

Following on from the meeting on 26th June with Mayor, Ward Councillors and over 100 local businesses and residents, the key issues and actions are detailed below.

Council officers have been tasked with following up on the actions and reporting back to the relevant departmental Council Directors on progress. A copy of the meeting note and progress updates on actions listed in this newsletter will be available on the Council’s website: www.newham.gov.uk/forestgate from mid-August when this page goes live.

If you have any comments regarding Forest Gate or the actions below, please email forestgate@newham.gov.uk

1) Working Groups

It was suggested that Working Groups should be established and be made up of residents, businesses, Councillors and officers. The role of the Working Groups would be to focus on specific topics that are of particular interest to the local community. Working Groups should adopt a proactive, solution-driven approach to

problem solving current issues and/or developing new ideas for Forest Gate

Subject to the response and availability we suggest that the first Working Group could meet end of August. We are suggesting the following criteria:

- Working Groups should ideally be representative of the local community in terms of ethnicity, age, genders etc.
- Nominate yourself – provide a paragraph of why they would like to be involved
- Maximum of 10 people and minimum of 5 per Working Group

Suggested group themes:

- Affordable Workspace
- Place Making and Public Realm
- High Street Management (parking, deliveries, waste, policing etc.)
- Any others...?

To suggest other working groups or to register your interest to be on a working group, please email your suggestions by **Friday 30th August** to forestgate@newham.gov.uk

2) Key actions and discussion points from meeting held on the 26th June

Issue	Action
Boarded up shops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration to make Land Registry enquiry and contact freeholder in the next four weeks. • List premises where enforcement action will be taken on neglected shop fronts. • Shape Newham programme could be used to support improvements to shop fronts should the local community prioritise this idea at the first Shape Newham forum in the autumn (date TBC).

Issue	Action
Planning Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised about the hoarded off section of the high street and the delay in the commencement of the development works. Residents state the closing of the high street premises like Harry's Butchers has had a big impact on the town centre. Attendees mentioned that it would be useful for the local community to be able to engage, understand and respond to large projects that have an impact on the town centre, such as planning applications and developments.
The private road adjacent to the railway line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement to contact freeholder (Network Rail) and freeholders regarding state and management of road and area at the rear of shops. If required, issue Enforcement Notice based on poor management of land and Health and Safety concerns.
Public Realm Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways and Transport Department to issue plan and programme for the remaining phases of work associated with this scheme. Highways and Transport Department have confirmed that the works will be completed by October 2019. Mayor to respond to premises impacted by the works and specifically to the issues raised by the tenants of Fred's and the Emporium. Officers to advice of any business rate reduction that could be claimed during period based on Valuation Office guidelines.
Zebra Crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport and Highways to review based on comments from resident and provide a full response. Accessibility issues raised about this crossing.
Meat deliveries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues raised about handling and transporting of meat deliveries from vehicles to shops. Concerns regarding Food and Hygiene standards and the fact that carcasses were not wrapped appropriately.
Anti-social behaviour (ASB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASB was raised in association with the BT/Wifi unit. Questions were raised on the impact this was having on the town centre and whether it could be moved to outside the station. Enforcement to liaise with the Police initially to understand the ASB issues in more detail.
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions between the Mayor and Borough Commander have taken place. Mayor stated that the Police officers dealing with the community need promote Newham in a positive light and has raised this personally with the Borough Commander. Residents raised some concerns relating to the responses they have received from Police officers when raising concerns or reporting incidents. Possibility to invite the Borough Commander to a future meeting.
Community Planting Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response relating to the community planting scheme were very positive and residents and businesses stated that this should be considered for other parts of the town centre.
Small Business and Affordable Workspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns were raised regarding the lack of affordable workspace and that recently The Arch Co. have increased the rent/lease costs for some businesses based in the arches off Avenue Road. Suggested that a working group regarding affordable workspace is set up. This reflects Mayoral priorities around Community Wealth Building.
Pharmaceutical deliveries and business deliveries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue regarding parking charges and/or difficulty of parking for deliveries of medicines for house bound residents. Request for a parking permit covering areas in the catchment area of the pharmacy. With Newham Pharmacists to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board, regarding the cost of parking and home deliveries for prescriptions to vulnerable clients.