

Agenda 14/04/2026

- Recruiting new trustees
- Planning the AGM + community event (April 25th)
- Major project updates (Carver/Picture Palace, parks, neighbourhood plan)
- Governance, finances, and next steps

Key Outcomes

The board approved two new trustee candidates (Sonya and Carol) who will be formally presented at the AGM on 25 April.

The meeting focused on finalising logistics for the combined AGM and community event at the former Picture Palace, with 55 registrations confirmed and preparations underway for market-style stalls, food, and workshops.

Decisions Made

- **New trustees approved:** Sonya and Carol unanimously accepted by existing trustees (Romaël, Julieta, Ilaria) for formal election at AGM

Trustee Recruitment (Major Decision)

- Two candidates (Sonya and Caz/Carol) were interviewed.
- Both demonstrated:
 - Strong local roots and lived experience
 - Deep passion for Harlesden/Brent
 - Relevant skills (housing, NHS, community work, IT inclusion, advocacy)
- Key themes from them:
 - Housing justice, homelessness, and displacement

- Community pride and youth opportunity
- Bridging services and improving access

AGM + community event (April 25th)

- **AGM format:** Combined community market fair (11 am start) followed by formal AGM at 1 pm, closing around 3 pm
- **Trustee elections:** Julieta, Duane, and Andrea must step down and stand for re-election per the constitution (one-third rule); all three can be re-elected for another 3-year term
- **Question collection:** Trustees will gather written questions from attendees during the market fair segment to streamline Q&A and avoid repetition from the previous year
- **Political neutrality:** MPs (Georgia Gould) can attend and speak briefly but must avoid party-political campaigning due to charity commission rules; Ilaria is meeting with MP offices to clarify boundaries
- **Away day timing:** Board strategy session scheduled after AGM once new trustees are confirmed, with dates to be circulated

Pending Confirmation

- **Fairer Housing CIC workshop:** Sandra to confirm if Ross can deliver "How the system works/accessing services" workshop during the event
- **Tables and chairs:** Collecting furniture from multiple sources (HTG, NCC, Salvation Army inquiry pending, personal supplies); final count needed
- **Photographer:** Romael, checking availability of a photographer willing to work for £50 street voucher; will bring own camera as backup
- **Young volunteers:** Nari to confirm young people available to help with registration, food service, setup (£50 vouchers offered via radical place-based leadership funding)
- **Hot water provision:** Exploring urn vs kettle options; the kitchen exists but lacks equipment
- **Police attendance:** Local police invited to attend as a community safety presence and answer resident questions

- **OPDC and other stall holders:** Final confirmation needed from Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, and some service providers

Event Logistics (25 April)

- **Venue:** Picture Palace ground floor (now Carver Centre of Excellence), booked 9 am-5 pm; building access via security contact
- **Setup:** Ilaria coordinating furniture collection and setup from 9 am; Romael available from 9:30 am to assist, Marco and Sandra to come too.
- **Door management:** Sandra manages the front door (kept locked), greets attendees, and takes names for security; no formal security is hired. Registration and voting cards distributed
- **Catering:** Local resident providing finger food; additional biscuits and drinks to be brought
- **Market stalls confirmed:** Integrated Neighbourhood Team (housing, health, education, mental health), Sport at the Heart, Jason Robert Foundation, Brent Young Carers, OPDC, neighbourhood plan revision team, Age friendly brent
- **Current registrations:** 55 people via Eventbrite; quorum requirement is 18-20 members

AGM Procedure

- **1 pm formal start:** Sandra opening with Picture Palace/Carver Centre introduction and community power update, including Pride in Place £20 million investment announcement
- **No projector available:** Bullet points prepared for Sandra; AV equipment not yet installed in building
- **Presentation sequence:** Community power update → brief Georgia Gould remarks (if attending) → Q&A → annual report and accounts (Ibrahim presenting finances) → trustee elections
- **Voting process:** Only members can vote; new members can register on the day and receive voting cards; professionally printed voting cards are ordered to replace lost handmade ones
- **Vote counting:** Proper count required per constitution (lesson from previous year's confusion); attendance tracking separate from vote counting
- **Post-AGM:** Attendees invited to continue mingling at market stalls and workshop area 2

Community Power & Pride in Place Update

- **Funding secured:** £20 million Pride in Place investment over 10 years for deprivation areas, with spending decisions made by Neighbourhood Advisory Boards (residents, community orgs, one councillor rep) rather than the council alone.
- **Integrated Neighbourhood Team:** Working in Harlsden to connect residents with services directly without referral systems; the team will have stalls at the event.
- **Quarterly review completed:** Pre-Easter submission to council covered mapping, Kushima's participation, case work with integrated team, Youth Advisory Board formation (in progress), community events including 70-woman wellbeing event at Roundwood Youth Centre 1536

CAVA Centre of Excellence (Picture Palace) Update

Sandra provided a comprehensive update on the 2-year capacity-building process:

- **Lease achievement:** Reduced from £150,000 to £5,000/year (first 4 years), then £37,500/year for the remainder of the term through legal negotiations
- **Capital funding:** £130,000 remaining from refit for furniture/fixtures; additional £100,000 from UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2026-27 capital needs
- **Social value commitment:** £3 million social value delivery required (reduced from initial £30 million) across five KPI areas: young people/employment, at-risk/NEET youth, Black businesses, 50+ community, community cohesion
- **Delivery partners:** Working with multiple organisations on youth special education needs, yoga, dance, and arts programming
- **Upstairs vision:** Creating an arts/cultural hub leveraging Harlsden's artistic talent to establish the area as an arts destination
- **Health services planned:** Monthly NHS specialist sessions (blood testing, diabetes screening, prostate cancer awareness) in the building
- **DWP partnership (pending):** Bid submitted to work with 120 hard-to-engage young people annually using work coaches in building; 12-18 month development timeline expected for some participants
- **Cafe space:** Ground floor cafe with children's bookcase/toys, gated to control building access
- **Opening timeline:** Gradual activity build-up with "Big Bang" opening October 2026 during Black History Month

- **CAVA naming:** Caribbean and African Voluntary Alliance (10 Black-led partner organisations); also Community and Voice Alliance representing Black community ownership, addressing generational wealth gaps from slavery's impact, but bringing all communities together.

Neighbourhood Plan Revision Progress

- **Drafting underway:** Ilaria writing housing chapter; Sport at the Heart drafting youth/wellbeing sections; Age Friendly Brent contributing age-friendly chapter
- **Support secured:** Locality (national organisation) providing technical support; no paid consultant this year (unlike original plan)
- **Trustee input requested:** Ilaria offering to share draft chapters (Regeneration, iStrip, others) for trustee review and input
- **Additional contributors needed:** Romael suggested Friends of the Earth (Helen and a colleague) for the climate resilience chapter; Ilaria to contact them

Roundwood Park Developments

- **Bowling Green refurbishment approved:** Multi-use open space design with food-growing areas, relaxation zones, soft sports, workshop spaces; all accessible to everyone without private sections
- **Access improvements:** New entrance near playground to be made accessible; Veolia managing opening/closing times independently of cafe hours
- **Hut renovation:** Converting former changing rooms into a multi-use space with a kitchenette, a classroom, toilets, and some changing rooms retained
- **Containers secured:** Two additional containers behind Nature Connection Centre obtained on peppercorn license for community workshop use (managed by consortium, not Veolia)
- **Sport England funding:** Capital investment secured for Roundwood Park infrastructure improvements (Muga and sport facilities)
- **Consultation completed:** 190 viewpoints collected (including 60 online, plus face-to-face at park, SUFRA Millennium Centre with asylum seekers/refugees) after the council requested broader community input
- **Design proposal:** Detailed Veolia proposal with pictures and consortium feedback available; Ilaria to share with Julieta for review

Heritage Project Update

- **Theme:** Music, art, and creative heritage of Harlsden
- **1000 Years of Harlsden:** Marco delivered the first session of the Roy Metha exhibition at the Picture Palace with 10 young people; planning workshops, community art competition, merchandise production, possible canvas exhibition
- **Artist participation:** Professional artists from networks volunteering artwork (not competing in community competition) to portray Harlsden's heritage
- **Exhibition timing:** Potentially before or after the October 2026 CAVA opening

Financial Status

- **Current balance:** £69,000 with £45,000 additional funding expected from council (total ~£114,000)
- **Improved position:** Significantly stronger than the previous year, enabling applications to larger funders
- **Administrative compliance:** Annual report and audited accounts submitted on time; HMRC and pension address changes in progress with Ibrahim
- **Event funding:** Using radical place-based leadership funds for AGM event costs (food, young volunteer vouchers)

Action Items

- **Ilaria:** Print and distribute AGM posters around the neighbourhood
- **Ilaria:** Order professionally printed voting cards to replace lost handmade ones
- **Ilaria:** Prepare bullet points for Sandra's community power presentation (no projector available)
- **Ilaria:** Meet with Georgia Gould's office at the House of Commons to clarify political neutrality boundaries
- **Ilaria:** Confirm police attendance invitation
- **Ilaria:** Share the Bowling Green refurbishment proposal with Julieta
- **Ilaria:** Share draft neighbourhood plan chapters with trustees for input
- **Ilaria:** Contact Friends of the Earth (Helen) re: climate resilience chapter contribution
- **Ilaria:** Send 4-5 away-day date options for trustee strategy session (post-AGM) 1
- **Ilaria:** Coordinate furniture collection and transport to Picture Palace from 9 am on 25 April

- **Sandra:** Text Ross at Fairer Housing CIC to confirm workshop availability
- **Sandra:** Manage front door/security and attendee registration on event day
- **Sandra:** Present community power update and Pride in Place investment at 1 pm AGM start 12
- **Romael:** Check photographer availability (£50 voucher budget); bring your own camera as backup
- **Romael:** Arrive 9:30 am on 25 April to assist with setup and furniture moving
- **Julieta:** Arrive by 12 pm to collect written questions from attendees during market fair (or coordinate with Romael if he arrives first)
- **Julieta:** Provide Ed's (Salvation Army) email to Ilaria for table inquiry
- **Duane:** Attend AGM (required for re-election); Ilaria to confirm attendance
- **Andrea:** Attend AGM if seeking re-election (stepping down with Duane and Julieta per the constitution)
- **Nari:** Confirm young volunteer availability and provide names for £50 street vouchers
- **Kushima:** Confirm attendance (calendar invite sent); explore car availability for furniture transport

Next Meeting

Away day for board strategy session to be scheduled after 25 April AGM, with new trustee board confirmed.