

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum

Trustee meeting minutes

Date and time of the meeting	Thursday 21st May – 6.00-8.00 pm
Location	Kaleo Common Ground
Attending	Ilaria Esposito (IE) (Coordinator), Sandra White (SW), Amandine Alexandre (AA), Andrea Burris (AB), Julieta Galarza (JG), Ebrahim Piperdy (EP) (Treasurer), Duane Pearson (DP)
Guests	
Apologies	
Absent	

Agenda item	Discussion (Key discussion and agreed points)	Actions
1.	Welcome / Introduction. SW welcomed everyone Trustees approved the 6th February 2025 trustee meeting minutes - Conflict of interest register check: None was disclosed.	IE to update minutes on the website.
2.	Organisational development - Change of address to the Nature Connection Centre is now live SW is aware that for different reasons, some of the trustees didn't have a proper induction and invites all of them to book individual inductions for Trustees with her. SW asks EP to report on the financial situation and funds of the Forum. EP presented the fixed expenses the Forum has and the income, too. The trustees discussed differentiating the funding income. EP also mentioned that the handover between him and Paul is not finished yet, because Natwest Bank is making it difficult to make these changes. Giff Gaff and Mailchimp accounts are also now registered under the HNF debit card directly. IE mentions that the Strategy for the next three years needs to be refreshed with the new programmes, and the Forum has been undertaking to challenge the status quo.	IE to update the strategy document with the new programmes and assets Forum Strategy 2024 - 2027 SW and EP to follow up about the NatWest handover

- **SW updates the trustees about the Community Power work update:** Picture Palace, Radical place-based leadership, Place partnership and Brent Giving. **Trustees** comment that these are opportunities to leverage a certain amount of resources(not only financial) into the area. **JG** asks for more details about the radical place-based leadership in terms of individuals involved in crimes and antisocial behaviours, as some individuals do not engage with services and organisations. So, what kind of support is the Police offering?
- **SW** mentioned that the police are involved in the programme; however, for the model of radical leadership to work, we need to have all the stakeholders on board.
- **SW** explains the programme in more detail:

"Radical Place Leadership Programme" in Harlesden as a pilot initiative. The core principles of this program aim to fundamentally shift how local government operates and interacts with its communities. Here are the main points:

- **Shifting Power to Communities:** A central tenet is to move away from traditional top-down, hierarchical models of leadership. Instead, the program seeks to empower communities, partner organisations, and neighbourhood groups to take greater ownership of decision-making and service delivery. This involves asking "What matters most to you?" rather than "What's the matter with you?" to build solutions around residents' interconnected needs.
- **Collaboration and Co-production:** The emphasis is on fostering cooperation between the council, health services, education, police, the voluntary and community sector (VCS), and residents. The goal is to co-produce services, meaning residents are actively involved in designing and shaping them.
- **Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs):** A key operational aspect is the establishment of INTs. These teams bring together various professionals from different services (e.g., social workers, debt advisors, employment support, health professionals, VCS representatives) in a co-located, collaborative space within the community. In Harlesden, these INTs are focusing on wider determinants of health, such as financial hardship, homelessness risk, and school readiness.
- **Focus on Place and Shared Outcomes:** The program moves beyond council-centric strategies to develop borough-wide approaches with shared "place outcomes" or "missions." This means creating a collective vision for Harlesden and mobilising energy from all stakeholders to achieve common goals that benefit local people.
- **Asset-Based Approach:** Rather than focusing on deficits or problems, Radical Place Leadership seeks to identify and build upon the strengths and assets already present within the community.
- **Challenging the Status Quo:** The initiative requires courage, innovation, and a willingness to challenge old "command and control" models. It acknowledges that traditional levers for change are often no longer effective in complex environments.
- **Leadership Development:** To support this new way of working, there's an investment in developing new leadership understanding and skills among staff, promoting diversity, and shaping new values and behaviours across organisations. This includes creating spaces for leaders to learn together and explore new perspectives.
- **Pilot in Harlesden:** Harlesden was chosen as the initial testing ground due to its specific challenges (health outcomes, employment, deprivation levels) and its strong VCS presence and willing partners. The aim is to

	eventually bring together the health INT and broader determinants of health INT through this Radical Place Leadership approach. • AB reports on the Safer Neighbourhood Team updates: currently, meetings are composed of a fair number of people who mainly listen to the police reports; however, priorities seem to be brought in by the police and not by the community. AB and SW would like to challenge this <i>modus operandi</i> and discuss priorities with residents.	
3.	Funding updates National Lottery SW informed the trustee about the submission of the National Lottery - core funding application for the Reaching Community Grant, which was written with the help of a bid writer from Social Change. Results should be communicated in 4-6 months. Brent Giving SW gives updates on the Forum, which is now officially part of Brent Giving as a platform to distribute funding in Brent. The "Brent Giving" fund, a community-led initiative aimed at tackling poverty in Brent, has been launched with the backing of various organisations, including the Football Association and Quintain Wembley Park developers. The Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum is specifically mentioned as one of the key supporters of this partnership. This fund is a landmark moment and an opportunity to transform how the community supports one another, driven by a spirit of solidarity. The fund's objective is to raise and distribute up to £1 million over three years, with money being granted to grassroots projects that combat poverty and inequality, particularly for low-income families and those facing systemic social barriers. The community will be involved in deciding how the funds are used and which projects receive support. The press release can be read here. Trust for London One last instalment of 14k to be paid Final reporting to be submitted in July 2025 Tubbs Road Pocket Park IE reports that work has started and is almost completed with the help of Krinkles.	IE will follow up on all the application processes with SW. IE to follow up on implementation for 1000 years of Harlesden EHF. SW to report on Brent giving via newsletter..

	Brent's Together Towards Zero Grant A project that can help to tackle climate change and make your local area greener - you could get up to £5,000 The forum is applying for the Nature Connection Centre. Edward Harvist Trust Fund The Forum has been successful and will receive £5,000 to fund the 3rd Edition of 1000 Years of Harlesden.	
4.	Updates on planning Brent Local Implementation Plan (LIP) Three-Year Delivery Plan: 2025/26 - 2027/28 PDF 475 KB View the background to item 8. This report provides an update on Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding arrangements for the three years 2025/26 – 2027/28, along with details on the programme of transport schemes and measures approved by Transport for London (TfL) to be implemented by the Council up to 31 March 2028. Allocation and Monitoring of Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy PDF 205 KB View the background to item 9. This report outlines a series of proposals for updating the governance strategy for the allocation and forward planning of the Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (SCIL). Key measures proposed include updating the Council's infrastructure delivery plan (which sets out the infrastructure needed to support development), streamlining delegated authority and approval processes, introducing prioritisation criteria, improving project monitoring and management, and enhancing SCIL allocation planning. The proposals also cover procedures for "Infrastructure Payments" and "Payments in Kind." • SW informs the team about the successful financial support to start the consultation to revise the neighbourhood Plan at the local level. To date, consultations have been delivered on 8th and 22nd March, face-to-face, and we plan to have one more in May and June. Neighbourhood Plan revision has also gone through a meeting with the Brent Planning team and the OPDC planning team. The following steps include incorporating Brent and OPDC policies. • Neighbourhood Plan revision: residents' feedback report	IE will contact the Charity Commission about changing the annexed map. AA to follow up on the public toilets with Tony from Let's Grow Brent AA to follow up on the Church path regeneration IE to write to the parks about the planning application

	• SW explained that the Picture Palace refurbishment is almost finished, and the group of local organisations has won the tender. The Forum, as decided in February, supported the group and will be part of the board of CAVA (Communities and Voices Alliance). • IE explains that the Bowling Green situation is now being revisited as a planning application will be submitted only for the green space and not for the hut. At the same time, the space has been included by the Place-based partnership of London Sport to attract capital funds to refurbish the space. • AA brings up the problem with the toilets in the park and the absurdity of the Council's inability to build them correctly. Many groups are now complaining. Church End Improvements Consultation • AA reports on access through the Church path and the new rounds of consultation, but a severe ASB needs to be tackled—feasibility report of the green corridors. Brent Council has launched a public consultation on proposed design improvements for Church Path and Longstone Avenue in Church End. The project aims to enhance safety, accessibility, and green spaces along these routes. Residents and stakeholders are invited to provide their feedback on the plans, which include improvements for walking and cycling, increased greening, and better lighting. The consultation is open until August 3rd, with feedback accepted online via the Brent Council "Have Your Say" portalhttps://haveyoursay.brent.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/church-end-and-roundwood-green-corridors-1. Additional in-person exhibition events will also be held for further engagement in July.	
5.	forum public meeting AGM venue: Roundwood Park date: 14th June Draft agenda: • Forum new boundaries and plan revision consultation 11- 4.30 pm • general updates and success in planning and Q&A from residents • Stall to promote the Forum and the 1000-year Haresden project.	IE will prepare documents and activities. IE to book the venue. Planning team to be involved

6.	Clean air and environment Breathe London Community Programme • AA said that she monitors the levels from time to time. The Breathe London node website is now live, https://www.breathelondon.org/, and residents can check the pollution level in Harlesden High Street. • Public toilets campaign and feedback from the Curzon Crescent and Fawood Family Wellbeing Centre governor meeting, and the BEN environmental meeting. • Harlesden Air Quality - Clean Air Day will be organised in partnership with a community organisation in Roundwood Park on 21st June 2025	IE to create a link on our website about clean air. Have a meeting with AA.
AOB		
	Date and venue of the subsequent trustee meetings & planning meetings TBC	IE will send the agenda and minutes to the trustees.