

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

Date and time of meeting:	19 th May 2021, 6.00pm – 7.15pm
Location:	Zoom online meeting
Attending:	<p>Committee: Madeleine Jennings (MJ) – Chair; Sandra White (SW) Vice-chair; Paul Anders – Treasurer (PA); Colin George (CG); Margaret Cox(MC) and Nouh Abukar(NA) Ilaria Esposito – Coordinator (IE)</p> <p>Guests: Tom Welsh- Climate Emergency Strategy Manager Brent Council, Koen Rutten – Planning aid for London, Shazia Hussain(Resident and community development) and Lorna Hughes(Head of Partnership and policy) Brent Council</p> <p>Other attendees: 32 Members</p>
Absent:	Apologies from Matt Kelcher and Mili Patel

	Minutes	Actions
1	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IE welcomed all attendees and explained the procedures for online meetings • MJ welcomed everyone and introduced herself as Chair • MJ went through the agenda of the meeting. • MJ reviewed actions from and minutes from the last meeting. The which minutes were formally adopted. 	
2	<p>HNF updates: Madeleine Jennings – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ explained the Forum's role and emphasised the importance of partnership with other local organisations to make Harlesden a better place. The more people work across different issues, the more we can achieve results for Harlesden. We are keen to involve as many partners as possible across every Neighbourhood Plan (NP) strand. • MJ provided an update on relationships with the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and LB Brent, two of the forum area's planning authorities. One of HNF's roles is influencing local decision-makers and engaging stakeholders and statutory bodies. • In particular, OPDC consultation for the latest Local Plan is now open for the next eight weeks until 5th July 2021. This is the newest 	<p>Meet OPDC Planning Policy Officers at one of their online Zoom events.</p> <p>May 26, 2021</p>

	<p>chapter in a process that has been underway since 2015, when the OPDC was set up. At the end of the consultation, responses will be considered, more public hearings held, and the plan published during the winter. This is now seven years of OPDC activity that HNF planning reps have followed in detail. Further info and direct links on the HNF website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ introduced the Forum Ambassadors, Errol Donald, Renette Cronje and Amandine Alexandre, volunteering their time respectively on culture, clean air and environment. • Membership: ~ 350 individuals and 78 member organisations are currently part of the Forum • Redesignation: The Forum has been officially redesignated for other five years by OPDC Board and Brent Council in March and April 2021, respectively • Trustee recruitment: MJ invited those members who feel they have time to invest in the development of HNF to apply as trustee. <p>Comment: A member said that OPDC developments appear to be aimed at professionals rather than people on the living wage.</p> <p>Forum response: Affordable housing is very much a priority set out in the Neighbourhood Plan. However, our local policies have to be in alignment with Brent, London & national policy. We will continue to advocate for it.</p>	<p>Introduction to consultation and summary of all sites 12:00 to 13:30</p> <p>June 7, 2021 General summary and Scrubs Lane 14:30 - 16:00</p> <p>June 10, 2021 General summary and Channel Gate 17:30 - 19:00</p> <p>June 17, 2021 General summary, North Acton, Acton Wells and Old Oak Common Station 18:00 - 19:30</p> <p>June 19, 2021 General summary and Old Oak North 10:00 - 11:30</p>
	<p>Culture – Nouh Abukar</p> <p>NA introduced his portfolio, giving an overview of his work around the town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly walks through Harlesden speaking to business owners and community leaders to take in the views of developments in the neighbourhood. • Engagement with the leaders of the Brent Cultural Centre • Listening to feedback regarding the High Street Heritage Action Zone • Working with Brent Cultural Centre to ensure community involvement. • Involvement with Harlesden High Street People Of Colour led space founded on facilitating access between experimental/outsider artists and the traditional gallery system. They host several areas across London exhibiting contemporary art by local and international artists, centring work by people of colour and their focus programme on Harlesden. NA mentioned the work and the current exhibition of the young artist Emmanuel Awuni. <p>NA described the Wayfinding Project – second round</p>	<p>https://harlesdenhighstreet.com/</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community decided on the new theme. • The design competition opened in March • Two workshops delivered by local organisation Abundance Art. • One face to face workshop delivered by local artist and illustrator Marco Ferrara • Received ~ 40 entries. • Formed a judges 'panel. • Winners will be announced in mid-June 2021. <p>Q1: A member asked about the project and if the pieces of artwork are telling us stories. Forum Response: every piece of work wants to tell a story with the artist's interpretation of the themes of hope, recovery and renewal.</p>	
	<p>Clean Air & Environment – Margaret Cox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC reported on several aspects of her portfolios, mainly on clean air, nature, and green spaces: • Representing HNF as part of the Brent Climate Change Strategy Planning group. Recently connected with Tom Welsh from Brent Council, who leads on this. HNF will attend climate change strategy meetings and will update members as we go along. • Working with Brent to address the HGV problem. • Started the year with a re-wilding plan. Harlesden has the least amount of green space in Brent. Plan: Build mini-gardens at cul-de-sacs around Harlesden, including Leghorn Road, Ranelagh Road and Burns Road. • In negotiation with Tesco / carpark landlord to plant more trees and greenery. • Started a volunteer garden group for planting and maintaining planted spaces. • Improving Harlesden's re-cycling with Veolia's community fund - CLEAN UP COMPETITION SCHEDULED FOR 17TH JULY 2021 <p>Q2: a member asked about Tubbs Road green space and wanted to get a response from the Forum. MC will follow up with the request. Q3: Lorna Huges asked if HNF is aware of the Brent Council grants we can apply for Forum response: to follow up with Tom about grants.</p>	<p>Margaret Cox will follow up with relevant bodies</p> <p>Anyone interested in volunteer garden groups, get in touch with Margaret Cox through the Forum.</p>
	<p>Tom Welsh – overview on Brent Climate Emergency Strategy.</p> <p>TW informed the members that Brent has declared a Climate & Ecological Emergency in the borough. TW explained that during the pandemic, there had been a significant reflection worldwide about climate change. Inspired by the UN Climate Change Conference happening in the UK, Brent decided to act upon several ecological problems affecting the borough.</p> <p>TW also informed the meeting that grants of up to £50K are available to fund groups that want to work on a specific project under this theme.</p> <p>Brent's Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy (2021-2030) focuses on 5 key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption, resources, and waste • Home, buildings, and the built environment 	<p>Tom Welsh direct contact</p> <p>Tom.Welsh@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Please visit https://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/climat</p>

- Nature and green spaces
- Transport
- Supporting communities

TW encouraged people to join through the following:

- Join the Brent Environmental Network
- Engage with events, tools, and help spread the word.
- Grant funding will be available.
- Take action to reduce your carbon footprint or within your community.
- Finalising comms and engagement plan at the moment
- Bike Week 30 May
- World Environment Day – 5th June
- London Climate Action Week – 26 June-4 July
- November 2021 - COP26 Conference in Glasgow
- 50K grant to be divided among group projects

Q4: A member asked if the council applies measures on zero-emission to refurbishing buildings (e.g. the former Picture Palace) and if sustainable criteria will be applied to the developer and construction companies.

Tom: the planning process assures that the supply chain will respect the sustainability policies of Brent Council. Tom will provide the planning team's document, which breaks down the different sustainability elements within the planning process.

Q5: what about low traffic neighbourhood and signage to stop idling? Idling issue in Harlesden is an issue. Can anything be done about it? There are signs of no idling in Kensal green but not so much in Harlesden. Why is that?

R5 member: Engine idling is effectively unenforced. Brent has the power to fine people, but AFAIK no driver has ever been issued a ticket. Cllr Tatler will be working on a new parking strategy in 2021, and that may offer residents the opportunity to push the topic.

Forum Response: a few more signs have been added recently - or at least I noticed them lately. They are not enough. People interested in raising awareness, contact Amandine Alexandre, our clean air ambassador.

Comment: A member hopes HNF will receive all the grant information that Tom has mentioned and support local people in putting ideas into action.

TW Response: Depending on the level of funding, groups can have a look at the [Love Where You Live Grants](#) in the first instance, perhaps. Brent has inserted a theme around 'Climate change and tackling environmental issues – coming together to make your neighbourhood cleaner and greener'. Veolia recently launched a fund: <https://www.veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund>. Brent is also launching a separate fund purely for climate change/environmental projects a bit later in the year.

Abundance Arts mentioned they have a community environmental sculpture 'Nature Spring Time' Art display on the Brent start building in Stonebridge until June.

[e-emergency/our-response-to-the-climate-emergency/](#)

Sign up for Brent Environmental newsletter

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKBRENT/signup/19286>

	<p>TW (post-meeting follow-up): On the point raised about there not being enough signage about idling in Harlesden, he spoke to the Air Quality Officer, who would (subject to funding) be happy to install other signage at idling hotspots. It's beneficial when residents can suggest locations and even lamppost numbers where possible. If Forum members have any particular areas where there is an issue, please notify us to send those to Tom.</p> <p>TW post-meeting follow-up: Clean Air Day – we are mainly doing a promotional activity this year, including the cargo bike trials in Harlesden. Still, if HNF wishes to do something practical, there are many free resources on the Clean Air Day website, which might be a source of inspiration: https://www.cleanairday.org.uk/. Brent will be kickstarting Play Streets again for Car Free Day in September, which is similar, so this may also be something to consider applying for too.</p>	
	<p>Sandra White - Vice – Chair Inclusive growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Growth plan still being finalised. • No action to date on Design Works. • HSBC Bank. More details shared by Refugee Education UK • Picture Palace – still in the tender process. No decision at this time, but expected very soon. • HAZ- Heritage Action Zone includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortia bid awaiting the decision in few hours • Hight Street Works to affect 97-109 High Street. • HNF is part of the cultural consortia created under the Harlesden High Street Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) <p>HAZ includes funding from funds raised vial local development (known as NCIL) and Historic England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Harlesden High Street Heritage Action Zone will help: • Support the local economy, traders and entrepreneurs. • Offering local people high-quality community spaces to come together and maintain their sense of local identity. • A critical stretch of buildings is set to be restored at an essential gateway to the area. • Town centre that is more attractive and welcoming • Harlesden retaining its character and sense of place in the face of significant new developments nearby. 	<p>Harlesden Heritage Action Zone: https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/harlesden/</p>

	<p>Catherine and Jessica Gladwell - Refugee Education UK (REUK)</p> <p>CG Refugee Education UK (REUK) former Refugee Support Network presented their work with young refugees and the support to access education across the country.</p> <p>JG presented their plan for the building (see details in slides) to transform the disused former HSBC bank into a focus for support for young people, a workspace for small businesses/organisations, and a meeting place for community groups. The bank is at a focal point in the town centre and will bring this prominent building back to life.</p> <p>Comments: members were pleased to discover the plans and enquired about the accessibility of the building. It is a fantastic project/programme; so good to see the long-term approach.</p>	
	<p>AOB and next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somebody mentioned that Harlesden Mutual Aid would be hosting a meet and chat picnic in Roundwood Park on Saturday 20th June 2021 at 2 pm • To mark the Great British Spring Clean, Harlesden Environmental Residents and Traders (HEART) are considering holding a Harlesden Spring clean on Saturday 5th or Saturday 12th June. • The next Forum meeting is scheduled for September 2021 	<p>Check the HEART page for links or send us an e-mail at heartofharlesden@yahoo.com</p>

