Church Street Regeneration Community Group Meeting Meeting 10 - 6 February 2025 Held at 35 Church Street

<u>Attendees</u>	Apologies
 Alan Stirling (AS) Chair, Church Street Ward Neighborhood Forum) Glenys Arthur (GA) (Friends of Church Street Library) Barbara Grahame (BG) Friends of Church Street Library) Linda Hardman (LH) Friends of Church Street Library) Carole Spedding (CS) Neighborhood Forum Carolyn Keen (CK) (WAES) 	 Clare Dowding (CD) Chair of CSRCG Safira Afzal (SA) Co-chair of CSRCG Trisha Husbands (TH) Comms & Engagement Co-Ordinator Lena Chowdry-Salter (LCH) CEO Mosaic Community Trust) Louise Hall (LH) (Community Engagement Lead, Mosaic Dave Wybrow (DW) (Director of Cockpit Theater/United College Group/City of Westminster Group Achim Von Maloki (AVK) TARA Sean Gainsford (SG) Church Street ward resident Luka Zumach (LZ) Church Street ward resident Nasir Zaid (NZ) Business Owner Shiraz Mohammed (SM) (Church Street Business Association Chairman)
 Westminster City Council Officers Paul Hutchinson Simpson (PHS) Comms & Engagement Manager Diana Grisales (DG) Comms & Engagement Co- Ordinator Dev Zarif (DZ) Regeneration Lead – Church Street Holly Rosevear (HR) Development Manager Bayezid Ahmed (BA) Development Manager Paul Savage (PS) Strategic Delivery Lead Paul Perkins (PP) Programme Lead – Community Hubs 	Keltbray • Caroline Hudson (CH) Sustainability Manager Mount Anvil • Tom Beardmore (TB) SV & Communications Director PPCR • Pamela Kovachich (PK) Resident Engagement Consultant - PPCR

Item	Notes	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	1.1. A C is posting chair for today's reporting and up leaves a surgery to the	
	1.1 AS is acting chair for today's meeting and welcomes everyone to the meeting.	
2.	Minutes from the previous meeting	
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	2.1 AS having looked through trough the minutes and others' on the Agenda	
	and at some of the background information, I think we're going to have a	
	very good meeting tonight. There's lots of interesting things to cover that	
	we have been waiting for a long time.	
	2.2 AS Does anyone have any comments to make about the minutes or can	
	we agree that they are a representation of the meeting that we had on 12	
	December?	
	2.3 CS yes it does	
	2.4 AS thanks everyone	
3.	Actions and matters arising from the previous meeting	
	3.1 PHS We have an update of the action tracker which has been put on the	
	table and passed around. Not proposing to go through them all in detail but	
	there is a couple which should probably highlight.	
	3.2 DZ updates group on lightning along Church Street on Blackwater	
	House.	
	3.3 CS Why does it take so long for people to notice that when residents	
	were saying they were worried about it being so dark on that side of the	
	road and they felt unsafe since October/November last year	
	3.4 DZ I wasn't aware of it at that point, but my understanding is that there	
	was a meeting sometime there after that review.	
	3.5 CS was the first time that was taken for the meeting?	
	3.6 PHS My understanding is it was bought to a Safer Neighborhood	
	meeting in September, that didn't for some reason make its way through to	
	ourselves and we've put things in place to make sure that there is not a	
	breakage in communication in the future. It was raised at the December	
	CSRCG meeting. It was then raised when a resident came into the	

Regeneration Space as well after that point as DZ alluded too, people came from highways to visit the site. Some streetlights were noted as being out and they were repaired and put back into service. The view was taken by that team, and it is their responsibility that there was sufficient level, and it didn't warrant any additional lighting.

3.7 CS I would say not that it should have been spotted, but it should have been anticipated. It was perfectly clear. When you are putting up hoarding like that, that is going to be the kind of overflow and that it was terribly dark. Women on their own feel fantastically unsafe currently and it's not been dealt with and now it's too late and we can't do it now but there's been many of times for something to be actioned.

3.8 PHS I can't change the past, but what I can say is that when the hoarding goes along Church Street, light will be added for the lifetime of the project.

3.10 GA Can I say chair to this business of the lighting around the hoarding, once it's up on the 16th you must remember that Tesco stays open I think till 10.00pm now, there's a great deal of movement on Church Street with people shopping late at night and so it needs to be inspected by someone from number 56 at night, not during the day but at night to then report what it looks like all the way around on Penfold Street especially because it's going to be quite, quite dark . We are the residents are not sure of actually what's been set up in lighting.

3.11 DZ the streetlights will remain so you'll have as the highway team have said, standard illumination of ana area as you've done in the other streets in the ward and in the borough but in addition to that, there will also be lighting on the hoarding all the way around.

3.12 GA I still think that it should be looked at but in reality, and because so much movement on Penfold Street and Broadley Street Gardens where there's a lot of anti-social activity and Tesco until 10.00 at night, just to be sure because we're all worried about it.

3.13 DZ So just check that the lights are on too long

3.14 GA I see. I know, I see them coming through the night.

3.15 DZ with Keltbray presuming that we will end up until that point that Keltbray, I presume will do regular checks on the lights and make sure it's all working accordingly. 3.16 CH We would check but not when we're finished which is about 6.00 to 6.30 but we do have security so maybe security can come out and check the lights to make sure that they're working.

3.17 CS The point remains that I feel that should have been anticipated to put hoarding like that around a residential site. It should have been somebody working on the hoarding, should of though hello this needs light and I think looking forward, given that there's going to be quite a lot of other buildings and hoarding and things, I hope that the hoarding is on Church Street. We keep being told that when the hoarding goes up, the lighting will go up. The problem is solved and I'm saying it should have been anticipated before.

3.18 PHS We have learned a lesson here. Mount Anvil will shortly be starting on site, and this will give us an opportunity to have some early conversations both internally and the residents to make sure we learn that lesson. We will try and predict issues.

3.20 PHS a couple more things to highlight. The viewing ports and the image showing where the library will be on the hoarding. Hoarding will be picked up later on the agenda.

3.21 PHS The Green Spine meeting has been scheduled with residents. Marilyn, with a number of residents, will look at the ideas around the Green Spine so that's been actioned.

3.22 CS It's not a good start to the meeting, is it. The Green Spine is another example of things taking ages to take residents interest into. I don't understand and I'll never know because nobody will ever tell me and for some reason it's a secret, but I will never know why it's taken over a year to fix the Green Spine. Over a year, quite a lot over a year and every time a meeting is set up to do something about it, it gets extended. The period between the last meeting and the next meeting. I'm part of that group, so O go to them all. Is months and months before announcing getting and answer and getting some action.

3.23 DZ We already gave an update at the last session. The update is also being deferred to Halisham Court. We reached out to them, had no response, we have now had a response and now have managed to arrange a suitable time for all parties.

3.24 CS It's a shame it's taking over a year to finalize
3.25 CK I know in some cases organizations have asked us of meetings so people can see issues raised. Can it be published anywhere so people can see progress? The other thing is the council does have a report system for lights and rubbish. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't work. You should get Immediate confirmation.
3.26 DZ If that is an issue, that should be fed back.
3.27 CK I think would help reassure residents that things are being actioned. Look and see its updated
3.28 PHS We'll see what we can do in terms of a public version of our action tracker. Thank you.

4.		
-7.	Site A Demolition Update	
	4.1 CH Hello my name is Caroline. I am Social Value Manager for Keltbray I met some you in the hub. Update for 16 February. Delivery of 64 concrete slabs, and work will start from 7am. The reason for this on a Sunday, there was a consensus that no one wanted the market to stop I'd rather be honest with you; we are going to be there at 7 to get it all	
	done by Monday. Apologize for any inconvenience. We asked and was told not to close market	
	4.2 CS Who asked you not to,	
	4.3 CH the residents	
	4.4 CS What's the route that they will be coming to deliver	
	4.5 I can find out for you and come back to you. If you want to give me Your email address I can email you directly or I can go via Paul.	
	4.6 CH is there any reason why you'd like to know?	
	4.7 CS It's coming up Penfold Street so that's very close to people living In Cherwell House. 7.00am in the morning on a Sunday is a precious quiet time so we should know that's going to come up Penfold Street.	
	4.8 CH I can find out, but you may be aware, with regards to the size of the deliveries, we are told what roads we need to access.	
	4.8 CS How are we going to tell residents?	
	4.10 PHS In terms of residents, we've done 2 events, one in the Regeneration Space and the other on the market	
	4.11 CS I'm talking about the route itself	
	4.12 PHS We've got an email list of people who have asked for demolition updates. We will put up posters in the blocks and a letter drops around the route	
	4.13 GA I assume you'll be in touch with Denis at 60 Penfold Street. I've been at one big meeting today about the lack of communication	
	4.15 CH would it be helpful and I don't know if we put the noticeboard up on the hoarding to see potential disruptive works	
	4.16 CK is that not standard practice as part of considerate building that sort of work? All that information is to the Senior office in charge of the site and every update newsletter should go on a very prominent site.	

4.17 CH You can put the CCS where you can have a sign saying we are under CCS and then we put contact details, email, and person's name but we do not give updates. We want to make like as easy a possible that is.	
4.18 CK May I suggest that part of your policy have noticeboards that put this sort of day-to-day information up, that is what I am suggesting.	
4.19 CH We're not going to have every day all day what we are doing as the programme changes, but major deliveries or major disruption, we can put that on the board	
4.20 PHS A newsletter has been sent out to the area around Site A which includes Cherwell House. This had information about the 16 th .	
4.21 CH We can put the newsletter up with the notices boards so Everything is all in one place	
4.22 Chair Does this board have a frame on it so it's locked and have control of what is inside of it	
4.23 PHS Yes	
4.24 CH Are there any more questions? OK thank you	

Church Street Partnership Update	
5.1 CS Can we have page numbers on the pieces of paper as it makes it easier	
5.2 TB Thank you for having me back, It does say on the notice that Lisa is here but as well, but she was not able to make it. I'm Tom from Mount Anvil and as you know, appointed by Westminster for the building Program for Site A. Couple of updates, one is the planning process.	
We have just submitted our non-material amendment, the second one, non-material means the kind of minor detail changes to the planning permission at Westminster City Council has already obtained for Site A and had a series of events to communicate that to the wider community last month in a variety of different formats. The three main changes were the planning work change, the library and changes that were from the resident communities around closed kitchens vs open plan kitchens, so we made that change and final one is sustainability and deliverability. The actual design of the scheme, things you wouldn't notice but do make a difference is our sustainability and net zero targets. We are on track, they were submitted last Friday to the council. They've got to the other part of Westminster Council Planning Authority now. They are being worked through and we expect similar trajectory to the first non-material amendment. This should take six weeks to two months, something like that to hear back, three months would be unusual. Anticipating we hear back middle or end of spring towards early summer.	
5.3 CH We have been working with coaches at City of Westminster College and construction trust and work coaches at Westminster and looking to do sessions with them around construction. I also work with Lisson Grove with Westminster Council for diverse students and we have one of them on site doing work experience and we've volunteered at the food back at The Abbey Centre assisted at one of their tea parties. Trying to have a positive impact in the area, if there's anything that we can help with or any community, young, older people that you know, just let us know.	
5.4 CS WE did ask that schools visit the site and get some on hand stuff and somebody works with the schools.	
5.5 Diana has been doing that with that and there are plans to get to school children on site when it's safe	
5.6 CK Have you been in contact with Fourth Feathers and youth clubs as They are a different age group but are part of the community and the tigers	
5.7 TB There has been contact made with them	
5.8 TB I was at KSA last week with older students with some work and confident in the engagement and collaboration we are doing.	

5.9 GA We were promised. You have two ex-governors telling you this and nothing happened	
5.10 TB gives hoarding update and shows on a map what to expect to see on the hoarding in the coming weeks including viewing windows are mural	
5.11 TB updates on branding and name of market sale homes	
5.12 GA are the names of the blocks going to change, Pool House, Blackwater House or have they gone forever	
5.13 TB The naming of the block will be done collaboratively with plenty of Consultation. The naming of the blocks that will go back to Westminster Will be a consultative process which we haven't arrived at yet.	
5.14 TB There are council rules about naming blocks, particularly not using names that are already around as to not cause confusion for the emergency services	
5.15 CS What would be ideal if these names could reflect the Neighborhood. Carrick Yard was a disaster and caused ill-felling. Really important to keep the history.	
5.16 TB This group will be consulted, and I can commit to that. This group will be consulted on when we get to this process.	
5.17 CS Can you bring it to us sooner rather than later?	
5.18 TB There is a timeline programme and there is a whole department that we work with	
5.19 The number of developments need to be looked at, there needs to be an overview to have some sort of guidelines.	
5.20 Is there an update on the library	
5.21 PHS gives update on library	
5.22 GA So we can expect some kind of information about the date in this meeting in the next couple of months	

Site B & C Update
6.1 PHS Give update on Site B & C, with co design starting in the summer and engaging with residents about what they do and don't like about the previously approved plans for Site B & C
6.2 CS Are you happy with the responses that you are getting from from residents In terms of numbers. We're saying residents but I've been to the events when only 2 people came and then it's reported that residents said this, that and the other.
6.3 PHS We want to have more engagement, not less, when we run through this process, there will be some quite clear metrics of how many people have taken part. We can be transparent with the numbers and what their priorities are and the best way to engage.
6.4 DG I think we realize that people don't really want to come to the Regeneration Space so that is why we are trying to go to others.
6.5 CS I'm asking for that feedback, it's probably true what you are saying But I have no feeling of what the take up of information is
6.6 PHS so what we can do for the next meeting is we can produce a little grid that says here are the events that either we hold or events that we attended and the number of people that we engaged with wither being in the room when we gave a presentation or who we actively spoke to
6.7 CS I think going forward, we should set that as a pattern of the meeting to have a realistic view of outreach.
6.8 CH with regards to yourselves, you said that residents and different questions and queries. I have been to the coffee mornings, what would you say is the reason people are not attending?
6.9 CS They are tired of pretending. This has been going on for 12 years and We have been going to meetings and waiting for some kind of information Change or asking for information and not being able to have it, it's been over 12 years we have been doing that. I feel that people around here are what I called surveyed out of the place, if you get another knock at the door and somebody waves a survey at me, I'm going to scream. I know that's why residents don't engage anymore, it's up to us to excite them, they're tired, really tired and half of them don't believe it's going to happen anyway, because promises, promises.
6.10 CH What would you recommend would be the best way to engage?
6.11 CS That's a big discussion
6.12 CK I think it's true, it's very difficult to engage with people. The old

days when people had a local newspaper shoved through their door and local radio. The council sends an email to any residents who wants to subscribe, telling us about their consultations on everything under the sun. Why can't they include info about consultations on local things like Church Street? I'm conscious that people are buying expensive flats of Edgware Road or Lisson Grove who are not part of the older works but may pick up on their regular email notice from Westminster.

6.14 BG I just want to say what we're saying is about coming to groups because they are starting to come to some groups now, Church Street and then plus our counsellors at lunch on a Thursday. She came up to Greenside and for this day we seem to get left out with a lot of things for Church Street. Although we Church Street ward, yeah. A lot of things relay on the Achim because that's the only contact anybody seems to have on this. And although the Residents Association has been going for about 50 years, I think that's a very important point. You know that really there needs to be a check that all the relevant agencies and organizations are on your circulation.

6.15 CK we need to check that all the relevant agencies are on your list. A Lot pf people have relocated from here to Edgware Road.

6.16 PHS They always get newsletters, they are physically mailed to them And PPCR have been doing some work with Site A forums and have the option to get involved.

6.17 HR May I reflect that the Christmas party was really good, well attended events and we had partly due to all the kids' activities that were on offer. That was a great opportunity for residents to bring their kids to ask questions. At the same time, which is really busy. It's always great opportunity. Yeah, to get more people involved with kids activities and more do something similar in the summer, I think.

6.18 PHS I don't think there is a silver bullet for this. We have to try every avenue possible. Physical location, events and online.

6.19 PHS At the December meeting, we asked the two volunteers from this group to be involved in the tender process for evaluating the architect. We had four resident's volunteers. Because of the procurement process and rules set down. we couldn't involve all four residents in the architect procurement. However, we were able to involve the two other volunteers to review the tender for the content engagement support, which is part of that team which will come together. So, we were able to use all those volunteers that came forward, were Luka, Achim, Sean and Lousie.

isson	Grove	<u>Update</u>

7.1 PHS One thing I'm going to really say is I'm quite conscious that we've been promising an update on this for some time. It has taken the Council a while to get to this point and apologies for that, but we are now able to give an update.

7.2 DG The engagement for Lisson Grove consultation has started 2019. 2020, 2021 and this is the latest stage of it. We would know that it was 2023 and which for the years a document, a summary document that was presented at some workshops. I think that just wanted to guickly recap on who we spoke to and precisely a number of people we spoke to. We engage with young people through MBS, we engage with some local women through Mosaic. We also did quite a few drop-in sessions with parents that are also carers and are not able to leave their kids at home. we went to the dropping sessions at the Portman Centre. We did a few sessions at schools, at the playground to talk to the parents after school and we also did some sessions at the Lisson Grove Health Centre. We also did workshops with the volunteer sector and some with GP's. 5 workshops with the all the Council services and there was a collaborative day you were part of where we kind of brought together all the learning of There was a lot of, of course, listening to residents and users of service providers from the volunteer sector, but also there was a lot of soul searching from the Council services reflecting on what they are not doing well, based on the feedback we received from residents and then all of this was put together at the collaborative away day event where we everybody came together with some ideas of how to take this forward.

7.3 HR talks through Lisson Groove strategy presentation

7.4 CK It's an existing building occupied by Westminster Adult Education Service Council, we have our own identity, and it is very important that we have our own identity.

7.5 CS You just said this connected building.

So are you considering the residents views of that because historically right from the very beginning when we first started talking about this, residents didn't want a building that contained 3 or four different types of administrative offices because they were worried about confidentiality and privacy and things like that. And now we've come back to that.

7.6 HR I think the idea is looking at wider addressing of health through kind of Council services to help people live healthier lives, basically and be able to access those Council services in one convenient location and not like Council backed offices. It's like resident-facing services that are there to serve the residents of the local area and are key to this which I should have mentioned, at the heart of it will be a communities hub which is being led by PP and the Communities hub team and that will really help to knit those services together so they can be accessed more easily by local residents

7.7 CS Are going to the health and well-being center for example. So he's actually bumping into their social worker.

7.8 HR All of the Council offices that people would work from are located elsewhere, so these are only resident facing services. So, if you like the housing managers that you would be able to speak to you about your housing complaint, it would be the Westminster Employment Service. If you want to speak to them about career coaching, this would be a resident facing services, not back-office staff and it also wouldn't include social workers It would be located elsewhere, and that's been very clear. We don't want that to be a barrier. I'll let PP talk about the community hub.

7.9 GA you said you're just going to have two surgeries, which are quite Small but at the meeting with you. Things have changed very much nationwide. The attitude to well-being which includes treatment rooms, you see that could be a whole floor nearly

7.10 HR that's a good question. We can explore what the GPS free design process, what kind of space they need and how they could possibly bring in alternative medicine as well into the wider space that we're going to build there. And I think that's why we need to explore through design environment.

7.11 PP gives update on Community Hub for Church Street

7.12 BG I need to clear my head about which activities will benefit from being in a sort of communal harm and which one's social services should be elsewhere, so I just try to look at the map and see what flexibility you have in that and, you know, important one WAES which is important because you're looking to use their site and they need, in my view. I mean one of the quality of their present site is that it's very prominent. But maybe it could be an even better, more prominent. But main road access to the site, because I mean, there's something that Westminster wide and actually, it could be very official. The way I haven't talked to Carolyn at all about this. But I think being near and Marylebone Station actually is better because it is in Westminster wide Facility at the moment. People from wherever I've got to hop on the buses.

7.12 CK I appreciate the officers coming tonight and talking to us. I think the presentation should have been started by one of the councillors because we've waited over whatever there is since 2023 to get an update and I think as officers you've been put in a difficult position to present this to us.

I'd like to also say that I appreciate that I was asked in my capacity as Chair of WAES to a briefing the meeting. Couple of weeks ago and that's the first time in all these years that I have or the position of chair has been asked to meet face to face, to discuss our future premises. So thank you very much, that's very encouraging. But first of all, our cabinet member was not aware of the proposal I know that you're about to brief all you have briefed around our principal and her senior management team. But when I and my fellow governor met with you, we made it clear that WAES is a standalone institution with its own identity and with a very clear vision as to what our users expect in coming to college to learn and that a shared premises where you go in the same entrance as people coming to use other services is not appropriate. Also, that we do not at any stage want to be put into temporary accommodation. We've been through that when we moved on to Listen Grove, we were put into temporary accommodation for Lisson Grove was to be a temporary long-term temporary. It was never purpose built and we have put our own savings as it were, into maintaining it, but it's basically not doing fit for purpose. It looks very nice and tidy, but you don't see where all the leaks and problems are. And though we are part of the City Council, all our funding comes from outside the Council and therefore, we're not like housing or social services, and we have our own Board of Governors. Where the Council is represented on that. So, I'm interested in seeing how this proposal is going to be actually worked through. But I think the fundamental issue is that we want a building which is fit for purpose in the next we're talking about, I think, possibly not having a building until 2032/33 which is a long way as it's already been said, you know, things change very rapidly. We know that in adult education we have to be flexible. And we need space to do the things that the Council wants us to do, to raise the level of education achievements. The probability in the wider community. I think you've got a difficult situation to present to without councillors present. That's where we stand at the moment, obviously, where we want to coordinate and cooperate as much as possible, but I would be very, very against the idea that we go into a building where we don't have responsibility and control over management and contracts and all the things that go wrong with it are poorly administered Council building.

7.13 HR And now just clarify one point which is with the current proposal, there's no option that there was only no possibility for the temporary accommodation, so it would be a direct move of those to the lasting St site which I think would be really positive of the proposal.

7.14 Nothing is set and stone and is a good opportunity to work together through the design, develop and support community

7.15 CK In our conversation when we were being briefed, we did make the point that we would like to see the Council explore the opportunities that might exist with private developers, given the point that's already been made, that the whole building industry, housing offices is all changing very rapidly and people are looking at different partnerships plus the commercial world has an obligation to it for a community infrastructure levy, 106 agreements and so on. And so we think those opportunities should at least be considered.

7.16 HR We have passed that up a chain that I would only say that we only have control of the regen and development pipeline. So we can have a thought we have within that and try to find a new service button in for it. But we have passed that up the chain.

7.17 CK and the other thing is between us. It's not statutory service, so we always have to be aware of that. On the other hand, it wouldn't be able to get that money into Westminster if it didn't have an institution.

7.18 DG The next step is of course making sure we talk to residents of that very local area and we're going to do a door knock next week and then we have to park half, turn dropping off a letter to invite them to a session organized for in April for tenants and these holders. But we will also be doing some drop-in sessions at St Paul's Church they do on weekly evening meal. We will also have the newsletter; it will be delivered to all the properties all around the area and that will have a summary and of all the information we're giving you now. And I think that we will organize some additional dropping session to answer questions and discuss the plans with local residents.

7.19 CK Could you have the meetings in the empty, abandoned buildings?

7.20 PHS we can certainly try and get into Greenside to do the meetings there and if we can get into full license rate, we'll do them there as well.

7.21 DG The feedback we have from residents and homeless and papers is that the majority, I think there are two residents that want to stay, but the majority are not happy with the current state of the flats.

7.22 AS I would just like to say that as chair of the Church Street Ward Neighbourhood Forum, in other words, different hats, I would like to assure that I believe all our members will support whatever you need to carry on the work you do. I think you've got your committee now on the in this neighborhood, however, we can best fit you in and if you say you want a separate building and I can quite understand why, then we need help you argue that with whoever it needs to be. I hate the idea that there's any doubt about what should be happening for you, you should be top of the list and be. Everything should be sorted as to where you're going to go.

7.23 PHS I think one thing we obviously it's been a long time coming. This update, as I said at the start, I think we probably will have it as a regular item on the agenda going forward as we have sort of the update from the partnership about site a. So make sure that coming back to give you an update as to progresses.

7.24 PHS We will get the presentation distributed to the group