

EARLS COURT BUSINESS FORUM

Earl's Court Business Forum Steering Group Meeting minutes

Tuesday 17 May 2022, 16:30-17:30
The Troubadour, 265-267 Old Brompton Rd, London SW5 9JA

Attendees

Philip Chambers – K+K George Hotel (Chair)
Jamie Hodge - Earl's Court Development Company
Spencer Parsons – Boka Hotel
Richard Hardeling – The Troubadour
Nicole Bernhardt - TLC Estate Agents
Caroline Todd – Earl's Court Film Festival

Susie Barlow – The means/Earl's Court Business Forum
Graham Hart – RBKC Economic Development Team
Antonia Hollingsworth - RBKC Economic Development Team

Apologies

Jamie Wilks – Marks & Spencer
Matilda Russell – Finborough Theatre

1. Welcome, introductions and agenda

- Introductions to RBKC officers Graham Hart - Head of Economic Development and Antonia Hollingsworth, Enterprise and Business Support Manager, Economic Development
- Jamie from ECDC and Caroline from EC Film Festival both gave apologies that they will need to leave the meeting after 30minutes, hence the agenda was re-ordered to cover the relevant items first.

2. Six month extension to continue Earl's Court business forum

- Graham informed the group that due to project underspend, RBKC's Economic Development team have agreed to extend the Earl's Court Business Forum activity for six months from beyond the original timeline of March 2022 until the end of September 2022.
- *The means* will continue their work to build capacity of the group towards a more sustainable model, with a review and next steps agreed in September.
- Philip suggested a feasibility study for a Business Improvement District for Earl's Court. Graham responded that this needs to be considered by the businesses alongside other potential options. SB agreed that it will be important that the decision is business-led.
- Graham also mentioned that the development of a BID will require support from the local authority hence there will be a need to progress internal conversations.
- Discussion around the importance of widening business input. Approaches to be made to Barclays Bank and others.

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Action: *The means* to approach businesses about joining steering group. SG members to think about peers to talk to about the forum and invite to future meetings.

SB to circulate programme of upcoming meetings – dates and themes.

3. Working with Earl's Court Development Company

- Jamie gave an update on the Underbelly events programme to take place at the development site 12 May to mid-July. 450 seat purple cow venue. ECDC are offering free tickets for business forum members.
- ECDC are intending to keep the site activated beyond Underbelly's programme, the team are open to proposals for meanwhile use. Details to be announced about a planned event to 'Bring back the Wonder' to Earl's Court.
- Consultation workshops have been taking place and planning applications submitted for various buildings. More details online: <https://theearlscourtdevelopmentcompany.com/>
- The Warwick Road 'apron' will host a program of rolling activations by artists etc. (more suited to this than events due to proximity of the road) The planting will be maintained and barriers removed, and due diligence in place to mitigate potential ASB risk.
- There are ideas to maintain the iconic steps at the original entrance to the exhibition Centre. Discussion of a memorial garden or 'walk of fame' or similar, could bring footfall to this part of the site.

4. 2022 Project Delivery

- Networking event to engage the wider business community – SB to liaise with ECDC re hosting and timing for this
- Earl's Court Road land owner engagement – some outreach has taken place, meeting to be convened with local Councillors and ECDC
- NCIL projects – planting and banners. SB to explore whether the funding parameters can be changed in line with what's feasible in Earl's Court
- Potential for further funding applications – *The means* to identify opportunities
- Showcasing the new Earl's Court Brand – digitally and in the public realm

5. AOB

Businesses raised the topic of **crime and antisocial behaviour** as a current issue for Earl's Court. Several Steering group members said they and their staff do not feel safe at night for example and would like to see investment in security measures.

Action: SNT to be invited to future meeting or event

Discussion was had around the BID concept, with the majority of steering group members keen to explore further.