

## Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum: Autumn General Meeting Minutes – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 FINAL

<b>Date and time of meeting:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2018, 6:30pm – 8:15pm
<b>Location:</b>	Tavistock Hall, Harlesden
<b>Attending:</b>	<b>Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum Committee:</b> Leao Neto – HNF Chair; Atara Fridler – Co-vice Chair (AF); Paul Anders – Treasurer (PA); Megan Lewis – Secretary & Coordinator (ML); Colin George (CG) <b>Guests:</b> Dave Ahlquist – Locality (DA), <b>Other attendees:</b> Leroy Simpson – HNF ambassador + 16 other attendees
<b>Apologies:</b>	Nick Jones (committee: Co-vice chair)
<b>See also:</b>	Autumn activity update one-pager – see below, Meeting presentation slides

Item	Minutes	Actions
1	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LN welcomes all attendees</li> <li>• LN announces we will be taking photos for our campaigns and to advise ML of any concerns or requests not to be photographed</li> <li>• Attendees review the July meeting minutes and agree to adopt them</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>HNF strategy and updates (AF)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AF guides attendees through the new 1-page update document distributed to attendees.</li> <li>• Regarding organisational sustainability: AF announces HNF is at a crucial point in our development, with work ongoing to become a registered charity and pursuing funding streams</li> <li>• AF announces the commitment of the committee to hold ourselves to account with our strategy, and as such, the 4 strategy areas (which were presented at the previous meeting) will be on display at each meeting, along with updates on our associated work.</li> <li>• In relation to Area 2 - Community and Economic development: Atara gives the background behind the CIL Wayfinding project (banner design competition), and how we hope it to be the beginning of various improvements to Harlesden Town Centre, including the redevelopment of the Plaza car park.</li> <li>• Comment 1: Banners in the shape of flags saying ‘welcome to Harlesden High street / This way’ would be a good idea. AF responds to encourage attendee to give ideas to Megan</li> <li>• Q1: What would be the timescale for Harlesden Plaza redevelopment? AF: likely a few years down the line.</li> <li>• Q2: Is the car park making money? AF: Yes, but it’s private, so the council would have to look into a Compulsory Purchase Order. Comment: It’s believed only 7% of the car park profits go in to maintaining it, there are serious maintenance issues</li> <li>• Q3: Can’t the council do something about the lighting? AF: Yes, and crime – working with Brent and makes reference to Harlesden Area Action</li> <li>• Q4: I live in Herbert Gardens, it’s within the Neighbourhood Forum boundary but doesn’t necessarily feel part of Harlesden or know about the Forum. Have told neighbours about the Forum, how can we spread the word further? AF: There is a constant challenge of communication, and need support in making ourselves more visible.</li> <li>• Q5: I want to see more greening projects, including green space – We could improve the soul of each area with small areas of green that we can work together to maintain and inspire people to be creative. AF: HNF hopes to help deliver a greening project in the next few years, potentially in relation to the wayfinding CIL project or other opportunity. – Further discussion about trees later</li> <li>• Comment 2: There seems to be confusion about what businesses are classed as ‘green’ or eco friendly</li> </ul>	<p style="color: red;">HNF to communicate directly with anybody signing up to be involved with any of the 4 working areas</p>

3	<p><b>Neighbourhood Planning update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ML provides an update on the Neighbourhood Planning process, including what stages are complete and what is currently happening.</li> <li>- ML gives an overview of comments received during Brent Council’s statutory consultation. Reports that most comments were making updates to technical detail, but also some queries where our aspirations conflict with those of statutory bodies, including the future of the Willesden Junction bus garage on Station Road, and the connection to the OPDC area development.</li> <li>- Attendees discuss this route and the issues that the bus garage presents to pedestrians and the environment of Station Road.</li> <li>- Comment 1: there could be more shops on station road, but as a fallback option, traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.</li> <li>- Q1: When might the inspection and referendum happen? ML: It’s hoped that the inspection will happen by early 2019, with the referendum happening by Spring.</li> </ul>	<p>From last meeting: HNF to look into arrange another sites walkabout for the Plan referendum</p>
4	<p><b>HNF independence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LN introduces Dave Ahlquist who is supporting HNF to develop an updated Constitution in view of applying to become a registered Charity (CIO).</li> <li>• DA introduces the process HNF is required to follow, and that input is needed on suggested constitution updates.</li> <li>• DA details what needs to be determined, including the Charity’s Objects (objectives) and numbers for Quora, trustees etc – see presentation</li> <li>• DA takes questions and comments regarding the new constitution (ML noting them on flip-chart paper)</li> <li>• Comment 1: Becoming a charity is good news for Harlesden as it means there’s no limit to amount of funding that can be applied for. Opportunity to then support smaller groups</li> <li>• Comment 2: Need to check the objectives are wide enough to enable HNF to do the above – AF notes this should come under our Charitable Purposes in Community Capacity Building</li> <li>• Comment 3: Need to be strategic about number of trustees and how long they can serve for, as Harlesden currently has a limited pool of people able / engaged enough to be so closely involved.</li> <li>• Q1: Should we check about involving school children? Query about minimum ages as members and as trustees.</li> <li>• Response: DA – will consider these queries and make recommendations for the Committee will discuss before finalising the draft.</li> <li>• It is agreed that the final draft will be put to Forum Vote at the December meeting</li> </ul>	<p>ML to circulate final draft of constitution min. 10 days prior to next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December</p>
5.	<p><b>Brent tree planting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colin George gives update on behalf of Nick (who usually deals with the environment projects and Brent on tree planting scheme)</li> <li>• CG relays message from Brent that further trees will be planted imminently, lists the streets earmarked as: Minet Avenue, Bolton Gardens, Park Parade, Holland Road, Craven Park, Buckingham Road, All Souls Avenue. Requests suggestions for further locations.</li> <li>• Q1: Will they be replacing trees which have been knocked over or vandalised (Inc on station road and park parade)?</li> <li>• Q2: How do they know what trees are there already, is there a register?</li> <li>• Q3: Is it possible to access a list of approved tree types?</li> <li>• Q4: Are there planting deadlines for getting suggestions in to Brent?</li> <li>• CG response: There’s likely to be a Brent register, will enquire. The type of tree hasn’t been made clear, but they appear to be smaller than some of the old tree types, and need to have high branches. Will query as to whether new trees can be placed in locations of old trees. Deadlines will be enquired about.</li> <li>• Comment 1: There’s an idea for a project – planting a tree for a bollard on Bolton and Charlton Road – info needed</li> <li>• Comment 2: Announcement of the Mayor of London’s tree planting schemes in association with the Woodland Trust - whereby individuals can apply for 2 free trees, and groups can apply for planting packs, ML states we will circulate this information and if anyone wants to lead getting some for Harlesden, HNF will support.</li> <li>• Q5: Who’s responsible for pavements? Can HNF get involved? ML – will look into and respond back directly.</li> </ul>	<p>HNF to make the strategy public once compiled - complete</p>

6.	<p><b>HNF ambassadors and CLO update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ML announces HNF's 'core members group' who are regular attendees and who are involved in spreading the word about HNF. Invites further interested members to get involved.</li> <li>• ML introduces Leroy Simpson's section (original HNF ambassador / 'Community Liaison Officer')</li> <li>• LS provides an update on the Festive Lights scheme which will begin again this year in November in time for Diwali and how the lights will be used to celebrate a range of cultural festivals. Puts a call out for people to support the crowdfunding campaign to meet costs of installation and take-down</li> <li>• LS introduces the Safer-neighbourhood Community Panel being set up alongside Brent Police officers, inc Paul and Elliot for Harlesden. Explains the use of Whatsapp group involving the panel and officers whereby reporting can be made direct to them.</li> <li>• Priority areas for the work cover 18 Craven Park loitering, Atlas Cafe phone box activity and St Thomas's Road ASB.</li> <li>• Document being made available to the Panel on how the officers spent their shift in order to bring about roe transparency</li> <li>• Q1: Is the panel already formed? LS: There is a need for 4 more people, will circulate information</li> <li>• Q2: What's the interaction between the public, the officers and the councillors? LS: There will be 2 public meetings per year, and 4 meetings with councillors.</li> <li>• Q3: Will officers be able to give verbal cautions without the need to arrest? LS: Possibly, also they have powers to incite someone directly to court without going via the police station, which will speed up processes. This may be more effective than fines.</li> </ul>	<p>HNF to publicise the Festive Lights crowd-funder</p> <p>LS to circulate info on how to get involved in panel, as well as info about the meetings via HNF</p>
7	<p><b>AOB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harlesden Area Action: Jannie Kalb (Chair) gives a brief overview of who they are and what they plan to do – focus on areas such as Fly tipping and antisocial behaviour. Announces their next meeting date to be 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10am at Newman Catholic College. Requests for volunteers and various roles available in the committee.</li> <li>• LN announces the next meeting date (since changed) 10<sup>th</sup> December upstairs at the Royal Oak pub.</li> <li>• ML requests attendees sign up to support HNF in the 4 working areas and for photos to be taken.</li> </ul> <p>LN closes the meeting</p>	



## Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum Current activity update - Autumn 2018

### Organisational Sustainability (resource and governance)

- Pursuing the registration of the Forum as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), including reviewing and updating the constitution *more to come later*
- Pursuing funding streams to build our leadership and financial capacity

### Strategy

Updates and meeting content from now on will be organised under the following four strategy areas. We will use these to hold ourselves to account, track our progress and be clear about where new people can get involved.

#### 1. **Be a Community Voice** - Engage, represent and be a sounding board for Harlesden's community

Currently:

- Meeting with representatives of local groups and identifying opportunities for collaboration
- Social media comms strategy and website updating
- Developing Referendum engagement campaign strategy (inc. website photos & quotes)
- Core members group (HNF ambassadors)

#### 2. **Community and economic development** - Lead, support, deliver or influence local projects

Currently:

- CIL project: wayfinding banners design competition - funding
- Working with Brent's Town Centre team (GLA project)
- Working with OPDC's Good Growth and Great Places Scheme (2019)
- Promoting and making connections with community development organisations

#### 3. **Community-led housing & infrastructure** - Address housing and community space as key development concern in Harlesden and explore opportunities

Currently:

- Working with a volunteer with planning expertise, Brent Council, Locality and Crisis Brent to examine opportunities for Community Led Housing
- Plan to explore next steps for Plaza development to include new/revitalised community space

**4. Be a Planning & Environment champion** – Be guardians of the Neighbourhood Plan (including monitoring policies and applications), influence and campaign on related issues and opportunities

Currently:

- Responding to planning applications and licensing
- Publicising planning & licensing issues
- Influencing planning authorities (Inc. OPDC Local Plan)
- The community connection for Brent's tree planting scheme
- Neighbourhood Planning ongoing (preparing final draft and the referendum in early 2019)

Your involvement, time and support in any amount is invaluable. Please get in touch to help us in shaping the future of Harlesden:  
**[info@HarlesdenNeighbourhoodForum.com](mailto:info@HarlesdenNeighbourhoodForum.com)**