be hardening its position on future applications of this type and that, were it to revisit the original application, it would recommend outright refusal.

*b) Questionable authority:* The initial planning application and therefore the extent of the Inspector's authority relates to Block 19 (the football ground), not Block 31 (the river). By recommending the application, he authorised encroachment into the river, beyond his authority and thereby invalidating his decision.

*c) Environmental Assessment:* Recent counsel's opinion suggests that the Secretary of State for the Environment should have undertaken an Environmental Assessment pursuant to 85/337/EEC. Counsel has argued that it is surprising that he considered the application to have sufficiently significant environmental effects to warrant a call in but did not have sufficiently significant environmental effects to warrant an environmental assessment. Over the past year, throughout Europe, courts have increasingly tended to turn to the relevant European Law (the) for guidance on such matters.

Michael McDermott listed those local amenity organisations that had agreed to support the application to the High Court. Cllr Tranchell questioned whether support for the application was consistent with the aims of the Forum. These were reviewed and the majority opinion was that the Forum would not be straying beyond them by offering support. It was noted that one of the Open Space groups (meeting in June) had tackled the future of the river and it was felt that the Forum's aspirations were consistent with those making the High Court application. It was agreed that the Forum should feel able to join other local groups in supporting the application. The Chair agreed to write to Cllr Jones explaining this decision.

**9] General Election:** It was agreed that the Forum should seek support from other local groups and jointly approach the principal political parties offering to stage one public meeting in each of the two constituencies for the benefit of all voters in the borough.

**10] Newsletter:** Michael McDermott and the Chair agreed to plan a Newsletter, seeking material from several organisations. Abbas Ali supplied a useful document written by the Bahai's and Kerree Aherne offered to assist also.

## **11] AOB**

*a] River Thames Coordinating Group* Michael McDermott, who chairs the Group, invited representation from the Forum. The offer was warmly welcomed. The Chair agreed to nominate a representative.

*b] "Health of the Nation, Environmental Health"* Kerree Aherne informed the Committee of this initiative, noting that the Environment had been added as the sixth area for discussion. As the closing date for submissions was close and the Forum did not have a Health Group, she agreed to summarise those salient features of the document relevant to the Forum's work for discussion at the next meeting

*c] Millennium Proposals* Michael McDermott listed three initiatives relating to the river which would be presented to those London boroughs responsible for the river banks covered by the initiatives.

*d] Urban Studies Centre* Ieuan Prys-Davies reported on current work with schools in the south of the borough, encouraging initiatives to engage in constructive discussions with the Council and leading to action. Schools in the north would be involved later. A new leaflet highlighting Safety in the Environment, was being prepared. Finally, on 10 June, Hammersmith Town Hall would host an all-day London-wide Forum for the Environment for school students.

*e] King Street, Zebra crossing* Dido Berkeley proposed that the existing (second) zebra crossing was proving dangerous and should be replaced by a Pelican crossing. The Executive agreed and the Chair offered to seek the advice of the King Street Group, on whose committee he sat representing the Forum.

**12] Date of next meetings:** Monday 17 March and 13 May

*If you cannot attend, please contact David Wardrop at the above address/numbers*