

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 General Meeting Minutes

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Venue: Tavistock Community Facilities, High Street,  
Harlesden

Item	Minutes	Actions
1.	<p><b>Welcome by Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes of the last meeting (14<sup>th</sup> December 2016) were approved</li> <li>• Chair provided a brief overview of the neighbourhood planning process which was picked up in more detail in the subsequent agenda item and mentioned that we are currently in an informal consultation phase, to be followed by the pre-submission consultation</li> <li>• Explained that the goal is to make the neighbourhood plan more accessible to the community and need time to carry out effective engagement</li> <li>• Therefore the pre-submission consultation is being postponed by a couple of months from late January to late March this year - this allows time to collect ideas on how to achieve better engagement</li> </ul> <p><b>Reminder about AGM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forum’s AGM will take place in late April where there will be elections to appoint the committee. If you’re interested in becoming a committee member please talk to a current committee member, especially Leao Neto (Chair), Atara Fridler (Vice Chair), Sumathi Pathmanaban (Secretary)</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Update on neighbourhood plan process and consultation</b></p> <p>Nick Jones and Sumathi Pathmanaban provided an overview of the neighbourhood plan process and explained our current place in the process.</p> <p>The process now consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal consultation (where we are currently)</li> <li>• Pre-submission consultation (6 weeks)</li> <li>• Submitting the plan to the local planning authorities (Brent and OPDC) who assess it</li> <li>• Local planning authorities run a formal consultation (6 weeks)</li> <li>• Independent examination</li> <li>• Referendum</li> </ul>	

<p>There was some discussion and questions following the presentation:</p> <p>Q: How does the referendum vote work?  A: It will be the same as all other elections, a polling card will be sent out and people will vote at their local polling station</p> <p>Q: Can employees / businesses vote in the referendum?  A; As Harlesden is a residents' neighbourhood forum only residents can vote. However, there has been, and will be, engagement with local business to get their feedback on the draft plan so their views are reflected. Businesses and employees can also be forum members so have voting rights <i>within</i> the forum.</p> <p>Q: If Brent's planning officers and the forum disagree on something in the plan how is this resolved?  A: By law the neighbourhood plan needs to conform with Brent's existing Local Plan and this will be checked at independent examination stage.</p> <p>Q: Who is being consulted during the pre-submission consultation?  A: Forum is responsible for consulting with the community – all efforts will be made to promote the consultation via posters, leaflets, website and social media but we don't have the volunteer resources to visit every single business, for example. Brent Council is responsible for consulting with statutory consultees e.g. the Environment Agency, English Heritage</p> <p>Q: How is the forum achieving engagement with young people?  A: Really important to engage them in the future of how the area develops. Ideas for engaging them included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a newsletter</li> <li>- Putting on youth-focused event / activities</li> <li>- Promoting the forum and plan in schools during Local Democracy Week</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Thomas also mentioned a recent meeting with the lead member for regeneration where there was some discussion about devolving planning applications to communities.</p>	<p>Committee to liaise with Susan Grace and community volunteers on young people engagement – <b>Ongoing</b></p>
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3.	<b>Interactive session with community representatives and local planning &amp; development initiatives</b> Participants were invited to visit stalls around the room representing local developers and community initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harlesden Hub</li><li>• Tree planting scheme (Brent Council)</li><li>• Beckley Group who propose to develop the Manor Park Works site</li><li>• Your Shout representing the developers of 2 Scrubs Lane</li></ul>	
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\*There were 14 full Forum members present to qualify the meeting as a General Meeting, as designated by the constitution (requirement of a minimum of 11 members present) and an additional 30 attendees.