

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum

Trustee meeting minutes

Date and time of the meeting	Tuesday 27th January 2026 – 6.00-7.30 pm
Location	Online zoom
Attending	Ilaria Esposito (IE) (Coordinator), Sandra White (SW), Andrea Burris (AB), Julieta Galarza (JG), Ebrahim Piperdy (EP) (Treasurer)
Guests	CG (Colin George) Chair of the planning committee Romael Ferguson (applicant trustee)
Apologies	Duane Pearson (DP)
Absent	

Agenda item	Discussion (Key discussion and agreed points)	Actions
1.	Welcome / Introduction. SW welcomed everyone Trustees approved the 4th November 2025 trustee meeting minutes - Conflict of interest register check: none disclosed - SW facilitated introductions. AB shared her background in product research, and JG discussed community café management. EP treasurer emphasised the importance of community initiatives, while SW expressed enthusiasm for the board's growth and the collective goal of empowering the Harlesden community. - RF introduced himself as the founder of RVF Academy, focusing on creative skills for youth. Romael Ferguson introduced himself as a video production director and the founder of RVF Academy, which helps young people in the creative industries. He shared his motivations for starting the initiative and his commitment to the local community, despite being new to charity governance. - Trustees discussed ongoing trustee recruitment, particularly seeking diverse perspectives from local business owners, and Andrea proposed a separate meeting to delve deeper into the organisation's vision and responsibilities. - The trustee thanked RF and asked him to bear with the trustee's decision. RF leaves the meeting. - SW welcomed the board's growth, noting that 2 additional applicants will file their applications soon.	IE to update minutes on the website. AB to meet with IE and SW to discuss roles. SW will propose dates for an in-person meeting to discuss the organisation's vision and portfolios.

2.	Organisational development • Annual report under submission, IE and EP reported the updates and conversation had with Accountants and external auditors. • SW recalls the team structure: Ilaria promoted to CEO, Kusheema Nurse as community engagement consultant working with the Integrated Neighbourhood team, and Marco Ferrara leading the heritage projects. Governance and Local Business Engagement The board discussed the ongoing need for diverse perspectives, specifically from local business owners. • Engagement Strategy: Ilaria emphasised that local businesses should be encouraged to contribute their time to community discussions. • Business Forum: SW proposed a dedicated meeting to revitalise the Harlesden Business Forum, which has made little progress recently. • Proposed Gathering: Julieta Galarza supported a neighbourhood-focused meeting where business owners can express their specific needs. The group agreed to start with a small gathering and align this initiative with the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. • Portfolio Review: Andrea Burris suggested a separate meeting to define the organisation's vision and individual trustee portfolios specifically	the strategy document with the new programmes and assets Forum Strategy 2024 - 2027
3.	• Financial Update: • EP reported a balance of £9,200. Clarified that donations are unrestricted, while grants from Trustees for London and Young Brent Foundation are restricted. • SW clarified the nature of different funding sources, noting that donations are unrestricted, whereas grants from Trustees for London and the Young Brent Foundation are restricted. Ebrahim Piperdy provided an update on the financial situation, noting a balance of £9,200 and the need to follow up on pending payments. The group agreed to push for the release of funds to avoid disruptions in their activities.	SW to text Funders regarding payment status for Trustees for London IE and EP to submit annual report and audited accounts
4.	Community power: SW opened the discussion on empowering residents to exercise their housing rights and engage with the council. SW and JG shared that simple examples of community power involve residents and organisations not waiting for things to change, but pioneering ideas.	IE to pin primary documents in the shared folder for trustee review.

	• IE updated on the Forum is deeply involved in the Community Power Pilot, collaborating with organisations such as Sport at the Heart and the Jason Roberts Foundation. Efforts focus on community and relational mapping, and on convening local stakeholders to address issues including homelessness prevention, housing, education, health, and employment. • The long-term goal is to establish a local panel with residents and young people empowered to prioritise issues and allocate funding, shifting decision-making from the council to the community.	
	Funding & Heritage IE outlined "1000 Years of Harlesden" and "Harlesden Walk of Music." Plans include a raw image exhibition involving youth, linked to the Picture Palace opening.	IE to organise a meeting with Marco and JG to discuss heritage projects and inform trustees.
3.	Planning • CG noted the redesignation consultation closed with minimal objections. Neighbourhood Plan Revision Focus on updated policies for OPDC and Scrubs Lane. IE populated the folders with existing plan content and new chapter ideas. • Neighbourhood Plan revision: next steps and inclusion of Brent and OPDC policies • Timeline shared by CG suggested that while we wait for redesignation, we start enriching the plan sections and add new sections: - Young people, ageing well, place a strong emphasis on partnership, clean air and a clean environment, heritage, business development, community facilities, transport and access, green spaces, and nature connection. • SW suggested that some sections could be written or revised by groups already working in those areas. • CG suggested reviewing the most recent Neighbourhood Plans for Kilburn and West Hampstead, as well as the Willesden Junction development. • Church End Improvements: feasibility report of the green corridors. The project aims to enhance safety, accessibility, and green spaces along these routes. Residents and stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback on the plans, which include improvements for walking and cycling, and increased greening.	CG to create a structure/template for the planning document. CG to populate the planning folder with sites/docs. CG will circulate background planning documents for group review. IE to assign sections to different groups.

	• Division of Tasks: SW asked Colin which chapter they were willing to draft so that we could assign the remaining parts to other trustees and volunteers. • IE has created a folder and requested a meeting with our Locality consultant. Parking and Enforcement Discussion • JG expressed concerns about the limited parking in Harlesden, which affects local shopping and community participation, and asked how we can be clearer in the plan about it. • CG noted that parking issues persist and are complicated by enforcement challenges, while IE proposed adding more detailed proposals to the planning section to address these concerns. The discussion highlighted the need for better enforcement and potential solutions to improve parking accessibility.	
	AGM TBC - Possibly at Station Road, the Ariana if the Picture Palace is not available	IE will suggest a format. IE to book the venue. Planning team to be involved
AOB		
	Date and venue of the subsequent trustee meetings & planning meetings TBC	IE will send the agenda and minutes to the trustees.