

SNBA. Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd June 2009.

Present: Rosanne Berry, Anne Wilkinson, Hamdy Shahein, Fae Graham, Guy Smith.

Apologies were received from Michael Sinclair, Ian Aarons, Sarah Graham, Ricky Catwell, Julian Korosec and Bridget Pedgrift.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting** of 5th May 2009 were approved.
2. **Matters arising from Minutes: Proposals for work to Church Street** – the Committee felt that they would prefer the duration of the works to be shorter, so they would prefer the street to be done one side at a time and the traffic diverted, but it was also agreed that a full consultation should take place and everyone should be made aware of the opportunity to look at the plans. They also felt that we should try to make sure there is a direct line of communication straight to Andy Cunningham if there are problems.
3. **Attendance of Chris Dransfield, Neighbourhood Renewal Manager.** Chris had been working since January in the Regeneration Department, dealing with Town Centre Initiatives in Hackney Central and Dalston. Those areas had no business association themselves and meetings were convened with local traders to find out what their priorities were. They were the same as ours – trying to promote business in their areas through advertising etc. Although there is no money available to set up anything specific for Stoke Newington, certain policies can be extended here.
Events – Although there is to be no Stokefest, certain events are being organised in other parts of Hackney which may help us. There will be dance and music events, some in partnership with the Barbican, as well as a Peace Mural art installation. There will also be a Comedy Mile, involving several performance events in July. Later in the year, there is the Winter Festival of Light, starting with Diwali and going on to Chinese New Year, with white lights in the streets. Part of the regeneration project is a proposal to make use of empty retail premises which can be used for installations.
Way-finding – the cost of providing street signage in Stoke Newington can be covered Hackney Council, and this would include new fingerposts and refurbishing old ones. It was noted that the Car Park needs to be signed, as well as other obvious places, such as Clissold Park, Leisure Centre, Assembly Rooms etc.
Legible London – is an initiative for providing maps by TFL for different areas of London, which will be completed for the Olympics and will eventually cover Hackney. That is one reason why a lot of money should not be spent on signs and maps now. On the other hand, Hackney has just completed consultation of 150 businesses, in which it received 67 responses (none of the committee remembered seeing this!) about bringing in visitors, and it is clear that more information is needed. They might be able to provide some help with distribution of our map, link to the website, etc. They might be able to help with funding for further editions of the map. They also should be able to help us with developing our website. Guy will liaise on this, and Chris will send us the questionnaire.
Transport – the North London Line will close on 24th December until Easter for platform extensions to take place, and after this there should be a better service overall.
Other ideas – Hamdy asked if a running event, such as 5km or 10k run could be considered as a way of bringing people to the area. Chris agreed that this would be a cost-effective idea and would consider it.

4. **Street/Shop-front trading** – there was further discussion on recent developments. Councillor Laing had confirmed by email that no enforcement would take place against A boards for the time being, as long as they were not causing obstruction, as the whole policy is being redeveloped. We now have a contact name – Josile Munro, who has confirmed that notices threatening action should not have been sent to people. Rosanne has requested that once a policy is developed, a representative should come to a meeting to explain it.
5. **AOB** – more forms have been received for the map, and requests to join have been received from Kimos bar and the new bathroom shop.
6. **Date of next meeting** – 6th July (a MONDAY) 2009, at 6.15 at Sunstone.