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NORTHWOOD HILLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of the Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 25th February at 7.30 pm

Present

Andrew Riley (ARly)	Chairman
Leo Mindel	Vice-Chairman
Trevor Dixon	Secretary
Maxine Goswell	Minutes Secretary
Herbert Levinger	Transport
Joan Butfield	EHG & Health
Fiona Morgan	Treasurer
Anila Hashim	Planning
Jane Clayfield	Committee Member
Duncan Flynn	Councillor
Pauline Sherman	Resident
David Bishop	Resident
Michael Rosenthal	Resident
Yvonne Coghill	Resident (part time)
Derek Coghill	Resident (part time)

If your initials appear in **BOLD** in the minutes, you have an action to report back to the next meeting with please.

- 1. Apologies for Absence received from**
Tony Lane, Alan Lester, Lesley Crowcroft, Graham Mann, Lynne Halse & Andrew Retter.
- 2. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2015: agreed**
- 3. Matters Arising** (not tabled as Agenda Items): see Item 5.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed everyone, especially those attending the meeting for the first time. He briefly explained that the RA was an a-political organisation for the benefit of residents. He shared an article written by Frances Button, Moor Park & Eastbury Hertfordshire County Councillor, which appeared in the February edition of 'My Northwood News':

'It's February and I am surrounded by hearts at this time of year - cards, chocolates, restaurants and florists. We had hearts on Thought for the Day a few days ago, too. This all set me thinking - what it is at the heart of the community?

In Hertfordshire we are talking about putting libraries there, but a community is more than buildings.

So this is something of an ode to Residents' Associations, made up entirely of volunteers who give their time selflessly to make their communities a better place.

Our four main ones locally are Eastbury; Moor Park & Sandy Lodge; Northwood; and **Northwood Hills** and all four of them run very welcoming web sites.

They define their purpose as variously:

- to maintain and develop a high standard of amenities and community spirit;
- to protect and watch over the interest of members;
- to further common interest;
- to safeguard local character.

They contain lots of snippets of local interest and information on activities and events in the area:

- maintaining websites
- keeping residents informed of social activities
- distributing newsletters
- running local surveys and mounting local campaigns

All have a cost, and membership is such a bargain - just a few pounds per year. So a big thank you to those active residents' associations, including their busy committee members and street representatives - you keep the heart of our communities beating'.

The Chairman added his thanks to everyone involved in NHRA and said it was great to receive such recognition.

Since the last meeting the Chairman attended the opening of 'Discover Medical Centre' which is co-located with the 'Body Studio' and had also met with the new owners of the former Lebanese and Pizza on The Hill restaurants and the owner of the new Cycle shop. All are keen to establish links with NHRA. This afternoon he attended the Residents' and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee, at the Committee's request to give evidence.

He was pleased to hear that negotiations had now been completed which will allow Sultans to expand into the former bathroom fittings shop next door and also reported that the small empty unit next to Intoto had now been let, subject to suitable toilet facilities being in place for staff at Intoto.

New shop occupations:

8 Joel Street - Panda Yummy - Thai noodle bar

34 Joel Street - Rockwell Safe Deposit Centre

36 Joel Street - Peri Peri Chicken Restaurant

46 Joel Street - Sultans expansion - Greengrocers and groceries

1-3 Joel Street - Zufa Lebanese Restaurant

89 Joel Street - Cycle shop

6 Joel Street - will be difficult to let. This was to have been a pop up shop during the regeneration works but it was not possible as it needs to be rewired and plumbed.

With Argyle house now 95%+ occupied and only circa 3 units left to fill in Joel Street, it is very clear for all to see that the regeneration work has had a very positive impact and Northwood Hills is becoming a destination, not just a place to be passed through. Perhaps the property prices may reflect this in due course. He also commented that currently there are no empty shop units at Salisbury Road and only one empty shop unit in the Pinner Road.

Post meeting note: The Chairman has advised that TFL figures show there has been a circa 30% increase in the number of passengers using the station (during the week) since the bid for regeneration funding was submitted.

Due to an important meeting in Ealing the Chairman advised he will **not** be able to attend the March Committee Meeting.

5. Events

Thank-You Supper: Tuesday 3rd March. The Chairman thanked Maxine and Trevor for the co-ordinating work that had taken place over the last 6 weeks. The provision of food and the schedule of tasks were discussed as on the list provided. Last year 85 attended and currently there were 95 acceptances. Payment for the magician was to be made via LM. Lois and Jess had also agreed to sing as part of the entertainment.

The copies of The Echo were to be distributed to the Road Stewards at the Supper. A list of the residents on each Road Stewards List was to be printed by **FM** so that the Road Stewards can return it showing which houses were members, as some Road Stewards just give the money with no list of Members. A letter would be prepared to ask Road Stewards to keep more records in future. **ARly**.

The new membership cards were to be provided to the Road Stewards at this event. It was agreed that a flyer was required for the Supper and AGM to try to get more support for such activities as Planning and Advertising Manager for the Echo. **ARly**. There is no additional resource available in the current committee.

AGM: Wednesday 20th May in the main hall of the Northwood UTC. **ARly** was still awaiting response from the Base Commander at Northwood HQ, Chief of Joint Operations.

Post meeting note: Lt Gen Lorimer is unable to attend, a replacement has been requested.

Big Lunch: Sunday 7th June, to be co-ordinated by Tom Rawling from Fairfield.

6. Parking in Lichfield Road

David Bishop has been asking for signatures for a petition requesting a Controlled Parking Zone in this road. It was pointed out that this was being done by him as an individual resident and was not something that NHRA was supporting. The Chairman requested that the petition did not include the use of the word 'our' as it makes it more likely for other residents to think it is an NHRA official group activity, whereas it is just from an individual resident. A number of comments were made that people strongly felt that they did not 'own' the road outside their own house and if people were to park considerately, 2 cars easily fit between the drives of a pair of semi-detached houses, allowing residents to use their own drives, for at least one car, and in some instances, the drives were long enough to allow more.

It was recognised that commuters use Lichfield Road but if a CPZ was in place, then the problem would just move elsewhere. The Argyle House Car Park was 'sold' by the council on a 125 year lease 12 years ago when DB was a Councillor. A suggestion of an additional storey being added to the car park to re-instate public parking was made but as the Council needs to make £10m saving next year, it seemed unlikely that this would be a priority.

Any budget for car park building, either there or over the railway would have to be found from somewhere, and this was realistically, only likely to be available from national funding.

YC requested that energy and effort be put into the acquisition of funding for a car park, rather than repeated petitions for CPZ's.

It was suggested that a note be included in The Echo to remind people to park considerately, and not 'overhang' driveways as this would assist residents currently.

7. Planning and Environment:

Planning is an area where we need more people to assist and keep a watchful eye on applications submitted to the Council. The Chairman strongly believes that this role needs two people. Jane suggested that her husband, Terry, may be able to assist and **AR**ly agreed to ask him. **AH** could then forward some emails regarding some applications for him to see what this may entail.

12 Colchester Road: application withdrawn.

Ferndown Road: Domino's Pizza site: ongoing.

8. Regeneration: Post-Implementation Issues and Concerns

Following the last meeting, comments submitted were as below, with current status:

a) Roundabout:

Approaching the roundabout from Pinner, formerly two clear lines allowed traffic to go straight ahead and left.

In his letter to the Planning Committee regarding the plans to rebuild Northwood School the Chairman has raised issues regarding the traffic flow at the roundabout and also along the Pinner Road at peak periods. A white line in the Pinner Road may help with this congestion. **JM:** Cost to rectify very little, and in hand.

b) Roundabout:

Approaching from The Broadway, congestion would be relieved by re-instating the second lane, so turning left and going straight over/right is available for at least 2-3 car's lengths. It would mean losing a bit of the pavement.

c) Roundabout Crossings:

There are now three crossings on one roundabout which is dangerous and causes traffic holdups. The crossing by Nisa could previously allow up to six cars out of Joel Street when the crossing was being used. Now the cars are stuck. The excuse for moving the crossing was to assist Nisa to enable customers to drive in and out, but this has not been taken up by them and it is not feasible. It was also said that pedestrians were not walking up to the original crossing and were crossing by the roundabout.

Answer: It was suggested for Safety reasons the original pedestrian crossing be reinstated, metal railing erected where the present crossing is and pavement be reduced to permit two lanes of cars to approach the reinstated crossing.

It might also be a good idea to change the zebra crossings to pelican crossings.

d) Station crossing:

The pedestrian crossing outside The Joelle does not allow car drivers to see pedestrians as the motor cycle bay is occupied by mini cabs. This is especially dangerous coming from the south. The crossing is poorly lit on The Namaste side. **JM** has suggested moving these bays. **DF** has received the following written reply:

"Dear Cllr Flynn

"Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Zebra Crossing lighting in Joel Street outside the station. The existing enhanced lighting on the Zebra crossings at the northern and southern entrances to the shopping area in Joel Street were retained where it was considered that vehicle approach speeds could be higher or drivers attention focused on negotiating the roundabout.

"Once road users are in the main shopping area vehicles speeds should be lower, there are a number of informal crossing points at the ends of the centre median in addition to the formal zebra crossing outside the station. The lighting has been improved throughout the shopping area to provide more even and brighter white lighting to

help improve the visibility of all road users on the footway, approaching the crossing point and using the crossing points. Enhancing one of the crossing points could have a detrimental effect on the safety of other informal crossing points as well as the night time appearance of the area.

"Kind regards

"Tim Edwards

Manager Public Lighting

Public Lighting, Signs and Road Markings, Residents Services, London Borough of Hillingdon"

Subsequent to this, **DF** and **JM** have requested the Officers to re-look at this, as they have serious concerns.

e) Unfinished work:

1 - Not all the 'keep left' signs have been finished.

2 - One lamp posts outside Lazlo Kebabs is still without electricity, and not yet working. It was understood that this was to be done during the first week of February but a second failed attempt was made on Friday to connect the power supply to the columns. **DF** to inform ARly/TD/MG when this is done, so that it can be circulated.

3 - The Parking ticket machine on the pavement outside Silver Glass has been moved but the replacement slab needs to be repaired. **DF** has inspected this and has taken the matter up with Council Officers and will similarly inform NHRA as above.

Lighting of the central boulevard trees all year round has been agreed. **DF** to find out the likely timescale.

9. Health: No report was provided as the information in Community Voice had not been especially relevant to the ward. **HL** to pass details to ARly.

10. Transport:

Croxley Rail Link: The Chairman noted that a report detailing the preferred model to enable the delivery of the scheme had been considered at the Hertfordshire Council's Cabinet on Monday 23rd February and were asked to give approval to the proposed financing of the County Council's contribution to the project. He also reported that he had seen an article on the Watford Observer website which indicated TfL, the preferred project delivery owners were not yet fully on board with that role, but the recommendation has to go to Parliament by 31 March.

Post meeting note: Subsequent to the meeting, the green light to proceed has been given by the Treasury.

Motorists' Forum: The reply from Cllr. Puddifoot to the letter written by HL on behalf of the Association was as follows:

"Your comments are noted but the decision taken remains the same, the local authority will not provide accommodation for the Motorists Forum after March 2015"

Subsequent to this there was a meeting between the Chairman of the Forum and Cllr. Puddifoot. He stated that from now on accommodation would be charged at a commercial rate of £23.50 per hour, that the services of council officers to attend meetings would no longer be provided and that moreover, he felt the purpose of the Forum was now superseded by the ability to raise issues directly with the appropriate officers via the Ward Councillors.

Finally he suggested that the Forum might qualify for free accommodation at one of the libraries. We are now looking at this option, the problem could be opening hours.

This is of course extremely disappointing. HL reported that the Forum are holding the last meeting at the Civic Centre in March and will then come to a decision on the future. It had been started by Councillor Simmonds and was held 6 times a year. Council Burrows used to attend, but had not been at any meetings for some time. DF agreed to discuss this with him.

ARly reported that the Bridleways Committee had had similar problems, but had been told they could still use a room in the Council offices. It seemed strange that one committee had been told they could no longer use a room, yet another had been told they could.

HL reported that he had recently resigned from the Gateshill Residents Association, which was often involved in traffic issues on the Estate.

Metropolitan Line:

It had recently been reported that the Met line will run 24/7 over the weekends by 2021.

The Northwood Hills station master had recently retired, so the platform flower displays are unlikely to be as magnificent in the future. DF is monitoring the situation.

The platform train arrival boards are now working at Eastcote and it is hoped that they will soon function at Northwood Hills, Northwood, Pinner and North Harrow.

Buses: The stop at the library still has a 282 stop sign remaining, from the temporary re-route when the re-generation work was being done. ARly undertook to inform TfL.

11. Police: no report.

12. Treasurer's Report:

FM confirmed that full accounts will be ready for the next meeting, so that a budget for a future project may be presented. FM & ARly still to move the NHRA account from the Nationwide to a clearing bank.

13. Secretary's Report:

The Secretary had been in contact with Gordon Collett, one of the two artists responsible for the station mural, and had been sent an image of the original artwork, with permission to use it on the website. It is also intended to use some of Gordon's photographs of the work in progress and give some background information. This is being arranged with Ray. The helicopter/elephant image may be worth a short explanation in the Echo! There had been some slight damage to the corner of the mural on the station side, DF to investigate.

It was agreed that a new Letter head/logo, perhaps using some of the Mural artwork, could be considered at the AGM.

The secretary had also received details from the Mayor of London's office about Capital Clean-Up. Grants are available to community groups who wish to clean up specific areas. This may not be applicable; but kits and vouchers are available for general tidying-up events. If the intention is to broaden our events, this may be worth investigating, as it is intended to maximise publicity. Application closes on 16th March. Details are available on the Mayor of London's website, at:

www.london.gov.uk/priorities/environment/cleaning-london/capital-clean-up?utm_source=grantannouncement&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CCU

TD agreed to apply and DF was happy to support the application.

14. The Hills Echo:

The chairman congratulated AL on the Spring edition of The Hills Echo, which he had read in draft form before it went to print. The Chairman would like to see someone stepping up to assist with the advertising bookings which cover the cost of the newsletter. It is not an onerous task but is something which would make the role of the Editor easier

15. Councillors' Report:

DF reported that the Council Budget was to be agreed at the Council meeting tomorrow.

Other issues:

Fly tipping: all residents were urged to report this to the council contact centre and if it was not subsequently cleared, then to contact one of the local councillors.

Too much litter was being left by the bridge on Joel St, again residents were asked to report it. A camera was being considered to identify if it was being left by repeat culprits.

Road resurfacing: Middleton Drive and Waller Drive have both been completed. Raisins Hill and Larkwood Drive with adjacent slip road are due for completion shortly. Elgin Avenue is to be done in the next few weeks.

Drainage issues in hand: outside the Namaste Lounge and Intoto and at the Potter St round-about.

The lampposts in Colchester Road and the alleyway fence repainting are in hand.

16. Any Other Business:

Hillside School bus stop resurfacing is not complete and needs to be checked, but ideally residents should report this as council officers are not available to monitor everything.

PS had seen youths swinging from one of the new trees outside Space. ARly undertook to review this and inform the Council should work be needed.

Post meeting note: ARly saw no damage on inspection, no further action required.

All residents/committee members were urged to report issues to the council contact centre and only if it was not subsequently cleared, to contact one of the local councillors or then bring it to the attention of this committee.

LM reported that the 1st Northwood Scouts Group needs to replace the Scout Hut on Northwood Way and are considering ways of community involvement in this project.

17. Dates for Next Meetings:

Tuesday 3rd March - Thank You Supper

Wednesday 25th March

Wednesday 22nd April

(Sunday 26th April - St Georges Day Parade: Northwood Hills 1:30pm - Hogs Back.)

(Thursday 7th May - General Election)

(Saturday 16th May - Scout Jumble Sale @ the Hogs Back 1:30pm)

Wednesday 20th May - AGM

(Saturday 6th June - EHG Fete)

Sunday 7th June - The Big Lunch

Wednesday 17th June

Wednesday 15th July

August - no meeting

Monday 14th September - Hills Echo cut-off date

Wednesday 16th September

Wednesday 21st October

Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Sunday

Saturday 14th November - Christmas Lights Switch-On

Wednesday 18th November

Sunday xx December - Evening of Community Carols

December - no meeting

The meeting closed at 9.30.