

Minutes - HNF Public Meeting.

March 5th at the Royal Oak.

HNF Public March Meeting

Held at the Royal Oak, Park Parade, NW10

Nick Jones chaired the meeting. We had a good turnout considering the rain and wind that evening.

We had brief talks from the Mayhew, Newman Catholic College, Brent Council, and Transport for London.

Nick went on to open the meeting identifying the key areas that HNF all be working on for 2020-2021. Three key areas of focus are:

- * Roundwood Annexe - How do we make it a great place for everyone?
- * Inclusive Growth in Harlesden - What is it and How does it affect me?
- * Air Quality and a Greener Harlesden - What can be done to make Harlesden cleaner and greener?

Atara then went onto advertise the role of the HNF Coordinator.

The Mayhew spoke initially. The Mayhew are an animal welfare charity working to improve life for dogs, cats and the people in our community – at our home in London and internationally. (<https://themayhew.org/>). The Mayhew advertised their new fostering scheme.

Pet Refuge programme

The Pet Refuge programme offers a lifeline for pet owners in crisis by providing temporary care for their animal. This may be due to illness, mental health, domestic violence or other emergencies. These owners have no family or friends to help during their emergency.

In these cases we always try and find foster homes so that there is no need for the animal to stay at Mayhew. This scheme offers care for up to three months. After this period, we ask the owner to consider rehoming their animal.

If you wish to be a Pet Refuge foster carer, you can live outside of the M25. But you must be willing and able to travel to and from Mayhew. Once the owner has confirmed that they are able to have their animal back, we will arrange a time for their return.

Newman Catholic College

Students at Newman Catholic College and winners of the Brent of Pride Civic Pride award spoke about their success in campaigning for lighting to be installed along a well-used stretch of Roundwood Park, which runs between the Doyle Gardens entrance and Longstone Avenue. Although it took them two years, the students continued campaigning and now the footpath in Roundwood annexe is lit from dusk until dawn, creating a safer space for everyone who uses it. The young people believe it will deter crime and other anti-social behaviour. With young people like this in our midst, the future looks bright for Harlesden! We hope to continue working with these young students to provide a youth voice at the Forum.

The community members were very inspired and appreciated the young people's presentation and Nick promised we would be working with them closely going forward. Ms Grace (teacher) invited us to support the young people at their School Council where they are currently pushing Mohammed Butt and his team to explore recycling more extensively.

Conversations then followed about budget through the council and how cuts to budget have affected the result.

Special thanks went to Cllr Matt Kelcher for his input into growing the campaign alongside NCC.

The young people stated that they didn't feel that young voices were heard in the borough and by the Council and that the Council delayed things and caused confusion about the delays for something that would protect others.

Brent Council and Inclusive Growth Meeting

Kaya Chatterji, Economic Growth Senior Manager from the Regeneration & Environment team from Brent Council led the discussion on proposed changes to Harlesden.

Kaya also spoke out the changes that would affect Harlesden through Brent Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy. Read more here on the changes coming to Harlesden and see how HNFs Neighbourhood plan connects Harlesden residents with the bigger picture.

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/16414606/55-south-place.pdf>

Funding had been obtained to purchase the Picture House (public house) in response to consultation that people wanted to see the building being used for community and not being turned into another block of flats. The intention is to speak to the community again about what the use should be. The Council want to find a partner who will run the building and the procurement process is in place

currently to find that partner. Atara and Errol from BANG would be speaking later on how that consultation might take place.

A further fund was received from Historical England Funding for a number of shops in the conservation area of the High Street, are being identified to have their shop fronts refurbished to reflect a period feel on the high street and join the shop fronts up. Brent has recently won funding to upgrade the High Street and this funding would create the opportunity to work with local shop keepers to bring about a refreshed High Street. The bid would look at refurbishing the listed buildings on the High Street. The project is called the Heritage Action Zone.

The Midland bank is also up for sale and a local community group (Refugee Support Network) is looking to purchase the building. The council has also bid to develop that building. Still waiting to hear.

Further discussions then ensued about the “look” and “state” of the High Street and about who should be funding what?

A member asked about how extensive the consultation is and questioned if the extent of the reach is adequate enough to pick up more diverse groups.

OPDC

The funding needs to be creative or based on heritage from music groups to local artists to short films. Funding is open until September 2020. They went in to speak about a local project being run by a local artist who wants to work with local artisans who wish to pass on their skills on to young people before the skills are lost. The name of the project is called Absolute Beginners. They are hoping to work with 18 young people across three boroughs.

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum Plan

Atara (HNF) and Errol (Young Brent Foundation)

Errol Donald from BANG joined Atara who went on to explain the building on the Neighbourhood plan and making sure that our residents have a voice and in the way things are developed and in how we interact with the OPDC. Some of that consultation includes BANG as a youth organisations.

Errol spoke about BANG’s remit as a community organisation and the fact that more recently they recognised the gap in groups of the community not having voices heard or being involved in decision making around the borough. Based on this they are engaging with young people and others to work creatively to create change. They also want to work with adults as a facilitator to open up a wider discussion with young people and their families and their communities.

Atara stated that HNF are excited to be working with BANG to ensure a quality of engagement across all groups in Harlesden.

Transport for London

Nick Jones then handed over to Julie Marshall, the Community and Partnerships Specialist at Transport for London to speak about Healthy Streets between Wembley and Willesden Junction connected to the Clean Air agenda. These are some of the most polluted streets in London and the most difficult to cycle and walk around, lots of collisions. They are hoping to talk to people about how can things be improved, what would make it easier and cleaner to come to Harlesden, what would make a difference in your lives?

Transport for London is working on plans for a new Cycleway. This is part of their Healthy Streets improvements between Wembley and Willesden Junction via Stonebridge and Harlesden. Main aim is to reduce the use of cars and increase walking, cycling and local transport.

They will soon present a proposal at a public consultation in late 2020 or early 2021. For more information, contact:

wembleywillesdenjct@tfl.gov.uk (mailto:wembleywillesdenjct@tfl.gov.uk) or 0343 222 1234 (tel:0343 222 1234).

Members spoke of the issue of HGVs driving through the town centre looking at shortcut and their concerns for when the works starts at OPDC causing more difficulties in terms of pushing construction traffic towards the High Street.

TFL did state that there is consideration to better connect local train and tube stations, however the consultation process is currently taking place.

Further conversations were had about the bus stops being adequately separated and the bottle neck that comes about on the High Street opposite the Costa.

Cleaner, petrol/diesel buses were requested.

Community Land Trust update Atra Fridler

Good news was that we had secured funding to employ a new coordinator. The council has adopted our Neighbourhood plan which is also great. The Community Land Trust was set up out of a recognised need for housing in Harlesden. A small working group has been established. Have moved

to a borough wide approach as Harlesden is so densely populated. If people are interested in supporting the community land trust please be in touch at info@harlesdenneighbourhoodforum.org

AOB

1. Colin HNF raised that HNF could get 25% of any NCIL monies and based on a new development in Brent worth 200k, it appears that we may have access to £50k. This then created a lively discussion about the understanding of how this would be applied. It was agreed to go way and confirm the process.
2. Someone spoke out about the Victorian building currently housing the Adult Education Centre is being torn down for properties. Other stated that there is a petition to try and stop it, however it is not in the Forum's jurisdiction.
3. The next Harlesden Ward Safer Neighbourhood panel is taking place on 30th March at 7pm at the Salvation Army.
4. In future can we have meetings in a better lit space?
5. Is there more of an opportunity and facilities for members to engage in process and decision making? So that if long breaks like last time people are still kept up to date?
6. 21st March - an opportunity to clean up pocket park near Tubbs Road?
7. Community Land Trust is about getting local people to own local land and housing in response to the limited housing in Harlesden.
8. A question arose about the lack of free parking over the New Year. The question was redirected back to grace or to the local councillor.
9. Autumn 2021 is the proposed date for the ultra low emissions to commence.
10. Do you check licensing and planning applications. HNF don't do licensing we only do planning. Need to check website to confirm it is correct.
11. Buses were raised again and the issues around the crowded paving and bis stops.

CLOSE

** May 2020

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, there will be no meetings until further notice

We will aim to stay in touch with you via this monthly newsletter so keep an eye out for these regular updates.