



## THE STRATHBUNGO SOCIETY

### Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 21 June 2016

The Den, The Bungo, Nithsdale Road

**Present :** Kevin Kane (Chair ), Nick Kempe (Treasurer), Carol Dobson (Secretary), Heather Alexander, Imelda Devlin, Alan Dobson, Andrew Downie, Ann Downie, Loraine Forde, Phil Harvey, Rosie Ilett, Fiona MacKinnon, Scott Obrzud, James Powsey, Stephen Rees

**Apologies:** Alison Hunter, Jane Carolan

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Kevin Kane welcomed all members and noted apologies as listed above.

#### 2. Minutes and matters arising

The Minute of the meeting of 17 May 2016 were approved.

*Community Safety – Pollokshields Area Partnership (PAP)* : Nick Kempe reported that the PAP would welcome consistent police representation at Partnership meetings. It was agreed that the Society would welcome ongoing communication with local police.

*BT 'My Donate' facility*: Nick is reviewing the Gift Aid status of current 'Friends' and will confirm the tax position with HMRC.

#### 3. Bungo in the Back Lanes: wash up

It was agreed that BitBL 2016 had been 'a triumph'. Kevin invited members to identify those elements which had been particularly successful and those which could be improved.

*On the plus side:*

- Well promoted on social media
- Variety of stalls
- More visible activity in Lane 4 than in previous years
- [For Members] Being part of a group/, meeting new neighbours, convivial atmosphere, being involved in actively promoting community cohesion
- Tombola well organised
- Good numbers of willing volunteers (including those from Harvest Bible group and the Scouts) for setting out and clearing up
- Money collection / envelope system and use of lane stewards
- Opening conducted by the First Minister
- The use of Whatsapp communication tool for BitBL organisers
- Local/bottom up organisation.

*Areas which could be improved:*

- The Society Stall need to be more prominent, inviting and engaging
- More variety in stalls; are there too many food outlets?
- Need for (portable) toilet facilities
- Better lane signposting: use blackboard signs to indicate stalls
- Still need more volunteers; too reliant on a few key individuals
- More explicit instructions to prospective stall holders on how to secure a pitch
- More comprehensive FAQs on BitBL on the Society's website
- More active promotion visible from the lanes of activities taking place within gardens (e.g. use of signs, balloons, bunting etc.)

In discussion, further questions were raised to be addressed when planning next year's event:

- How to handle the pressure and bureaucracy from the Council?
- Is the event getting too big?
- How to manage the growing size of the event?
- How to balance the growing numbers of commercial organisations with the local / community nature of the event?
- How to encourage *more community /non-commercial stallholders*?
- Should we open for longer?
- Develop clearer Society branding for the Society Stall?
- Should the Society control some 'key pitches'?
- Can we make more use of social media?
- Might we identify an 'arts space' for community arts organisations?
- Can we have more live music?
- Should we consider a social event in the evening of BitBL?

The financial model and its underlying assumptions should be reviewed. We need to clarify the nature of the licensing application (e.g. are children permitted in the bar areas or not?).

Agreed it was essential that future plans take into account sustainability of volunteer engagement.

**Action: Alison Hunter to set up a BitBL debrief/future planning group to consider the above and develop a BitBL 'event book' as a planning tool.**

**Action: Stephen Rees to create a task framework for the proposed 'event book'.**

The Chair formally thanked Stephen for his ongoing support and efforts.

#### **4. Financial update /2016-17 budget**

This item will be carried forward to the August meeting.

#### **5. Updates, in brief**

*Communications group:* Rosie Ilett updated members on action taken to moderate inappropriate postings on the original Facebook group. It was agreed that from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, the old Facebook group would be closed and the new Society Facebook page would take over as the 'official' social media presence for the Society. The new page already has over 600 users.

**Action: Rosie Ilett and Phil Harvey to lead work on managing social media and developing a new branding for the Society and report back to the August meeting.**

Members were reminded of the need to consider succession planning for the Society Newsletter. Volunteers sought.

*Brighter Bungo:* Alan Dobson and Kevin Kane reported on successful community clean up events held on 5<sup>th</sup> June (clearance of Moray Place) and BB on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

*Planning matters:* Fiona MacKinnon will represent the Society in an observer capacity at an Urban Design Panel meeting.

Members discussed a recent licensing application for a mobile food van to operate on Balvicar Street and expressed concern about the potential impact of this proposal on local residents and businesses. It was noted that such licensing applications do not follow the same notification and consultation process as planning applications.

**ACTION:** Heather Alexander will talk to Councillor David Meikle about the possibility of extending the Waverley Park 20mph zone to include Strathbungo - gardens and squares.

*Network Rail:* Kevin indicated that an email had been received today from Network Rail. It will be circulated for information.

## **6. AOB**

*Society storage:* It was agreed that the Society would not assume responsibility for the hire of a previously used storage unit held by the previous Chair. **ACTION: Kevin to clear storage unit. Looking for someone to volunteer storage for Society materials etc.**

Members were reminded that there will be no Committee meeting in July.

**Date and time of next Committee meeting:**

**Tuesday 16 August 2016, 7:30pm, The Bungo, Nithsdale Road**