FM & Community Event Minutes:

19th September 2026	1-5 pm Community Event 11
Location:	Roundwood youth centre and community school Harlesden
Attending:	**Trustees/Staff:** Sandra White (Chair), Ilaria Esposito (Coordinator), Romael Ferguson, Sonya Stewart, Carol Morris. **Planning Team:** Colin George, Philip Fry, Colin Dallas. **Attendees:** 50 Full members and 7 Member Organisations. 10 additional visitors attended the event throughout the day.Local Residents, Business Owners, Youth Representatives, Community Safety Partners, Integrated Neighbourhood Team Representatives, and Local VCSE Leaders. **VOLUNTEERS: 3 YOUNG PEOPLE from partner organisations**
Guests/Stall	Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), V-I-A, B3 MP Giorgia Gould and Local Councillors Tina Chibuzor, Matt Kelcher and Fleur Donnelly Jackson
Apologies:	Duane Pearson and Andrea Burris, Ebrahim Piperdy

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – Public Meeting

	Minutes	**Actions**
	Welcome & Introductions Once registered, attendees had 30 minutes to enjoy refreshments, mingle, introduce themselves, and engage in talks concerning	

	projects and developments in which the Forum is involved. ● **SW** officially opened the Meeting at 1:30 PM, reviewed the agenda, ● **SW** welcomed everyone, introduced herself as Chair, clarified the Forum's role in relation to Pride in Place, and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. *"Thank you to everyone who attended the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum (HNF) public meeting on Saturday 19 September and contributed to the discussions.* *We recognise that there has been some confusion about the purpose of this meeting, particularly as several other community meetings have recently taken place following the tragic loss of a young man's life at the Civic Centre. These have included community reassurance meetings and discussions with the police. We acknowledge the importance of those meetings and the concerns being expressed across our community.* *The HNF meeting had a different purpose. As part of our ongoing work, the Forum brings people together to share information about what is already happening in Harlesden, identify gaps in local provision and explore what more is needed to strengthen our neighbourhood. Our focus is on connecting people, organisations and opportunities, listening to community priorities and encouraging collective action.* *We also recognise that some attendees understood this to be a Pride in Place meeting. Although I currently chair both HNF and the Harlesden Pride in Place Neighbourhood Panel, they are separate bodies with different responsibilities. The meeting included an update on Pride in Place, but it was not a Pride in Place consultation or decision-making meeting.* *The discussions and contributions from today will nevertheless help inform our wider understanding of local priorities and opportunities for collaboration.* *Thank you again to everyone who gave their time, shared their experiences and contributed ideas. Harlesden has a wealth of committed people, community organisations and local businesses already doing important work. Our role as a Forum is to help make those connections, identify what may be missing and consider how we can work together to make Harlesden an even better place to live, work and thrive."* ● **SW** asked **IE** to introduce the Forum and remind everyone of our purpose as a statutory body and organisation. ● **IE** explained a little history and the work of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum. ● Context & Signposting: Attendees were invited to sign in and join thematic working tables. Members of the public interested in shaping the local physical landscape were signposted directly to the Urban Planning Team to contribute to the upcoming revision of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Plan.	

1	**2. Intro to the Forum & Pride in Place (PiP) Vision (1:30 PM – 1:55 PM)** **Presenter:** Sandra White/Giorgia Gould MP **Key Presentation Highlights:** ● **10-Year Framework (£20 Million Transformation):** Harlesden has secured a £20 million, 10-year funding allocation running from 2026 to 2036, representing a once-in-a-generation transfer of power and resources directly from traditional institutions to the neighbourhood. ● **Founding Principle:** Funding decisions must be open, evidenced, and fair, ensuring Harlesden's money directly addresses Harlesden's local priorities. ● **The "Golden Rule" (Additionality Principle):** Pride in Place (PiP) funding is strictly additional. **It must never routinely backfill statutory council or police duties (e.g., core policing, statutory education, standard waste collection). Instead, it acts as a catalyst for new opportunities, community wealth building, and elevated local ambition.** ● **Three Definitive Vision Outcomes:** ○ *A Healed Harlesden:* Driving community cohesion, intergenerational support, and mental health pathways. ○ *Employment & Wealth Creation:* High street regeneration, enterprise support, and youth employment pathways. ○ *A Safe & Clean Harlesden:* Creating safe public realms, trusted support networks, and community-overseen capital investments. ● **Dual-Ecosystem Governance Structure:** ○ **15-Member Neighbourhood Board:** A focused governing body comprising 12–15 voting members. Safeguarded by the **51% Boundary Rule** (at least 51% of members must live or work in Harlesden) and a non-elected majority ensuring residents, grassroots VCSEs, youth, and business owners outnumber elected officials. Constituency MPs and Ward Councillors hold non-majority partnership seats. ○ **5 Strategic Advisory Panels:** Designed to capture the expertise of ~50 local applicants across five specialist areas: 1. *Wellbeing, Health & Generational Support*	PIP INTRO SLIDES

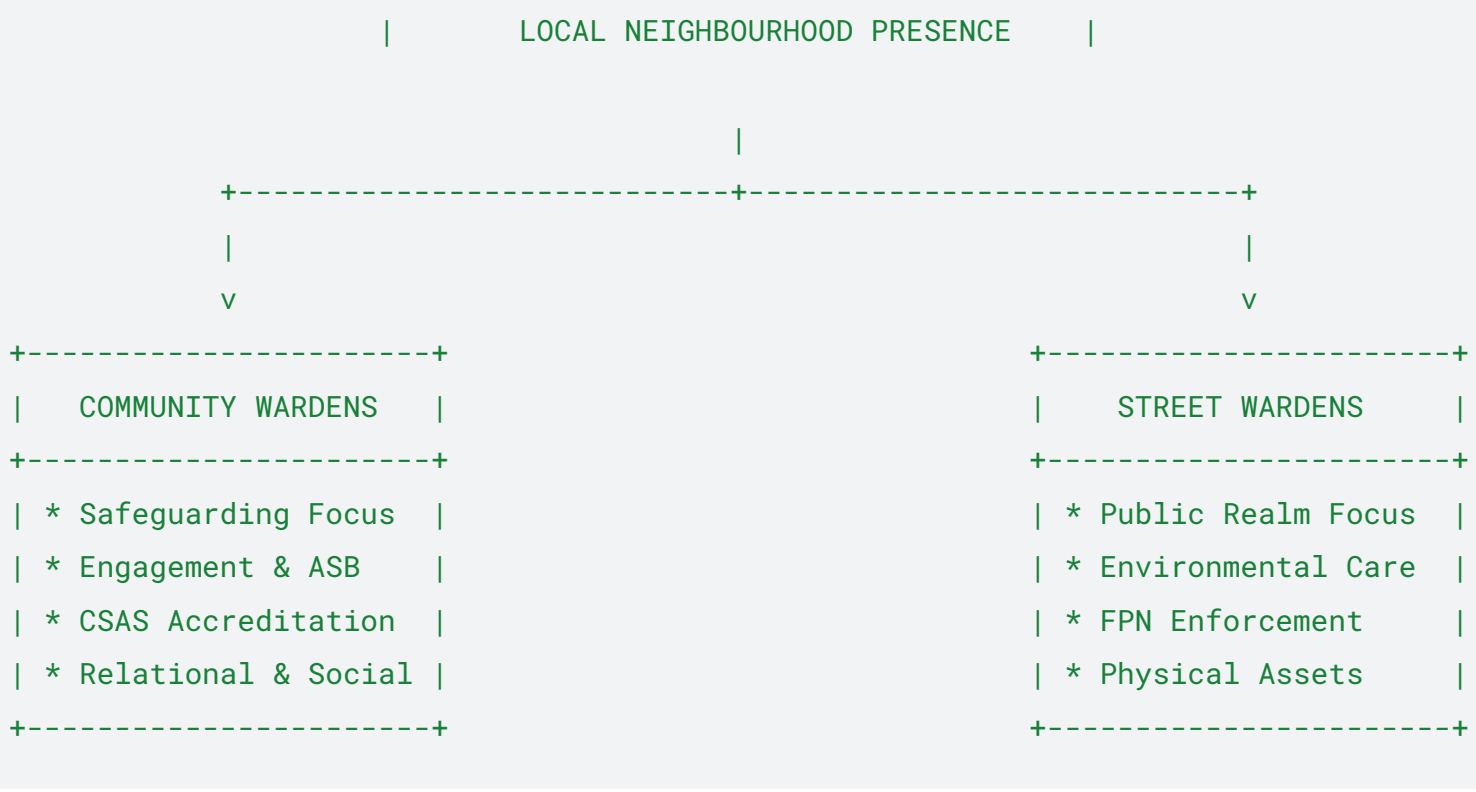
	2. *Community Power, Culture & Belonging* 3. *High Street, Enterprise & Youth Opportunity* 4. *Community Safety & Trusted Support* 5. *Public Realm, Environment & Capital Projects* ● **Recruitment Framework:** Board and panel selection will adhere to a transparent, weighted assessment matrix (Connection: 20, Lived Experience: 20, Collaboration: 15, Reach: 15, Relevant Contribution: 15, Integrity: 10, Availability: 5). Unsuccessful Chair candidates must re-apply through this open merit-based process with no automatic seats. **Some agenda items were moved around as Mr Leroy Simpson needed to attend another meeting at the Tavistock Hall**	

3. Community Safety Briefing & Key Thematic Topics (1:40 PM – 2:30 PM)

3.1 Strategic Safety Frameworks: Community Wardens vs. Street Wardens
Presenter: Leroy Simpson

Leroy Simpson delivered a key strategic presentation establishing clear operational distinctions between **Community Wardens** and **Street Wardens**, addressing widespread community confusion regarding local safety roles.

None



Detailed Breakdown of Roles Presented:

- **Community Wardens (Safeguarding & Social Focus):**
    - *Primary Focus:* Community safety, relationship-building, safeguarding, and support for vulnerable residents.
    - *Operational Remit:* Intelligence-led, preventative work to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) and community tensions. They operate within broader safety frameworks alongside the police, housing providers, and VCSEs.
    - *Powers & Training:* May hold limited accredited powers under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS).
    - *Operational Conduct (Harlesden Mutual Aid Model):* Bound by strict codes of conduct, must avoid confrontation, maintain dynamic risk assessments, adhere to safeguarding protocols, and maintain professional boundaries.

- **Street Wardens (Public Realm & Environmental Focus):**
    - *Primary Focus:* Public realm maintenance, environmental cleanliness, and low-level street disorder.
    - *Operational Remit:* Daily street patrols addressing fly-tipping, littering, graffiti, abandoned waste, and compliance with commercial trade waste regulations. Serves as the council's "eyes and ears".
    - *Powers:* Equipped with narrow, formal enforcement powers, including the ability to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for environmental offences where authorised.

- **Strategic Takeaway:** Both roles are complementary but distinct; Community Wardens address social well-being and safety engagement, whereas Street Wardens focus on physical environmental maintenance.

3.2 Safe Commuting for Girls and Young Women
Presenter: Sacha Lumley **Resident, Parent, Community Leader, Sport at the Heart**
Summary:

- **Transit Safety & Lighting:** Detailed concerns about women's and girls' safety along transit routes, in poorly lit street corridors, in dark alleyways, and at transport hubs such as Willesden Junction Station.
- **Hot Spot Identification:** High crime perception and harassment concerns were noted at bus stops, train station walkways, and secluded corners of the high street.
- **Proposed Interventions:** Installation of high-quality street lighting (including string/market lighting models), installation of emergency contact points, self-defence and physical confidence workshops for women, and promoting non-violent communication and empathy education in schools.

Highlighted several concerns regarding the safety of women and girls in Harlesden and the surrounding area.
Lighting and Visibility

- Improved street lighting is needed in a number of locations, particularly areas where women, girls and young people may be travelling during the evening.

Areas of concern include:

- Roundwood Prefabs and the surrounding pathways
- Crownhill Road
- Harlesden Road
- Longstone Avenue
- Roundwood Skatepark and surrounding areas

Lighting should be regularly reviewed to identify dark spots, broken lights, overgrown areas, and locations with poor visibility.

Local Hotspots

From conversations with local residents and young people, there are several areas where people can feel particularly vulnerable or unsafe, especially later in the day:

- Craven Park
- Park Parade

- Harlesden High Street
- Roundwood Prefabs / Skatepark
- St Mary's Road
- Fortune Gate Road, particularly the top end near the roundabout

It would be helpful for these locations to be reviewed with residents, young women and girls, the council, police and local organisations through community safety walks.

Visible Security and Community Presence

There needs to be a stronger visible presence within community spaces.

This could include:

- Park wardens or community safety officers
- More visible Safer Neighbourhood Team patrols
- Regular patrols around identified hotspots
- Greater presence around parks, transport routes and areas where young people gather
- Working with trusted local organisations and residents who already know the community well

Roundwood Prefabs and the Skatepark in particular should be considered when looking at how community spaces are monitored and kept safe.

Transport

Safety should also be considered when women and girls are travelling to and from activities, school, work and community facilities.

Consideration should be given to:

- Safety at bus stops
- Lighting around transport routes
- Waiting times, particularly during evenings
- Routes between bus stops and residential streets
- Areas where women or young people may feel isolated when walking home

Reporting Incidents

From speaking with the **Safer Neighbourhood Team**, an important message is that incidents need to be reported.

For particular locations to be identified as areas requiring additional police attention or patrols, there needs to be evidence of incidents and concerns being reported.

Residents should therefore be encouraged to report incidents including:

- Harassment
- Intimidation
- Threatening behaviour
- Antisocial behaviour
- Violence
- Drug-related activity
- Suspicious activity
- Incidents involving young people
- Concerns about particular locations or repeated behaviour

People should also be made aware of **anonymous reporting options**, particularly where they may feel uncomfortable or frightened about giving their personal details.

Listening to Women and Girls

Most importantly, women and girls should be directly involved in identifying the problems and developing the solutions.

We would like to see opportunities for women and girls to:

- Take part in community safety walks
- Identify places where they feel safe and unsafe
- Suggest improvements to lighting and the physical environment
- Discuss experiences on public transport and local streets
- Speak directly with the Safer Neighbourhood Team and other decision-makers
- Understand how and where to report concerns
- Help shape local community safety priorities

The aim should not only be to respond after incidents happen, but to create an environment where women and girls can move around Harlesden confidently and safely.

Additional Actions to Improve Safety

CCTV and Environmental Safety

There should be a review of CCTV coverage across the areas residents and young people have identified as hotspots. This should look at whether existing cameras provide adequate coverage and whether there are locations where additional measures may be needed.

The wider environment should also be considered, including:

- Poor or inadequate lighting
- Overgrown bushes or trees affecting visibility
- Blind spots and secluded pathways
- Damaged or poorly maintained public spaces
- Clear sightlines around parks, bus stops and walking routes

Safe Routes Home

Women and girls should be involved in identifying the routes they regularly use to travel between home, school, work, community activities and public transport.

Particular attention should be given to evening routes around:

- Roundwood Community Centre
- Roundwood Prefabs and Skatepark
- Harlesden High Street
- Craven Park
- Park Parade
- St Mary's Road
- Fortune Gate Road
- Crownhill Road
- Harlesden Road
- Longstone Avenue

A community **Safe Routes Home** exercise could identify where additional lighting, CCTV, patrols or other safety measures may be

required.

Reporting and Awareness

One of the messages from conversations with the Safer Neighbourhood Team is the importance of reporting incidents.

If incidents and concerns are not reported, it can be difficult for the police and other agencies to build an accurate picture of what is happening in particular locations.

We therefore need clearer information within the community about:

- What should be reported
- How to report incidents
- When to call 999 or 101
- How to report concerns online
- Anonymous reporting options
- How young people can safely report concerns
- What happens after a report has been made

Residents should be encouraged to report repeated antisocial behaviour, harassment, intimidation, threatening behaviour, violence, drug-related activity and other suspicious or concerning activity.

Youth Outreach and Prevention

Young people also need to be part of the solution.

Local youth organisations, schools, community groups, police and the council could work together to provide outreach in areas where young people regularly gather.

This should include positive engagement rather than relying solely on enforcement. Work could include discussions around:

- Respectful relationships
- Sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour
- Violence against women and girls
- Consent and boundaries
- Bystander awareness
- Community responsibility

- How young people can report concerns safely

Community Safety Walks

I would particularly like to see **women and girls' safety walks** organised across Harlesden.

Women, girls, parents and local residents could walk identified routes alongside representatives from the council, Safer Neighbourhood Team and local organisations.

Rather than simply asking people whether they feel safe, we should physically walk these areas together, particularly during the evening, and identify the issues firsthand.

This would allow us to record:

- Dark or poorly lit areas
- Places where people feel isolated
- CCTV gaps
- Unsafe crossings or transport locations
- Areas affected by antisocial behaviour
- Environmental issues affecting visibility
- Locations where increased patrols may be beneficial

Most importantly, the experiences of women and girls should directly inform what happens next.

What we would Like to See Happen

The next step should be to bring together **residents, women and girls, young people, Brent Council, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, transport representatives and local community organisations** to agree practical actions.

This should lead to an action plan that identifies **the issue, location, responsible organisation, required action, and timescale**, so that concerns raised by residents can be followed through on and progress can be reported back to the community.

The overall aim is simple: **women and girls should be able to travel, exercise, socialise and participate in community life in Harlesden without feeling unsafe.**

3.4 Youth Avenue & Local Youth Needs
Presenter: Romael Ferguson

Romael presented as trustee of the Forum, but also as founder of RVF Academy, working in the creative industry.
He presented the recently released song https://youtu.be/8h-QKxyMnYk?is=_zPjYC37ZqsVchm7 to raise awareness about Climate Action as one of the reflections to highlight that young people need to lead.

- **Youth Voice & Lived Experience:** Highlighted the fact that the biggest group the next ten years will define is young people. We need to be involved in the conversations.He also said that youth violence has always existed, so it is non realistic to end it, but we can create different avenues so young people can have a choice.
- **Gaps in Provision:** Critical lack of dedicated youth facilities, youth clubs, positive mentorship networks, and creative outlets across Harlesden and Brent.
- **Risks & Vulnerabilities:** Schools reporting increased exclusion rates, leaving young boys and girls vulnerable to street violence, drug exploitation, and criminal grooming.
- **Demands & Opportunities:** Urgent call for paid opportunities, volunteering, and internship opportunities for local youth (e.g., in creative music, digital skills, and trade apprenticeships), peer mentoring programs, and wraparound family support.

3.5. Focused Community Interventions & Strategic Frameworks (2:30 PM – 3:15 PM)
B3 Interventions & Youth Pathways with V-I-A
Presenter: Rhada Allen/ Jenna Connock

- Outlined targeted intervention pathways for individuals and V-I-A for young people at risk of criminality or exploitation, adopting a "B3" pilot approach to test small-scale community interventions.
- Emphasised embedding "trusted adults", positive role models, and peer mentors into schools and community hubs, as well as presenting events that would happen in the community between September and October

B3 then had space for **2 lived-experience speakers who shared their recovery stories, thanks to the organisation, and how they are supporting others. They recognised the institutional infrastructure problem when placed in accommodations where others were using or committing crimes.**

- Addressed local crisis responses regarding rough sleeping, street drinking, and substance dependency around focal areas such as St. Mary's Church and Park Parade.
- Highlighted the need for compassionate, trauma-informed support, wrap-around mental health services, and clear pathways to rehabilitation rather than purely punitive dispersal.

Interactive Resident Group Work & Public Feedback Synthesis (3:15 PM – 4:30 PM)

Detailed report

During the interactive breakout sessions, residents, local business owners, and community leaders reviewed strategy proposals and provided direct feedback.

5.1 Community Safety, Enforcement, and Surveillance Concerns

- **Clear Distinction on Enforcement Training:** Residents expressed strong apprehension regarding casual or informal street patrols. There was explicit consensus that **if personnel are tasked with enforcement, they MUST be formally trained and accredited enforcement officers**.

- **Rejection of Public Civilian Surveillance:** Residents forcefully raised that **members of the public cannot and should not walk around streets with cameras,** acting as self-appointed vigilantes. Public recording was deemed dangerous, privacy-infringing, and likely to escalate street tensions.

- **Statutory Boundaries:** Attendees questioned whether street wardens risk stepping into statutory local authority or police responsibilities. It was reiterated that wardens must not replace the Met Police or statutory ASB officers.

- **Police Presence & Petition:** Broad support was noted for the active resident petition calling for increased, consistent police patrols and a structured, community-agreed plan to tackle open drug dealing, street drinking, and ASB hotspots (Tesco / High Street junction, Park Parade, Jubilee Clock).

- **Crimestoppers Promotion:** The group noted that anonymous reporting mechanisms (e.g., Crimestoppers 0800 555 111) are underutilised and require active publicising across community notice boards.

5.2 High Street, Public Realm & Local Economy

- **Focal Points for Regeneration:**

    - **Jubilee Clock Area:** Highlighted as a potential major community focal point requiring physical improvement, seating, and greening.

    - **Park Parade & High Street Shops:** Recommendations to replicate the *Willesden Green / Queen's Parade* model—pairing local independent shops with designers/artists to improve shopfront aesthetics, image, and lighting.

    - **Business Mentoring & Regulation:** Call for mentoring for small shop owners covering image, regulations, waste collection management, and trade standards enforcement.

- **Public Amenities & Infrastructure Concerns:**
    - **Car Parking Fees:** Harlesden Car Park was flagged as the most expensive in the borough, crippling local high street trade.
    - **Public Toilets & Cleanliness:** Severe lack of public toilet facilities, neglected, run-down properties, and inadequate council street-cleaning and Trading Standards presence.

5.3 Youth Engagement, Mentoring & Opportunity Pathways

- **Positive Youth Outreach:** Strong demand for free access to sports, creative music spaces, BHM cultural history programs, and peer mentoring schemes in local schools.
- **Intergenerational Connection:** Initiatives to pair youth with senior citizens to build empathy, compassion, and community morale.

5.4 Additionality & Funding Guidelines

- **Catalyst vs. Unsustainable Funding:** Residents strongly agreed with the Pride in Place golden rule: funding should act as **seed/catalyst funding** to kickstart sustainable projects, rather than creating dependency or replacing council/police core duties.
- **Supporting Existing Groups:** Priority should be given to resourcing grassroots VCSE groups already doing effective ground work, rather than reinventing the wheel.

6. Summary of Action Items & Next Steps (4:30 PM – 5:00 PM) see document attached, plus the ones discussed below in plenary

#	Action Item	Assigned Lead / Body	Target Timeline
1	**Formulate Warden Operational Governance proposal:** Draft clear operational boundaries confirming that community safety roles do not involve informal civilian camera surveillance and that any enforcement duties remain strictly within formally trained/accredited enforcement officers.	Leroy Simpson & Community Safety Panel TBC	2026
3	**Coordinate Police Patrol Integration:** Present the resident petition demands and safety-mapping outputs to Met Police SNT Lead Sgt David Sarney to refine joint patrol strategies.	Harlesden Safer Neighbourhood Panel / Sgt Sarney	tbc
4	**High Street & Business Mentoring Proposal:** Develop a pilot scheme modelled for Willesden Green or Harlesden Heritage ACTION ZONE (Historic England) shopfronts and Jubilee Clock greening.	Local Economy & Business Association/panel	Q1 2027

	5	**Publicise Anonymous Reporting:** Design and distribute clear posters for community notice boards promoting Crimestoppers and anonymous ASB reporting.	Harlesden Forum town centre manager	November 2026	
	5. Networking ● The meeting transitioned into an informal networking session and Market Fair. ● **Planning Team Update: T**he planning team hosted a table to gather input on the revised Neighbourhood Plan chapters, specifically regarding **housing, climate resilience, and youth wellbeing.** **Additional Q&A time** **Delivered informally in the networking space to allow more space for residents to ask questions**				
	Networking continued till 4.15 pm. **AOB and Closing** ● **SW** thanked the members for their continued commitment to Harlesden. The main afternoon forum was formally adjourned at 5:00 PM. Attendees were reminded of the evening Met Police / Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel Open Meeting scheduled for 6:45 PM at John Keble School (Manor Park Road entrance).				

Minutes approved on 17/10/2026

Sandra White



Chair of Trustees