

# **THE LONDON FORUM**

## of Amenity and Civic Societies

**Founded 1988**

Registered Charity Number 1093134



# **AGM Minutes 2025**

# **LONDON FORUM OF AMENITY AND CIVIC SOCIETIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**16 OCTOBER 2025 6.30pm at The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL**

## **Minutes awaiting approval at the AGM in 2026**

**Present:** Tony Travers, Patron; Michael Jubb, Chair and representatives of member societies:

Amwell Society, Angel Association, arnet Society, Battersea Society, Bedford Park Society, BermondseyStreet.London, Blackheath Society, Brixton Society, Brockley Society, Bromley Civic Society, Camberwell Society, Dulwich Society, Ealing Fields Residents Association, Ealing Society, Enfield Society, Finchley Society, Friends of St George's Gardens, Gidea Park & District Civic Society, Greenwich Society, Hammersmith Society, Highbury Community Association, Highgate Society, Isleworth Society, Islington Society, Kensington Society, Kingston-upon-Thames Society, Ladywell Society, Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, Mortlake with East Sheen Society, Netherhall Neighbourhood Association, Northwood Residents Association, Paddington Waterways & Maida Vale Society, Peckham Vision, Penge Forum, Putney Society, Romford Civic Society, St Marylebone Society, Stamford Brook Residents Association, Sydenham Society, Telegraph Hill Society, Woolwich & District Antiquarian Society,

**Apologies for Absence** were received from member societies:

Balham Society, Camden Society, Cathedral Area Residents Group, Friends of Greenwich Park, Friends of Jubilee Gardens, Kew Society, Seven Dials Trust, Waltham Forest Civic Society, Westcombe Society

### **1 Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

### **2 Minutes of the 17 October 2024 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes had been placed on the London Forum [website](#). No changes were suggested and they minutes were approved *nem con*.

### **3 Chair's Report**

The Chair referred to the launch of London Forum's **weekly email** newsletter and the **Annual Report**, which had been posted on the **website**. These sources show clearly what London Forum did in 2024-25. He thanked the London Forum trustees and members of sub-committees (Planning, Environment & Transport; and Member Services) for their contributions to London Forum's work. He especially thanked the four trustees resigning at this AGM – Michael Hammerson, Mary Hogben, Darian Mitchell and Helen Warner.

In 2024-25 London Forum worked in a very busy external environment. The government was very active indeed on the planning front, with new policies being proposed and new targets set. At the London level, we had the first publicity for the development of the next London Plan and much more of that yet to come.

Internally, too, there has been significant development with the launch of the weekly news email which has transformed the communications and relationship between

London Forum and its member societies and the wider group of friends. The website has been much improved and more content in the form of diary, news, articles, are constantly being added. He looked forward to more developments yet to come as we seek to exploit digital technology.

London Forum organised fewer topic-based meetings in the year, partly as a result of difficulties in booking the Gallery. But we did organise our first (and very successful) joint event with The London Society on Housing, and our by now customary summer drinks reception for members.

Moving on to the current year, based on the success of the summer drinks reception, London Forum will host a winter drinks reception on 1 December. We are working on our programme of topic-based events for 2026. In the first quarter that will probably include the densification of the suburbs and the night-time economy.

Earlier this month, London Forum organised its first 'regional' meeting for member societies – in London's South East, which was well-attended and enthusiastically received. We expect to replicate that in other regions of London in the coming months.

Two-way communications is absolutely essential for us to be effective. London Forum aims to present a wide audience authoritative advice and response to all changes planned and mooted for London, thinking always of the interests of those who live and work here.

This is a challenging time for all members and the civic movement more widely, with the likely closure of Civic Voice being just one of the challenges. Change also presents opportunities and we intend to take full advantage of that, by living up to London Forum's name, providing a locus where members can share, challenge, debate, and seek advice.

#### **4 Financial Report**

The Treasurer presented the financial report for 2024-25 as shown in the Annual Report.

He noted that subscription income was slightly down on the previous year, at £4186 (2024 £4203), but not significantly. Interest income was up. He drew attention to the imputed value of donations - the office and meeting space provided at no cost to London Forum by Alan Baxter Cowcross, valued at £4500.

On the expenses side, the figures show increased spend on IT (£541) as a result of London Forum's moves to improve its infrastructure, website and use of digital technology, and the imputed cost of free space, as described above. It is a useful reminder of the costs that London Forum would have to bear without this support from Alan Baxter Cowcross.

The surplus in the year was £3826 and as at 30 June 2025, the reserves stood at just over £43381. The funds are spread across a number of banks to reduce risk and benefit from higher interest rates.

The Treasurer reported that Miles Storey, Independent Examiner, had reviewed the accounts and recorded his thanks for that input.

## **5 Approval of Annual Report and Accounts for 2024-25**

Approval was proposed by Mary Hogben of Finchley Society, seconded by Darian Mitchell of the Amwell Society and passed *nem con*.

## **6 Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner**

**Miles Storey**, our independent examiner has indicated he is willing to continue in the role. His re-appointment was proposed by Lesley Hodsdon of Greenwich Society, seconded by Mary Hogben of Finchley Society and passed *nem con*.

## **7 Election of Trustees and Officers**

### **Trustees:**

**Mary Hogben, Darian Mitchell, Michael Hammerson and Helen Warner** have resigned as Trustees. Michael Jubb gratefully acknowledged their contributions to London Forum. Two new Trustees had been nominated: **Elsbeth Clements (Highgate) and Michael Levitsky (Finchley)**. There were no other nominations.

Mary Hogben of the Finchley Society proposed the appointment of both, seconded by Peter Pickering of Finchley Society. Their appointments were passed *nem con*.

### **Officers:**

The AGM elects London Forum's officers each year. The existing officers willing to be re-elected are:

Chair **Michael Jubb**

Secretary **Clare Birks**

Treasurer **Ali Dezyanian**

Andrew Bosi of Islington Society proposed the re-appointment of **Michael Jubb** as Chair, seconded by Mary Hogben of Finchley Society. His appointment was passed *nem con*. Peter Eversden of the Bedford Park Society proposed **Clare Birks** be re-appointed as Secretary, seconded by Paul Thornton. Her appointment was passed *nem con*. Chris Souvlis of Telegraph Hill Society proposed the re-appointment of **Ali Dezyanian** as Treasurer, seconded by Michael Coupe of the Dulwich Society. His appointment was passed *nem con*.

## **8 Any Other Business**

The Chair thanked Alan Baxter Cowcross for their continuing generosity in providing office and meeting space at no cost to London Forum. There was no other business and the formal meeting closed.