

# MINUTES



**Date:** 18 May 2026

**Time:** 16.30 17.30

## Attendees:

Becky Elms (BE)	Redwood
Chandan Mahal (CM)	British Library Head of Community Participation
Darren Warrington (DW)	Francis Crick Institute
David Demolder (DD) (minutes)	Mace Stakeholder Management
David J Carter (DJC)	Mace Project Manager
David Height (DH)	Mitsui Fudosan
David Redfern (DR)	Mace Construction Lead
Debbie Cracknell (DCr)	Redwood
Deepika Kanthavara Madhava (DKM)	Somers Town Living Centre
Diana Foster (DF)	A space for us People's Museum (joined item 4)
Graham Barter (GB)	Mace Project Director
Javier Calderon (JC)	Somers Town Gallery
Nick Jarman (NJ)	Stanhope
Salima Abdallah (SA)	Community Engagement Manager
Samantha Lane (SL) (Chair)	St Pancras Chambers Apartments
Slaney Devlin (SD)	Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Shubham Vispute (SV)	British Library Construction Interface Manager

## Apologies:

Ann Stannard (AS)	Ossulston Street TRA
Charles Walford (CW)	Stanhope
Jim Allen (JiA)	St Pancras Hotel
Jodie Allen (JoA)	STCA/Living Centre
Paul Stelmaszczyk (PS)	Redwood
Sarah Wright (SW)	Mace Social Value Lead

## Circulation (above plus):

British Library Extension website	<a href="http://www.blextension.co.uk">www.blextension.co.uk</a>
Ema Howling (EH)	Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Jay Newton (JN)	HS1
John Wood (JW)	Walker House TRA
Pelham Walker (PW)	HS1
Samata Khatoon (SK)	LB Camden Councillor
Shah Miah (SM)	LB Camden Councillor
Tania Jacobs (TJ)	Levita House
Tuwahid Uddin (TU)	LB Camden CMP Enforcement Officer

## Apologies for absence

1.1	The group noted the apologies for absence.
-----	--

<b>Introductions</b>	
2.1	SL welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves. The group noted Councillor Frondigoun had been replaced by Councillor Bakth, who would be invited to join the group.
<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	
3.2	The minutes of the April meeting were APPROVED. It was noted that the minutes, presentation slides and other papers from the meeting had been uploaded to the British Library extension website <a href="http://www.blextension.co.uk">www.blextension.co.uk</a> .
<b>Matters arising from the last meeting</b>	
4.1	<b>Social Value update</b>
4.2	SA explained that the internal social value group was developing a framework taking account of the different stakeholders affected by the project. The approach of the group was to bring together the existing social value initiatives of the British Library with those of SMBL including Mace, Stanhope and their consultants, Arup. The internal group had concluded that the best way to ensure residents' involvement would be to establish a residents' social value group to cover all social value.
4.3	SA displayed a presentation slide showing the steps and timeframe for setting up the residents' group. It was noted that the group was expected to be established by September and start meeting in October. The group would feed back into the internal group of British Library partners. The establishment of the residents' group would serve to increase residents' involvement in social value.
4.4	SA also briefed the meeting on the structure being used to underpin the social value framework in support of the approach outlined in minute 4.2.
4.5	<p><i>Comments and questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Q: SD felt that it was a good idea to discuss social value elsewhere in order to allow the Construction Working Group to focus on construction. She asked how this would differ from the existing social value initiatives of the British Library. A: CM responded that this approach would allow for synergies from working across all aspects of social value and a joint way to express these to wider stakeholders and audiences.</li> <li>- C: SL commented that there was clearly much overlap between activities, initiatives and groups. In time, a venn diagram showing the relationships would be very helpful. SL asked who would be the focus for social value for the Construction Working Group. A: SA replied that she and SW would continue to provide the focus.</li> <li>- Q: DF asked why heritage was not included on the framework slide. A: SA responded that the slide was not about the framework itself, but the elements in the process for establishing it.</li> </ul>

4.6	<b>Review of Construction update</b>
4.7	The group was asked to give feedback on the recently circulated notice about current works. It was noted that it had covered around six weeks of works. Date ranges had been provided whereas for more intrusive/noticeable works dates would be specified.
4.5	<p><i>Comments and suggestions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SD, SL and JC had not received copies through their doors.</li> <li>- JC offered to post an A3 version of future notices on the local noticeboard</li> <li>- Copies could be placed on Tenants Residents' Association (TRA) noticeboards.</li> <li>- JC suggested that additional copies of notices be placed in the café, pub, shop and other local businesses for people to pick up.</li> <li>- DKM suggested that notices could be provided in other languages and members were asked to suggest others which are particularly prevalent in the local area.</li> <li>- SD questioned if the colours used may be difficult to read for people with red/green colour blindness.</li> </ul> <p>DD thanked the group for the feedback.</p>
<b>Works update</b>	
5.1	<p>GB gave a briefing on upcoming works using the previously circulated slides showing works in May, June and July. It was noted that during the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuing to prepare the site to commence pile foundations. This included removing gabion basket retaining walls and creating level surface "piling mats" for piling machines to operate on.</li> <li>- Prepare for demolition of the "Pepperpot" external staircase tower taking place in July</li> <li>- Create temporary car parking spaces to allow for the site accommodation to be built over the existing</li> <li>- Create a new loading bay to allow construction work to take place in the existing.</li> <li>- Relocate the bicycle parking from behind the British Library to the piazza.</li> <li>- Install temporary hoardings on Midland Road to allow alterations to be made to the existing footway and cycle route, to create additional site accesses.</li> </ul>
5.2	<p><b>Advance notice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was noted that the overnight installation of site cabins was expected to take place w/c 20 July.</li> <li>- In order to decommission the sub-station on Ossulston Street it would be necessary to temporarily suspend around four parking spaces.</li> </ul> <p>These matters would be the subject of a Construction Update Notice nearer the time, giving final details.</p>
5.3	<p><b>Complaints, enquiries and monitor activations</b></p> <p>DC reported that one complaint had been received since the last meeting. This had been caused by hoarding lights on Ossulston Street being left on overnight. The team had disconnected them and would install light shields to point the light downwards before using them again. Lights had been provided as there was no street lighting on the eastern side of the road.</p>

	DC confirmed that there had been two amber monitor triggers on Midland Road but none on Ossulston Street.
5.4	<p><b>Construction Management Plan</b></p> <p>The plan had now been accepted by LB Camden and the final version would be uploaded to the British Library extension website <a href="http://www.blextension.co.uk">www.blextension.co.uk</a>.</p>
<b>Any other business</b>	
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SD asked about the planning application for cycle storage. A: The application was being made to increase the capacity of the existing covered store on Ossulston Street and to create an additional area on the piazza.</li> <li>- SD asked about staff muster points. A: GB used the previously circulated slides to show how evacuation routes would be varied during the works in the next few months. The piazza would become the main muster point in due course. A recent evacuation had been useful to see how people behaved and the numbers using the existing routes.</li> <li>- On the changes to the Midland Road footway and cycleway GB offered to give a more detailed briefing on this at the next Construction Working Group meeting.</li> <li>- SD asked if portholes for the hoardings and a viewing platform were planned. A: DD confirmed that it was expected these would be provided but no firm plans had been agreed.</li> <li>- It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 15 June at 16.30.</li> </ul> <p>SL thanked the attendees for giving up their time to join the meeting and contribute to the discussions.</p>