

Harlesden, 21st October 2020

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting

Date and time of meeting:	21 st October 2020, 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); Errol Donald (ED) Ilaria Esposito – Coordinator (IE)</p> <p>Guests: Julia Mlambo- LB Brent, Clarissa Woodstock OPDC, Martin Page – community member</p> <p>Other attendees: Margaret Cox(MC) and Nouh Abukar(NA) as newly appointed trustees. For a list of participants see Appendix 1</p>
Absent:	

Item	Minutes	Actions
1	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IE welcomed all attendees and explained the rules for the meeting happening online MJ welcomed everyone and introduced herself as the new Chair and went through the agenda of the meeting. MJ introduced minutes of the March 2020 Forum meeting <i>Q1: Martin Page - During March meeting CG raised that HNF could get 25% of any NCIL monies and based on a new development in Brent worth 200k, it appears that we may have access to £50k. This then led to a discussion about the understanding of how this could be applied for and used, and a need to clarify the process.</i> The March 2020 meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted 	HNF will follow up with Brent about 25% NCIL.
2	<p><u>HNF updates:</u></p> <p>HNF as incorporated CIO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJ explained that HNF was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 11th March 2020 and revisited the role of HNF, its purpose and the trustees' role (see slides attached for more details). HNF Committee has been meeting regularly fortnightly since March 2020 and recruited a new Coordinator, Ilaria Esposito, in July. MJ reported that during spring/summer 2020 HNF focused on the social distancing and COVID-19 survey to support LB Brent in implementing measures and improvements in Harlesden to minimise the spread of the virus. HNF also worked on re- designation, liaised with National Grid concerning the work to the canal towpath and undertook several activities related to clean environment. MJ 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 strand of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). MJ provided an update on relationships with the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and LB Brent, which are the planning authorities. One of HNF's roles is influencing local decision makers, and engaging stakeholders and statutory bodies. MJ emphasised that the HNF wants to make planning relevant, make planning real and making a difference. 	HNF to follow up with Julia Mlambo on where and how to provide information to residents.

	<p>Community engagement & Redesignation – Ilaria Esposito</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IE presented an overview of the findings around the COVID-19 & social distancing. This sought opinions on changes introduced by Brent Council in terms of widening pavements, public signals, visiting shops, removing, or repositioning bus stops, and sought suggestions for improvements. • Julia Mlambo spoke about what Brent Council is doing to inform residents around how to minimise the risk of spread of the infection. Julia wonders if HNF and members can advise on where and how to provide that info (for example different languages). HNF has already offered a list of places of worship. • IE expanded on the redesignation process. Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum (HNF) is a neighbourhood planning form established under the Localism Act 2011. Some residents live in a part of the area that was assigned once to the Unity Neighbourhood Forum area, whilst they feel they should be in the Harlesden Neighbourhood area, and now they are associate members. There is continued interest from residents in and bordering the HNF area in the Forum expanding its boundaries. 	<p>December meeting 2020 HNF will have an agenda point on the topic of boundaries expansion.</p> <p>2021- setting up of a working group of members and associate members living in said area to make recommendations.</p>
	<p>Clean Air & Environment – Madeleine Jennings – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MJ explained the work done to make sure the canal towpath would remain open during the pandemic and available to residents. Besides, HNF is working with OPDC, to make sure every improvement happening around the Grand Union Canal takes into consideration wildlife considerations as well as the possible involvement of educational activities for children and young people. • MJ reported on the incredible work of resident Renette Cronje at Bramshill Open Space. HNF is supporting residents in that area to improve the space and make it a lively spot for everyone that wants to join. HNF joined forces with Veolia for a September clean-up in the area, which also provided an opportunity to talk to local residents about HNF. Garden designers have voluntarily helped with improvements that could be applied to Bramshill and HNF is working on grant applications focused on clean air & environment to further support residents also in that area of Harlesden. • MJ provided details on the cooperation HNF is establishing with Veolia on different matters concerning waste and recycling. • Martin Page, Brent Community and Economic Development, updated on tree planting and future actions. Members and residents are invited to contact Martin Page 	<p>HNF will be applying for Veolia Community fund.</p>

Inclusive Growth Sandra White – Vice Chair

- **SW** brings forth the bigger picture around Harlesden inclusive growth: Harlesden for everyone, investment means growth, strength in unity. The Inclusive Growth Strategy key areas in Brent, falling out of the Borough Plan – Harlesden is identified in the strategy as a priority in the south of the borough, with its own planning framework. Harlesden is changing and growing. The council is reviewing the Borough Plan and Inclusive Growth Strategy to take into account recovery from the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. IGS is an opportunity for us all to be leaders in developing of how we want Harlesden to look/be/feel/serve the community. The IGS for Harlesden focuses on the Council's investment in the community with specific emphasis on
 - Picture Palace
 - Design Works
 - Offers to the community

The Inclusive Growth Strategy (IGS) is a long-term strategy that identifies choices available to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of growth over the next 20 years. Full Council and Cabinet have agreed on the IGS for publication. – [go onto the brent council website to see the full strategy -](#)

Harlesden for everyone means a safe space for young people and older people where we can count on

- Clean air
- Beautiful environment
- Homes and shops - the high street
- Entertainment
- Destination - Harlesden becoming a place where people want to visit
- Build on our strengths, for example, food, culturally diverse, having representatives from each part of the world.

Investment means growth

- As well as having the NP, HNF and its members will continually seek opportunities to work with Brent council to promote development that supports the priorities in the plan around the economy, housing, transport and the environment in order to drive new and fresh businesses and reignite the local economy
- HNF aims for everyone in Harlesden to have access to information on developments
- It is essential to be present to HNF meetings because, in this way, we can include everyone in the decision-making process.

Strength in Unity

- It is crucial to come together on local actions such as cleanup projects, challenging poor planning and licenses etc. The more voices the more likely we are to be heard.
- Inclusive growth aims to ensure that everyone can participate and share in the benefits of growth in the borough.

The IGS detailed research base supports the strategy and action plan to make the most of change. Brent updates on IGS links with identifying a planning culture that leads to the best vision for Harlesden. In this regard short term development are:

- The former HSBC building is being brought back into use by the Refugee Support Network. It will have a more extensive community use.

- In November Brent Council bought the Picture Palace from Wetherspoon's, to bring it back into the use for the community. The Council has called for applications from local VCSE consortia and has put a price of £25k to make it as accessible as possible. The venue should be focusing on community use /enterprise focus hub. Bang Edutainment is gathering consensus and partners to put in an application for Picture Palace. A representative of HNF will sit on the decision panel. The evaluation of proposals is scheduled within the first two weeks of November.
- The Council agreed £1million for restoring for Design Works with David Adjei Architects. The idea is to create multipurpose spaces, for civic, culture, recreational and workspace use, that is complimentary with the Picture Palace, in order to achieve a balance. At the moment, more consultation needed to be done. A community steering group to be put in place with young people to be included, and there is a cultural consortium developed through the London Borough of Culture scheme to deliver cultural programmes - Anna Doyle and our colleague Errol Donald is part of the steering group.
- Longer-term
 - Harlesden Plaza with Tesco - in need of more quality public space. This topic would need to be supported by more public consultation.
 - Cycle highway via Harlesden – cycle lane etc. from Old Oak known as Route 23 – can gain more funding for the public realm if it goes through the centre of Harlesden as opposed to going around the edge.
 - Restoring community notice boards later on down the line
 - Willesden Junction Station public space improvements – OPDC has secured a grant from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund to improve the public spaces at and around Willesden Junction Station. The project aims to deliver immediate, tangible benefits for the community, make the spaces around the station feel safer and more welcoming, reveal and celebrate local heritage to highlight local character and identity

Q2: Ricky Gardener asks to clarify how HNF can sit on the Picture Palace panel if it is partnering with Bang.

SW explains that hat HNF is not in partnership with Bang and would not bid for this space and clearly cannot bid with Bang if it is sitting on the panel with Brent. SW stated that we are new as a CIO and have HNF's priorities to focus on. MJ will sit on the panel to represent HNF and the Neighbourhood Plan.¹

¹ Since the AGM MJ has reflected on the issue and decided to withdraw from the review panel to avoid any perception of impropriety

	<p>OPDC – Engagement Errol Donald</p> <p>We want to make sure Harlesden, its residents, businesses, and community groups will benefit from the development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED explains that as far as HNF concerns housing, commercial direction, funding, facilities and resources will be taken into consideration in consultation with OPDC. <p>We want to make sure Harlesden residents and town users are included, not only in the talk, but in shaping of spaces and opportunity in the new development. HNF will propose a marketing and comms plan with core messages, visuals, and public engagement.</p>	
	<p>Planning - Colin George</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a neighbourhood planning forum, we review every application. The Neighbourhood Plan is, in essence, a planning document, so monitoring developments in our area is an ongoing task. When writing our Plan, it had to comply with national and local (Brent & OPDC) planning policy, so most of the applications made to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) will be subject to comparable rules. A new scrutiny process is now in place whereby the trustees can discuss exceptional cases and, if considered necessary or contentious, ask the membership for their opinions. However, since last year we can highlight the following in the town centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Salvation Army premises • Former HSBC building • Picture Palace • CG explained that while almost all our area has London Borough of Brent as the LPA, a small but significant area around Willesden Junction Station is within the OPDC. Since its establishment in 2015, the draft OPDC Local Plan has envisaged a new “town” with homes, schools and healthcare all built on the land currently occupied by Car Giant and then linked to Willesden Junction Station by a brand new bridge. At the end of 2019, Car Giant withdrew from the scheme. The planning inspector rejected the OPDC draft Local Plan. This has put large question marks over whether the tall blocks of flats along the length of Scrubs Lane which already have permission are likely to be built, one being a 20 story block within our area on the corner with Harrow Road. We have raised objections to further developments on the basis that there are no additional community facilities planned nearby, which will put extra stress on our existing schools, medical facilities, and transport links. The Forum will continue to engage with the OPDC on their plans 	
	<p>Statements of Accounts Paul Anders – Treasurer</p> <p>As HNF is a registered charity as of 11th March 2020, all reports from now on will be submitted to the Charity Commission and will meet statutory requirements. No income during the financial year 2019-20. Funding secured from Trust for London, enabling the employment of a part-time Forum Coordinator will be reported in next year’s statement of accounts. All expenditure related to wayfinding project.</p>	

3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustees presentation and appointment <p>MJ explained the new procedure to elect trustees under the HNF Constitution. MJ asked the Committee members to introduce themselves to allow members to get to know them a bit more. MJ explained that 4 trustees resigned between August and September, and HNF has received 2 new candidacies. The Committee appointed Margaret Cox and Nouh Abukar on the Committee meeting on 12th October 2020 and asked the AGM to ratify the decision. MJ also asked the attendees to speak if against or wanting to abstain. Margaret Cox and Nouh Abukar appointment was ratified by the AGM.</p>	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB and next meeting <p>The next Forum meeting is scheduled for December</p>	

