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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on
WEDNESDAY 22nd June 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present

Leo Mindel	Vice-Chairman
Maxine Goswell	Minutes Secretary
Tony Lane	President
Herbert Levinger	Transport & Health
Joan Butfield	Health & EHG
Jane Clayfield	Committee member
Jan Choopani	Committee member
Fiona Morgan	Treasurer
Anila Hashim	Committee member
Jo Crockford	Road Steward
David Bishop	Resident
Rob Bryan	Police

1. Apologies for Absence received from

In the Chairman's absence, Herbert Levinger kindly chaired the Ward Panel meeting and Leo Mindel kindly chaired the NHRA meeting. Graham Mann, Lynne Halse, Lesley Crowcroft, Andrew Riley, Trevor Dixon, Alan Lester, Jean Bartoli, Alison Fenton, Duncan Flynn & John Morgan.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th April 2016: agreed with following amendment: Item 7: East & West restaurant is still closed and a new Vietnamese restaurant has opened nearer the roundabout.

3. Matters Arising (not tabled as Agenda Items):

MG was dismayed at the fact that the shortened version of the minutes sent out prior to the agenda had not been noticed by a single committee member, even when the full version was sent out with the Agenda. Perhaps the Minutes are barely read at all and this could be why so many actions remain outstanding for such a long time, yet are brought up time and time again. If there is an action by your name, PLEASE DO IT.

Actions Outstanding Remaining:

Actions outstanding from previous meetings:	By:
Urged to bring one new person each to next meeting, or ask someone to come forward. (Nov 2015).	ALL
Provide annual schedule of Finance actions for each year. (Jan 2016).	FM
Provide annual schedule of actions for each committee role for the year to TD/MG. (Jan 2016).	ALL: not LC, TD & JB
Regeneration issues update from council, outstanding since Oct 2014. Traffic survey at roundabout is ongoing. Independent review on use of parking bays is to be undertaken.	JM/DF/JB
Current members wanting to join the Facebook page email: maxine.goswell@tesco.net (Feb 16)	ALL
Ensure all Zones have a zone leader (Feb 16)	MG/TD
Hanging baskets and weeding to be done (Feb 16 & Jun 16)	JM/JB
Meeting to review if Echo should be available on-line. (Mar 16)	ARly, MG, AL, GM
Source Echo Article about sewers problems. (Apr 16)	AL
Join NORA. (Apr 16)	ARly/FM
Meet to resolve dangerous bollard outside NISA. (Apr 16)	DF
Email list of dates for Christmas lights event sub-committee meetings (Apr 16)	KB
Inspect Christmas tree pit and resolve propping issues (Apr 16)	ARly/KB
Ask if Green Spaces team can regularly check Hogs back elm (Apr 16)	DF
Arrange donation to Fairfield for use of the premises (Apr 16)	FM
Visit Grant & Stone yard regarding parking of lorries (Apr 16)	DF
Further access to LBH noticeboard at the station (Apr 16)	DF/JB
Raise the Long Meadow shrine issue with enforcement officers again. (Apr 16)	DF
Review bus cage on the road at the stop in Northwood Way (Apr 16)	ARly
Actions outstanding from this meeting:	
Council to erect posters advertising Smart water use: progress	JB/JM/DF
A car parked with 2 wheels on the kerb should not always be fined.	JB/JM/DF
Investigate disabled parking bays future on Joel St	JM
Consider any possible candidates for a quartermaster.	ALL

4. Chairman's Report:

In his absence the Chairman submitted a report.

Since the April meeting, he had attended a Ruislip Lido Management Advisory Group meeting and had also been invited to become a Trustee of Ruislip Woods. He gave up an afternoon to support the 1st Northwood Scouts' Jumble sale. He and Graham Mann attended the funeral service of Lishman Easby, a former NHRA Chairman.

The chairman wished to thank everyone involved in organizing the AGM at Harlyn Junior School and welcomed the new Committee.

He also thanked everyone involved in the Picnic in the Park celebration in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday. This event was 9 months in the planning. Initial feedback has been extremely positive and despite the rain during the morning set up, the weather was perfect for the afternoon.

5. Ward Police Panel:

Inspector Bryan reported that the team had been very busy over the last month. PC Christmas has been looking after a new probationer who is training to be a Police officer and has been showing him the ropes. Some team activities:

- arrested a man on Joel Street who was suspected of drug dealing. He had over £2k worth of Cannabis with him and was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply. He has been charged with the offences and is awaiting trial at court. The team are unsure if this may be linked to the problems with drug dealing reported on Windsor Close. Further patrols in that area will be done with catching this behaviour in mind.

- a warrant was executed at an address in Malmesbury Close that was associated with Drugs and Anti-social behaviour. There were two people arrested at the address and they have been charged with offences. The team are working closely with the council housing officers to deal with tenancy breaches and the team are hoping for an eviction to come from that.

- a Brothel was reported to be running on Haydon Drive. The team visit and indeed found such a place in full operation. This has now been dealt with and the "occupants" are being forced out by the unsuspecting landlord.

- the team has been giving a number of talks to schools and youth engagement: Haydon Hall Montessorri and Harlyn School. Also extra patrols in the mornings at Harlyn School in order to deal with illegal parking issues.

- a lot of time and effort has been put into the delivery of MetTRACE kits to roads in Northwood Hills. This process is coming to an end now as most of those who are eligible have been visited already. There may be another roll-out later in the year, we await details of this. The Council are due to put up posters advertising the Smart water use in high risk areas, but seem to be slow to do so. Councillors were asked to progress. **JB/JM/DF.**

- traffic Operation was conducted in Pinner Road on two occasions. A total of 5 people were reported for mostly speeding offences.

More Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are being sought. The team are actively seeking new NHW groups.

We are pleased to report that burglary figures have been pretty low. There have only been 4 burglaries in the last 4 weeks at the time of writing (8th June). The

team very much felt that the reduction is due to more residents being aware of security and double locking doors. It was pointed out that insurance claims can be invalid if there is proof that locks hadn't been in use at the time of the break in.

New Twitter account up and running. @MPSNorthwood. This covers both wards for Northwood and Northwood Hills and will have regular updates about what the team are up to.

Inspector Bryan urged residents with high value cars to ensure that they also use a 'crooklock' device as the electronic locking systems can easily be over-riden. Many people think that they don't look good, but they could save your car from being stolen.

The police were thanked for their time and commitment to planning and policing the Q90 event which had gone off smoothly.

Promises last time were:

Traffic and parking in and around Schools

Drug Dealing around Windsor Close

Tackling ASB around Salisbury and Malmesbury Close

It was suggested that the Salisbury and Malmesbury issue has been dealt with. The team are getting complaints about ASB at the Argyle house car park and also in the car parking rear of William Jolle. Some reports of drug dealing at Catlins Lane and the park there.

3 promises this time were agreed:

Tackling ASB in Argyle house and William Jolle car parking areas.

Drug dealing at Catlins Lane.

Drug Dealing around Windsor Close.

The need for burglary/theft by drug users in the Ward was less than in many areas of London because many users are in employment and can for their drugs but this encourages dealers to come to Northwood Hills.

A car parked with 2 wheels on the kerb is not a criminal offence in Hillingdon, but a civil one, so the police do not monitor this. Agree that sometimes, if not parking on a pavement, but on a grass verge, car drivers are trying to be more considerate to allow 2 way traffic on a narrow road but parking like this. The councillors were to be asked to consider how this could be allowed. **JB/JM/DF**

6. Planning and Environment:

LC has attended the following meetings:

1. Flood Risk. This was a Residents Forum, arising from the number of questions concerning the LBH Flood Risk Strategy. The Forum was attended by Cllr. Jonathan Bianco, LBH Officers, Environment Agency [EA], Thames Water. Any

questions asked were followed up at a later date. Information received concerning Joel Street Ditch. The EA consider this to be a main river, the latest map showing the start of the river is at Pinner Road. Other questions such as riparian ownership and responsibility for this water course need further clarification. LC will take these matters forward.

1) Residents Forum. LC attended a Residents' Forum at the Civic Centre on May 26th. Information was given regarding the proposed changes the Government wish to make to NPPF. Briefly, the object is to take away many planning applications from Local Authorities and have them decided by person or persons unknown. This is an assault on democracy; our democratically elected Councillors should have the right to determine applications which threaten our communities. There will be a consultation on these changes; we should all object strongly.

Comments and updates on the following applications:

1. **2 Hilliard Road.** Enforcement notice served. Alleged breach: Without the benefit of planning permission, the unauthorized material change of use of an outbuilding to a self-contained residential unit. **Appeal undecided.**
 2. **1 Rushmore Close Eastcote.** Over large extensions to the roof, making the dwelling over dominant within the street scene. **Undecided**
 3. **73 Ryefield Crescent.** This is the 4th attempt to build miserable dwellings at the back of the shops. This time the applicant is trying the Prior Approval route, which means the LPA can only refuse on parking and/or land contamination. Parking was a reason for refusal before, and a ground contamination survey has not been submitted, so hopefully it will be refused again. The proposal is little better than a 'bed in shed' housing. **Refused**
1. **3 Pikes End.** This development is within the Eastcote Village Conservation Area.

The dwellings forming this part of Pikes End were designed by a local architect Noel Wurr. <http://www.modernism-in-metroland.co.uk/pikes-end.html>

The first application to change the street scene was approved in 2010 although there was strong opposition from both the Eastcote Village Conservation Panel and local residents. The planning permission was renewed in 2013. Six years from the original application this development has not been carried forward. This current application is not asking for a renewal of planning permission but has been entered as a new application.

Our objections are the same as for previous applications. The addition of the extra floor spoils the harmony of the roofscape of this modernistic designed courtyard development. I doubt if this will be refused as permission has already been granted previously, but one can only try. **Undecided**

2. **Joel Street Farm.** Change of use to a Day Nursery. The landscaping layout has been submitted to LBH. It appears adequate. However there is a gate shown from the fields into the children's play area, comments have been sent to LBH stating.....' Our main area of concern is the proposed gate at the end of the children's play area. This gate opens out onto the fields beyond. Surely it is not in the children's best interest to have a gate that could allow access to

anyone wandering in the fields. Should this gate be approved, then there should be a strict condition that the gate be kept locked when children are using the Nursery.' **The Chairman has now received information from LBH stating that the developers are now working within guidelines.**

3. **68 Raisins Hill.** This forms part of the Raisins Hill ASLC. The proposed extensions are larger than the original dwelling so do not look subordinate to the original. **Undecided**
4. **48, Harlyn Drive.** Demolish current house, erect 5 bedroom dwelling with an over large basement. Refused by LBH. **Appeal dismissed. The application for costs against LBH was also refused.**
5. **61 Northwood Way.** Increase in size from a modest 3 bedroom detached house to an 8 bedroom house. Only two parking spaces. **Approved**
6. **17 Hillside Gardens.** Same application as the one refused late 2015. This time, trying to gain permission under House Holder Permitted development. However, the dwelling already has an extension, so the proposed design would make the depth of the extension 7 metres. This is not acceptable under the HDAS guidelines, and the Article 4 directive which covers the whole of Hillingdon. [When the Government introduced a system called Prior Approval householders were allowed to extend to the rear of a property by 6 metres without planning permission. LBH introduced the Article 4 directive so that LBH can regain control of the size of rear extensions.] **Refused. An appeal has been lodged on the previous application 2015, as mentioned above.**
7. **Land between 2 & 6 Woodside Road.** This has now gone to appeal. The company employed by the Appellant has sent the usual bullying/intimidating report to the Planning Inspectorate. LC is assisting the residents with their submissions to the PI.
8. **70 Coniston Gardens.** A small bungalow. Application for extensions to both sides and to the rear. This would more than double the size of the bungalow. There has been a planning history for this site going back 8-9 years, most applications have been refused at appeal. **Regrettably this application has been approved. My thoughts are that there will another application to now divide the bungalow into two semi-detached dwellings.**
9. **56 Briarwood Drive.** Application to divide house into two flats. The house is large enough and so is the garden. The only objections put forward, were: -The loss of a family home which would be out of keeping with the area; -The internal arrangements of the rooms are not satisfactory, having a bedroom underneath the living room of another. **Approved**
10. **Land forming part of 1 Bramley Close.** To erect an attached dwelling on the side garden. NPPF sections 48 & 53 state that building on gardens is not acceptable. Objections will be made. **Refused**
11. **70 Highland Road.** Loft extension, gives a very odd roof shape. Objections will be made. **Approved**
12. **22 Stanley Road.** Large loft extension completely altering the roof shape. **Undecided**
13. **54- 64 The Broadway, Joel Street.** **Appeal lodged**

14. Wisteria Accountants, The Grange, High Road Eastcote. A very large sign has been erected. It is thought to be out of keeping with the Conservation Area. No planning permission has been sought. The company is saying that they were given by permission by LBH, that planning permission was not needed. This matter has been taken up with LBH. The enforcement officer involved is currently on leave.

7. Regeneration:

'Keep clear' had very recently been painted on the roundabout approach from Pinner and all those present were delighted that something had finally been done and urged more follow-up work to continue.

The trees in the central boulevard had all survived the winter. The paving outside Namaste Lounge had been re-laid but no major levelling prior to relaying seemed to have been done so it may become uneven again very quickly.

Weeding of footpath by Argyle House and in the tree sections was requested, once again with request for hanging baskets. **JB.**

8. Membership Growth:

Returns have been submitted by 26 Road Stewards. We are still awaiting returns from 8 Road Stewards, in addition to the 3 who collect in the autumn. Four former Road Stewards still have not been replaced. 28 roads have neither a Road Steward, nor any members. We currently have approximately 1100 member households, ie 25% of the total number of households.

New Tolcarne Drive RS now appointed. £39 subs has been paid on line.
Membership growth still needs to move forward.

9. Events:

Past:

AGM - Wednesday 25th May. Approximately 75 residents attended, less than last year but interesting to see Harlyn School's new hall. The presentations given were very good and informative.

New Northwood School building was suggested as a venue for next year.

Q90 Music and Picnic in the Park - Sunday 12th June.

Feedback for this event had been very positive. All the music acts were well-received. Comments were made that more food stalls could have been included, but it was advertised as a 'picnic' so this shouldn't have been an issue and their numbers were limited precisely because the licences and paperwork now required of the stall holders/organisers has just become too great to make a large event viable when organised solely by volunteers.

There was an amazing amount of work done by a very small number of key individuals and the committee recorded its thanks to them. The benefit to the community of events like this, put on at no charge to the public and no payment to the organisers, should not be underestimated. Both Northwood Hills and Northwood RAs are very

fortunate to have such a committed band of volunteers. The need for more helpers can't be overstated, especially on the day, setting up and breaking down.

Future:

Christmas Lights - Saturday 19th November

LM suggested that rather than a full committee meeting on Wednesday 20th July it could be used as a sub-committee meeting for this event. **KB**.

LM had lined up prospective sound personnel to run the PA system.

10. Treasurer's Report:

FM gave a brief report. If a budget was agreed, then spending some of the outstanding funds on a particular activity could be considered.

11. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that the Council has installed a secure fence and gate at the rear of the shops in Salisbury Road. This is in response to continued problems with youths at the rear of the shops over several years. Thanks are due to the shopkeepers themselves, for continually pressing the Council for action; also to the Neighbourhood Police Team for continued surveillance of the area and to the Residents' Association for making the Council and other bodies aware of the problem. Especial thanks are due to Andrew Retter for his work in pursuing the matter while he was a Councillor, and to Duncan Flynn for doing the same since being in post. The combined working with the Police, councillors, residents and council was shown to have finally paid dividends.

12. Transport:

Points raised at the meeting with Metline Management 17th May:

- 1) Reliability of fleet: 10% improvement in last quarter over previous year.
- 2) Signalling: 40% improvement since last year.
- 3) May has however been beset with difficulties:

On May 1st a section of embankment between Chorleywood and Rickmansworth collapsed blocking the line. Although it was possible to restore traffic it was necessary to impose 10mph speed limit to ensure the safety from further slippage. This has seriously affected journey times for passengers using this section of the line, speeds are now slightly higher but major works will be necessary to make the embankment safe.

On 8th May there were signal failures at Harrow on the Hill affecting two sections of the track.

- 4) Stations programme:

Most stations now have a "live" train indicator system. All stations will continue to be manned and staff will be more visibly on the platform now that ticket offices have been closed. (This was disputed by some members present.)

- 5) Train frequency:

As part of the signalling upgrade it will be possible to eventually increase train frequency to 22 trains and eventually 27 trains per hour.

6) Croxley extension:

It is anticipated that the construction work will be completed by the end of 2018 and the signalling during 2019 giving a traffic start date in 2020.

7) Station redevelopment:

Harrow-on-the-Hill: This is at the feasibility study stage. One proposed feature, namely the erection of a building over the railway line just at the northern end of the station, has however been abandoned.

Northwood: The application to Hillingdon which was the subject of a presentation at the last meeting and which was due to be heard at the April meeting of the Hillingdon planning Committee was taken off the agenda by the Council. No explanation given.

David Bishop raised the issue of lack of litter bins at Northwood Hills station. It was expected that this was because of the general raised security alert across London and these would return when the security level was reduced.

13. Health:

The revision of the Care in the Community service appears to have no funding to enable it to move forward.

GP's need 6,000 new patients to have enough funds to employ an additional doctor, so if they only have 2-3,000 more new patients, they have to somehow manage them with current staffing levels, causing long waiting times for appointments.

Hillingdon and East & North Herts Trusts are trying to come to an agreement regarding the Mount Vernon site.

LM reported that Nick Hurd had met with NHS property regarding Pinner and Northwood Cottage hospital site. It appeared that NHS property now believed that trying to sell the site purely for residential purposes would not gain planning permission, so they are now considering redevelopment including residential units and some health centre upgrade/assisted living/sheltered accommodation options. It is important for the community to keep up the pressure to ensure the sale done in an acceptable manner. The local CCG does not seem to be so concerned about its ultimate use.

DB gave details of a meeting for any to attend:

Invitation to People in Partnership, Wednesday 20th July

to be held at the Education Centre, Hillingdon Hospital at 7.00pm. Registration and light refreshments will be available from 6.30pm.

14. Hills Echo:

No issues

15. Councillor's report:

None

16. AOB:

The proposed removal of 3 of the 4 disabled parking bays on Joel Street was agreed as too many. Perhaps 2 could be removed, but no more. **JM** to investigate.

Management of NHRA/community equipment: the need for a Quartermaster is paramount as if items are broken when used by community groups, they can be mended, but if the breakage is not known about, it impacts the next user. A handyman would be ideal for this post. Consider any possible candidates. **ALL**

17. Dates for Next Meetings:

Wednesday 20th July (tbc)

August - no meeting

Friday 9th September - Echo copy date

Wednesday 28th September

Saturday 8th October (tbc) - Autumn Tidy-Up Day

Wednesday 19th October (incl. Ward Panel)

Saturday 19th November - Christmas Lights Switch-On

Wednesday 23rd November

December - no meeting

2017:

Wednesday 25th January (incl. Ward Panel)

Wednesday 22nd February

Wednesday 22nd March

Wednesday 26th April (incl. Ward Panel)

Wednesday 24th May - AGM

The meeting closed at 9.30.