

Just Space Economy and Planning

Note of working meeting, Tuesday 22 October 2013, UCL

Present

Abigail Stevensen (Wards Corner
Community Coalition)
Bill Ellson (London Thames Gateway
Forum)
Elena Bessusi (UCL)
George Turner
Ilinca Diaconescu (London Gypsy and
Traveller Unit)
Jessica Ferm (UCL)
Myfanwy Taylor (UCL)
Robin Brown (Hayes Community
Forum)

Roy Tindle (London Thames Gateway
Forum)
Yasminah Beebeejaun (UCL).

Apologies

Anjuli Sethi
David Fell (Brook Lyndhurst)
Ed Jones (UCL)
Eileen Conn (Peckham Vision)
Michael Edwards (UCL)
Richard Lee (Elephant Amenity
Network)

1. Purpose of the group

The presence of several new participants prompted a substantial discussion about the purpose of Just Space Economy and Planning. We agreed it would be useful to draft some terms of reference or a mission statement that could sum this up, so that people could find out more easily what the group was concerned with. MT volunteered to prepare a draft statement based on discussions so far and would send round the group for comment and input. This would then be published on the Just Space website.

2. Forward programme

A draft forward programme had been circulated for the previous meeting (available on the Just Space website), but there hadn't been time to discuss this sufficiently. We focussed on agreeing the focus for the next bi-monthly seminar and the first public event.

We agreed the theme of the next bi-monthly seminar would be involvement of businesses in planning, narrowed down from the original proposal of the role of businesses and trades unions, as the former is emerging as a very live issue. GT had prepared a summary note on this issue for the previous meeting (available on the Just Space website), but there had not been time to consider this. There was some discussion of who to invite to present, including Business Improvement Districts (BIDS), Social Enterprise London and local business forums. GT and MT volunteered to take this forward, aiming for a date in mid-late November.

We agreed to aim to organise the first public event before Christmas (though it might not be possible), focusing on the loss of employment land in London, broadening out from the original proposal of loss of industrial land in order to have broad appeal and to link with issues relating to change of use from office and retail to residential. We had a good discussion about speakers, audience, purpose and location, all of which remains to be resolved - but for now we can just highlight that the success of this event will rely on us all mobilising our networks to get a good attendance. MT, ID, BE and RT volunteered to take this forward.

Looking beyond this, the first public seminar of the new year would focus on affordable workspace. EJ had prepared an initial note (available on the Just Space website) and JF had volunteered to help organise and input in to, in light of her research on affordable workspace in London. Further discussion of the forward programme would be held at future meetings.

3. Engaging with the London Enterprise Panel (LEP)

RL had raised this as a key issue for Just Space at the previous meeting, specifically in relation to whether Just Space should try to have some input into the LEP's work, and more generally whether small businesses and trades unions should also, given the Mayor's duties to involve employers and employees in the preparation of his economic development strategy. We discussed whether to engage with the LEP, and agreed a short and simple letter introducing Just Space Economy and Planning and requesting a informal chat would be a good start. MT volunteered to prepare a draft and send round the group for comment and contributions.

4. Communications

BE volunteered to set up a Facebook page for the group and MT was working with ME on the website. RT also mentioned a Linked In network on Industrial Economy, which could be useful.

Myfanwy Taylor, October 2013, UCL