AGM & Community Event Minutes:

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| 25th April 2026 | 1-3 pm Community Event 11 am -4 pm |
| **Location:** | CAVA Centre of Excellence (The former Picture Palace), Harlesden |
| **Attending:** | **Trustees/Staff:** Sandra White (Chair), Ilaria Esposito (Coordinator), Julieta Galarza, Romael Ferguson, Ebrahim Piperdy (Treasurer).<br>**Planning Team:** Colin George, Philip Fry, Colin Dallas.<br>**New Trustee Candidates:** Sonya Stewart, Carol Morris.<br>**Attendees:** 47 Full members and 16 Member Organisations. 57 additional visitors attended the event throughout the day<br>**VOLUNTEERS: 5 YOUNG PEOPLE from partner organisations** |
| **Guests/Stall** | Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT), OPDC, Brent Young Carers, Fairer Housing CIC, Age Friendly UK, BCLT,<br>MP Giorgia Gould and Local Councillors Matt Kelcher and Mil Patel |
| **Apologies:** | Duane Pearson and Andrea Burris |

## Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – Public Meeting

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

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| | concerning projects and developments in which the Forum is involved.<br><br>SW welcomed everyone, introduced herself as Chair, and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. She explained a little history of the Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum.<br><br>● **SW** officially opened the 2026 Annual General Meeting at 1:00 PM, reviewed the meeting agenda, and introduced the Forum, reminding everyone of the purpose of our existence as a statutory body and organisation.<br>● **Venue Acknowledgement:** SW welcomed attendees to the **CAVA Centre of Excellence**. She highlighted the Community groups negotiating the building lease down from £150,000 to £5,000 per annum for the first four years.<br>● SW passed the floor to Patrick McKay, lead of the CAVA (Community Asset and Voice Alliance) group, to highlight the importance of working together and creating a space for everyone.<br>● SW invited the Integrated Neighbourhood team to speak about neighbourhood work initiated in autumn to support families and individuals directly in their own neighbourhoods, connecting them with local services so they can feel comfortable sorting out their situation without the pressure of an institutional intervention.<br>● SW also invited Hinda from Brent Giving to talk about our partnership and how participatory grants are a form of community power.<br>● **SW mentioned that** the meeting's goal is also to bridge the gap between residents and services, specifically highlighting the **£20 million 'Pride in Place' investment** coming to Harlesden over the next decade.<br>● **Redesignation:** It was announced that the Forum has been officially redesignated for another 5 years by OPDC and LB Brent. | |

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| 1 | **Agenda:**<br><br>**2. Community Power Update**<br><br>● **SW** discussed the shift toward Community Power/ Neighbourhood work, emphasising that residents closest to local issues are best suited to provide solutions.<br><br>**'Pride in Place' Q&A**<br><br>**SW** introduced the meeting's core theme: the £20 million investment coming to Harlesden over the next decade. This was followed by more explanation by MP and an interactive session where residents raised several key questions:<br><br>**Keynote Address: Local MP**<br><br>● The **Local MP Giorgia Gould** was allocated an extended slot to address the membership.<br>● The MP commended the Forum's resilience and its role in the community<br>● They emphasised that Harlesden is at a turning point with the upcoming investment and pledged continued support in Parliament to ensure that the **£20 million 'Local intelligence rather than top-down mandates direct Pride in Place' funding**.<br><br>The MP and SW participated in a brief dialogue with attendees<br><br>● **Allocation & Transparency:** Residents asked for clarity on who exactly decides how the £20 million is spent. SW clarified that the Forum is pushing for a co-production model rather than simple consultation, ensuring residents help design the delivery.<br>● **Accessibility for Small Groups:** Concerns were raised about whether smaller, grassroots community groups would be able to access portions of this funding. The Forum confirmed its commitment to acting as a bridge for these groups.<br>● **High Street Improvements:** Questions were asked regarding the timeline for visible changes to the Harlesden High Street. The Planning Team noted that the revised Neighbourhood Plan chapters (currently on display) are the primary mechanism for influencing these physical changes.<br>● **Defining Pride:** Residents questioned to ensure "Pride in Place" includes social infrastructure and youth wellbeing, not just physical infrastructure. | |

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| | **3. Formal AGM Business**<br>● **Previous Minutes:** SW checked the room to make sure everyone received the official document including the 2025 AGM minutes and checked if anyone had any questions.<br>● **Annual Report: Ebrahim Piperdy (Treasurer)** presented the annual accounts. It was noted that the Forum is in a significantly stronger financial position than the previous year.<br><br>**4. Trustee Elections**<br>● **Retirements & Re-elections:** In accordance with the constitution's one-third rule, **Julieta Galarza, Duane Pearson, and Andrea Burris** stepped down and stood for re-election. All three were re-elected for a further 3-year term.<br>● **New Appointments:** The board presented three new candidates, **Romael Ferguson, Sonya Stewart** and **Carol Morris**, for formal election. The membership approved both via ballot card count.<br>● **Biographical Highlights:**<br>○ **Sonya Stewart:** Career in youth work/NHS with deep local roots in assessment and stakeholder engagement.<br>○ **Carol Morris:** Experience in IT and systems management; advocate for housing justice with the London Renters Union.<br>○ **Romael Ferguson:** (Trustee) Video Production Director and founder of RVF Academy, focusing on youth skills in creative industries. | |
| | **5. Networking & Market Fair**<br>● The meeting transitioned into an informal networking session and Market Fair.<br>● **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.**<br>● **Partner Stalls:** Residents engaged with representatives from the Integrated Neighbourhood Team, Brent Active Together, Brent Community Land Trust, Age Friendly Brent, and the Fairer Housing CIC.<br><br>**Additional Q&A time** | |

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| | **Delivered informally in the networking space to allow more space for residents to ask questions** | |
| | **Networking continued till 4.15 pm.**<br><br>**AOB and Closing**<br>● **SW** thanked the members for their continued commitment to Harlesden.<br>● The meeting was officially adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM and market fair and networking continued.<br>● **Next Meeting:** Date to be confirmed and updated on the Forum website. | |

Minutes approved on XXX

Sandra White

Chair of Trustees