

Harlesden Neighbourhood Forum – Meeting

Minutes

Date and time of meeting:	14 th December 2021, 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Location:	Zoom online meeting
Attending:	<p>Committee: Chair; Sandra White (SW); Paul Anders (PA); Colin George (CG); Margaret Cox (MC) and Nouh Abukar (NA), Amandine Alexandre (AA); (Ilaria Esposito – Coordinator (IE)</p> <p>Guests: Grace Nelson (Harlesden Town Centre Manager), Sophia Patel (Young Brent Foundation -Heritage Action Zone), Roz Henville (OPDC), Anita Whittaker (OPDC Harlesden Canalside Project), Julieta Galarza (Youth With A Mission Urban Key), Katie Mills (Forest and Family)</p> <p>Other attendees: 33 Members</p>
Absent:	Chris Murray – CEO Young Brent Foundation

	Minutes	Actions
1	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA welcomed all attendees and explained the procedures for online meetings • SW welcomed everyone, introduced herself as Chair, and thanked everyone for joining the Forum online meeting after the cancellation of the face-to-face meeting due to the Omicron variant. • SW went through the agenda of the meeting. • SW reviewed actions from and minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were formally adopted. 	
2	<p>HNF updates: Sandra G. White – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW explained the Forum's role for new members, emphasised our growth in the last year, and gave an overview of the recruitment new ambassadors to work across different issues. SW reinforced the Forum's intention to recruit more ambassadors and involve as many partners as possible across every Neighbourhood Plan (NP) strand. • SW talked briefly about relationships with the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) and LB Brent, the Forum area's planning authorities. One of HNF's roles is influencing local decision makers and engaging stakeholders and statutory bodies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In particular, Sandra reported about • Membership: ~ 360 individuals and 79 organisations are currently members of the Forum 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesignation: the Forum has been officially redesignated for a further five years by OPDC Board and Brent Council in March and April 2021, respectively • Trustee recruitment: SW invited members who feel they have time to invest in developing HNF to apply to become trustees. 	
	<p>Project Horizons - Sandra White</p> <p>The Forum has been engaged with the Metropolitan Police since July 2021 on the project Horizons working on diversion and regeneration with the communities of Harlesden and Stonebridge in NW10. Project Horizons works collaboratively with key stakeholders in the area, namely, Brent Local Authority, Young Brent Foundation, and other organisations from the private and voluntary sectors, to find solutions to some of the root causes of crime in these two wards. To date, Project Horizons has delivered (or plans to deliver):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 bleed control packs are due to be installed Jan 2022 in Harlesden. • 2 knife bin locations have been confirmed. These are permanent – the project is being led in the main by the council with support from Met Police. • St Mary's Neasden/Church Rd. Site visits have been conducted along with some funding. Work alongside the probation service will begin 1st quarter 2022. • Youth diversion has continued with officers and young people attending No Knives Better Lives at the Old Bailey. • Targeted diversion continues alongside partnership agencies. • Netball and football events planned for the new year to promote engagement and employment drives. • Working alongside Harlesden SNT for further engagement and diversion of identified young people who may need some intervention <p>SW explained to members that the Forum had engaged parties interested in tackling antisocial behaviour in Harlesden. The next meeting should be happening between January and February 2022.</p> <p>Comment: Leroy Simpson asked to get in touch so that the Safer Neighbourhood Team can work alongside the Forum.</p> <p>Q1: Atif Sroya reported having a big problem with shop owners and rubbish. And asked the Forum to help. Atif spoke to Leroy and Milli Patel, but issues are still ongoing.</p> <p>R1: Leroy Simpson said We have over the last month put in extra effort on this and had some excellent outcomes, and we have more officers coming in February</p> <p>R2: AA asked the member to send a message to the Forum and Grace Nelson to investigate more</p>	<p>SW will follow up on Leroy Simpson's request</p>

	<p>Planning and Regeneration – Colin George</p> <p>CG guided members through our role as a neighbourhood planning forum: We aim to review every application. The Neighbourhood Plan is 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 Local Planning Authority (LPA) applications will be subject to comparable rules. A new scrutiny process is now in place. The trustees can discuss exceptional cases and will bring applications that are considered likely to be highly contentious to the attention of the membership.</p> <p>CG gave examples of kinds of planning applications the Forum responded to.</p> <p>CG informed the meeting about the changes concerning ward boundaries and how this will affect council representation across the Forum designated area.</p> <p>CG introduced briefly the proposals to extend the Forum’s boundaries.</p> <p>CG mentioned the draft Brent local plan and that the council will hold a consultation when the draft is ready</p>	
	<p>Clean Air & Environment – Margaret Cox & Amandine Alexandre</p> <p>AA reported on the activities implemented since May 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mums Who Cycle – Launched to encourage more parents to use bicycles to transport their children. • Mums for Lungs – campaigning for cleaner air • Roundwood Park Gardening and Pollinator– family learning project supported by Young Brent Foundation, and the Love Where You Live grant from Brent Council • Application to become a Breathe London Node and for an Our Space Award - Groundwork • Improving Harlesden's re-cycling with Veolia's Community Fund - cleanup day on 17th July 2021 • Tubbs Road Pocket Park and Roundwood Park playground consultations <p>AA highlighted that for the Roundwood Park playground consultation, we received more than 150 responses.</p> <p>The Forum collated the results and sent everything to LB Brent Parks Service management with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The playground is overcrowded during weekends and after 3 pm. It needs physical expansion to accommodate more children. • Older children - teenagers have been using the playground. A wooden adventure section should be installed to accommodate different age groups. • We suggest having a look at Queens Park design. A lot of families travel outside of the borough to access better-designed playgrounds. • Limited budget. The Forum is happy to apply for NCIL if this can bring quality planning for the playground and accommodate different needs/cohorts. 	

<p>Guest Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace Nelson reported on plans and actions implemented in the town centre, focusing on businesses and their growth and development. Funding was secured to improve and beautify shop fronts, greening out the grey and repaint and supporting and signposting street drinkers and the homeless. • Grace Nelson informed members about the former Picture Palace development. CVS Brent is leading the consortium of organisations. • Grace Nelson said that a new art project would involve Harlesden in the new year. • Sophia Patel provided an update on the Heritage Action Zone and activities to engage young people in culture and heritage in Harlesden. • Roz Henville and Anita Whittaker reported on the work done so far by OPDC to engage communities in planning and regeneration around the Canalside <p>Comment Atif Sroya reports that there is a constant nuisance outside the Methodist Church and William Hill. Removing people from the original spot has sent them to her entrance behind Co-op funeral parlour on the benches.</p> <p>R1 Leroy Simpson says that the area was locked down last month</p> <p>Q2: Paul Anders asked Grace why the listed building meeting was scheduled against the Forum meeting.</p> <p>R2: Grace replied that it is not clear why the Forum was not involved.</p> <p>Comment: SW asked Grace to have a more detailed timeline about the former Picture Palace by the next Forum meeting and connect with Kavita at OPDC to work on the art project together.</p> <p>Q3: Colin George reminded Grace about the streetlights.</p> <p>R3: Grace responded that she would have them replaced and asked Colin if he could resend the list</p> <p>Q4: Amandine Alexandre reminded Grace that the pavements also needed decluttering. Too many businesses are spilling out onto the pavement, and pedestrians are left with little space to walk. Can the new business group look at this? Even if they are allowed to spill out, it's not a great way to attract customers and may have the opposite effect.</p> <p>Q5: Lucy Handley asked for the link to the Willesden Junction commissioning group as she can send it to residents living on Tubbs/Nightingale Roads</p>	<p>Harlesden High Street Heritage Action Zone</p> <p>https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/community_engagement_strategy_2021.pdf</p> <p>anita.whittaker@opdc.london.gov.uk</p> <p>https://consult.opdc.london.gov.uk/harlesdencanalside</p>
<p>Organisations Spotlight</p> <p>Julieta Galarza Youth With A Mission Urban Key introduced themselves as an organisation working in Harlesden for over ten years and supporting the most vulnerable. They explained their intention to put forward an NCIL application to establish a community café in Station Road where the former William Hill shop is situated.</p> <p>Katie Mills Forest and Family presented the work carried out in Brent and Roundwood Park (see slides for more details) to help people of all ages establish a connection with nature.</p>	

AOB and next meeting

The next meeting date will be communicated in January, and the Forum hopes that will be an in-person meeting

