

MINUTES



Date: 13 July 2026

Time: 16.30 17.30

Attendees:

Chandan Mahal (CM)	British Library Head of Community Participation
Charles Walford (CW)	Stanhope
Darren Warrington (DW)	Francis Crick Institute
David Demolder (DD) (minutes)	Mace Stakeholder Management
David J Carter (DJC)	Mace Project Manager
Deepika Kanthavara Madhava (DKM)	Somers Town Living Centre
Helen Cadiou (HC)	Resident
Paul Stelmaszczyk (PS)	Redwood
Salima Abdallah (SA)	Community Engagement Manager
Samantha Lane (SL) (Chair)	St Pancras Chambers Apartments
Shubham Vispute (SV)	British Library Construction Interface Manager
Slaney Devlin (SD)	Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Tania Jacobs (TJ)	Levita House

Apologies:

Ann Stannard (AS)	Ossulston Street TRA
Becky Elms (BE)	Redwood
David Height (DH)	Mitsui Fudosan
David Redfern (DR)	Mace Construction Lead
Debbie Cracknell (DCr)	Redwood
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
Jim Allen (JiA)	St Pancras Hotel
Jodie Allen (JoA)	STCA/Living Centre
Nick Jarman (NJ)	Stanhope
Samata Khatoon (SK)	LB Camden Councillor
Sarah Wright (SW)	Mace Social Value Lead
Shah Miah (SM)	LB Camden Councillor

Circulation (above plus):

British Library Extension website	www.blextension.co.uk
Ema Howling (EH)	Somers Town Neighbourhood Forum
Jay Newton (JN)	HS1
John Wood (JW)	Walker House TRA
Pelham Walker (PW)	HS1
Tuwahid Uddin (TU)	LB Camden CMP Enforcement Officer

Apologies for absence

1.1	The group noted the apologies for absence.
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Introductions	
2.1	SL welcomed members and HC to her first meeting.
2.2	SL asked members to introduce themselves.
Minutes of the last meeting	
3.1	The minutes of the June meeting were APPROVED. It was noted that the minutes, presentation slides and other papers from the meeting will be uploaded to the British Library extension website www.blextension.co.uk .
3.2	Matters arising - The post-meeting note relating to the reuse of the cherry tree trunk as part of a relandscaping project in princes Circus by LB Camden open spaces team was noted and welcomed. - SD asked if DW could provide a note on the status of Dangoor Walk and the powers the Francis Crick Institute has to close it. This had been raised at a recent Neighbourhood Forum meeting. Action: DW agreed to provide this. - SD noted that the question of viewing platforms had also been raised at the Forum meeting. DD responded that it was planned that portholes would be provided in the hoardings, likely from September. The team was also exploring options to provide a viewing platform on the first-floor terrace, although this was yet to be considered/agreed.
Social Value update	
4.1	SA briefed the group on: - The presence/representation of the BLE projects at the Somers Town Festival on Saturday 11 July, which is the largest festival in the borough. SMBL, Mace and Morgan Lovell had attended and taken stands. Representatives from across the project had attended including architects RSHP and Redwood. Morgan Lovell had also donated towards the headline act. In addition, a brochure about the extension project had been printed for people to take. The look and feel of this had been based on the phase one hoarding graphics which are due to be installed in September. SA tabled copies and agreed to circulate an electronic version for wider circulation. It was felt that attendance/engagement at the event had been successful and this will be built on as part of activities for next year's event. - An apprenticeship opportunity was being advertised through LB Camden Goodwork Camden - vacancy.
4.4	<i>Comments and questions</i> - C: PS commented that a Redwood colleague who had attended the Festival noted that whilst lots of people they engaged with were aware of the extension project, some were not. C: SD wondered if this was because lots of projects are spoken about but do not always come to fruition. C: SA agreed that letting people know about the project was a priority and that it was planned to also engage people through the local tenants and residents associations. - Q: SD asked when it was planned that the residents' social value group would first meet. A: SA responded that this was being developed but

	would not be until the British Library's new staff members, who would provide support, had been appointed and settled in. This was expected to be in January 2027 as reported at the last meeting. - Q: TJ asked whether the delay in the group meeting would affect the promotion of jobs or social value initiatives. A: SA confirmed that it would not.
Works update	
5.1	DC briefed the group on forthcoming works using the previously circulated phasing drawings. He asked the group to note: - Midland Road hoarding is progressing - Surfaces were being laid to allow for vehicle circulation within the site - Fire escape routes were being relocated to avoid clashes with works - Foundations for the new accommodation cabins were being established - Scaffolding was being erected around the Pepperpot escape tower, in readiness for it being demolished using a muncher. Measures would be in place to limit noise and dust - The existing temporary site cabins would be moved towards Midland Road to give access for works within the Ossulston Street site boundary - The wall on the Dangoor Walk boundary would be removed in late July by cutting it into pieces. The walkway would remain open as usual - In August final adjustments to fire escape routes would be made and piling guidewalls installed - In September the temporary loading bay would come into use and piling would commence
5.2	<i>Comments and questions</i> - Q: TJ asked what DC had found most interesting about the project so far. A: DC responded that digging trial holes to assess ground conditions and how to minimise disturbance to neighbours. Also finding things from the past such as railway artefacts and traces of former buildings.
Any other business	
6.1	- SL reminded attendees of GB's offer to host either group or individual visits to the site and encouraged people to take advantage of this. - CW enquired if local people were visiting the new Story Garden location. A: DK said she knew that two people had walked up there today to visit, but full opening was not until 18 July. <i>Post meeting note: DK checked and in total 28 local people visited the new site on the day of the meeting.</i> - It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday 17 August. DW highlighted that he would be away. Following a discussion it was agreed that papers would be circulated as normal but the need to meet would be assessed based on agenda items and numbers of invitees able to attend. SL noted that she would be away for the September meeting and TJ said she would deputise.