

MINUTES



Date: 15 June 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
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
Jaina Patel (JP)	Redwood
Javier Calderon (JC)	Somers Town Gallery
Nick Jarman (NJ)	Stanhope
Paul Stelmaszczyk (PS)	Redwood
Salima Abdallah (SA)	Community Engagement Manager
Samantha Lane (SL) (Chair)	St Pancras Chambers Apartments
Sarah Wright (SW)	Mace Social Value Lead
Shah Miah (SM)	LB Camden Councillor
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
Jim Allen (JiA)	St Pancras Hotel
Jodie Allen (JoA)	STCA/Living Centre
Samata Khatoon (SK)	LB Camden Councillor

Circulation (above plus):

British Library Extension website	www.blextension.co.uk
Deepika Kanthavara Madhava (DKM)	Somers Town Living Centre
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 thanked GB and DR for hosting a visit to the site, immediately before the meeting. Members had found this very interesting and useful for understanding the layout of the site and future works. <i>Post meeting note: LB Camden has confirmed that it would like to incorporate the cherry tree trunk as part of a replanting project at Princes Circus. It will be used as part of some habitat creation work. Arrangements are being made for its collection.</i>
2.2	SL asked members to introduce themselves.
Minutes of the last meeting	
3.2	The minutes of the May meeting were APPROVED. It was noted that the minutes, presentation slides and other papers from the meeting would be uploaded to the British Library extension website www.blextension.co.uk .
Matters arising from the last meeting	
4.1	Social Value update
4.2	SW updated the group on employment and skills using the previously circulated slides. The group noted that two local residents had been recruited to site-based roles. Vacancies are advertised via Good Work Camden for two weeks prior to them being shared more widely, if unfilled. SW also briefed the group on past and planned visits to schools and attendance at jobs fairs.
4.3	SA briefed the group on: - The interactive stakeholder map that was being used by internal teams. This would help to ensure coordination of engagement with stakeholders. - The interim design for hoarding graphics was being developed. It was expected that this would be applied once all of the hoarding was completed – likely in August. - The first meeting of the residents' social value group was now expected to take place early next year. This had been delayed pending the recruitment of a community engagement manager for the British Library.
4.4	<i>Comments and questions:</i> - Q: SM asked if the engagement manager could attend tenants and residents' association meetings. A: SA confirmed they could and asked SM to provide dates and contacts. - C: DF reported that she was working on a photographic competition connected with the Melting Metropolis event (on 20 June). She wondered if the British Library might include something about the sustainability characteristics of the extension. - C: JC reported that the Melting Metropolis event was focused on heat. - C: TJ commented that it was important that the British Library publicise its own vacancies locally to ensure local people are aware of them. - C: SD commented that EH (not present) was unable to attend CWG meetings when held at the current time (i.e. 4.30pm) as this was during the working day. She suggested that the residents' social value group meet at times that working people can attend.

	- C: JC asked that existing local organisations be considered for social value initiatives, such as Training Link. The project has a great opportunity to help existing local groups flourish and for local people to develop their skills and experience, creating a local legacy. - C: DF supported the points JC made. Adding that it was important that social value, and its practitioners, did not become institutionalised.
Works update	
5.1	GB thanked the group for giving up additional time to visit the site. This was a good way to explain the works and to answer questions. He gave an open invitation for future visits either in connection with Construction Working Group meetings or on a standalone basis.
5.2	GB briefed the group on forthcoming works using the phasing plans. It was noted that during the current period, the following was taking place: - Continuing to prepare the site to commence pile foundations by creating level surface “piling mats” for piling machines to operate on. - Preparing for the demolition of the “Pepperpot” external staircase tower taking place in July - Beginning to construct the foundations for the new site accommodation. - Creating a new loading bay to allow construction work to take place in the existing. - Continuing to dig trial holes and undertake sheet piling along the Dangoor walk boundary. - Removal of the UK Power Networks sub-station on Ossulston Street and the decommissioned escape stair close by. - Installing temporary hoardings on Midland Road to allow alterations to be made to the existing footway and cycle route, to create additional site accesses. - Commencing piling along Midland Road in early September and by Ossulston Street later that month.
5.3	Complaints, enquiries and monitor activations DC reported that two complaints had been received since the last meeting. The first had related to the hoarding lights on Ossulston Street being illuminated in error. The second had been reported to the Considerate Constructors Scheme by a pedestrian who had been turned back on Dangoor Walk during a delivery. This had been an unplanned non-gas delivery and protocols for closing the walkway had not been followed. The Francis Crick Institute and site team security had reviewed the incident and put in place updated arrangements to prevent future occurrences. The temporary closure of the path during gas deliveries was otherwise operating well.
5.4	Construction Management Plan The plan had now been accepted by LB Camden and the final version would be uploaded to the British Library extension website www.blextension.co.uk.
Any other business	
6.1	- SD asked if the British Library Level One terrace would be closed due to the works. GB responded that the edge of the terrace would be hoarded off in November to allow for removal of the trellis. The terrace would

	remain open for means of escape but would close in due course to allow for its connection to the extension building. - SD commented that she had observed the operation of the site entrance crossing and how well managed it was and that the staff had been courteous. - It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday 13 July. Following a discussion it was agreed to continue meeting at 16.30. - SL thanked the attendees for giving up their time to join the meeting and contribute to the discussions.
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