

## Northwood Hills Residents' Association

### Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 25th June 2014, at 7:00pm at Fairfield Church Hall

#### PRESENT

A total of 70+ residents and visitors attended the meeting and were warmly welcomed by Andrew Riley, the Chairman (ARly).

#### 1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Lucy Hall, Alison Jefferies, Paul Akers, Roxana Peters, and Hannah Raven.

#### 2) Presidents Opening Address

Tony Lane, President, thanked the committee for all their hard work, especially the Chairman who was also congratulated for his Highly Commended Prize in the Hillingdon Hero awards. He also paid tribute to Andrew Retter's 24 years contribution to the community as a Ward Councillor. Andrew was thanked for his unstinting work for the residents represented here tonight.

#### 3) Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

Approved. There were no matters arising.

#### 4) Chairman's Report

Andrew Riley gave a summary of events throughout the year:

The first was a brief finance report on the previous year's Jubilee event held in partnership with Northwood Residents' Association. After the final expenses, a donation of just over £2000 was made to Northwood Live at Home scheme.

In June the first annual Northwood Hills Independents Day took place, aiming to showcase the Independent Shops in Joel Street and encourage the residents to support them. It was a great success, with many shop owners reporting their busiest day ever. The event won an award from the Forum for Small Business.

In October and April, in conjunction with the Council, we had the twice yearly Northwood Hills Clean Up days.

Planning once again took up a lot of time, particularly the new developments of the UTC and Northwood School.

November saw our 5th annual Grand Christmas Lights Switch On Celebration led by Lynne Halse. Students and staff from all the schools within the Ward took part and Anne Selwood of St John's School did a fantastic job conducting the band and much more.

There were also a vast number of helpers who worked from 09:00 - 18:00 to ensure the site was safe. Thank you to everyone involved. Circa 1,000 people were in attendance and the special guests included the Mayor of Hillingdon, Father Christmas and Captain Jack Sparrow.

The Christmas lights are only possible due to the aid of the grant received from the Council and others such as St John's who sponsor the Christmas tree. Last year, for the first time we were able to fund lights for the 3 Christmas trees on the roundabout which looked spectacular.

In December, in association with Fairfield Church, an evening of Carols was held inside the William Jolle, with thanks to Christine Bushell who led this event and we hope will do the same this December.

In February Hillingdon Council invited us to make a bid for the residual Community Events money set aside in The Mayor of London Regeneration grant which had to be spent or returned. This was accepted and as a result, we are in the process of purchasing various bits of equipment which can be used by Community groups.

Our Annual Thank You Supper was held in February and Vim the owner of one of our newly opened restaurants, Himalayan Flavour kindly agreed to do the bulk of the main course cooking which was extremely well received.

Once more, in association with Fairfield, we successfully held what is now an annual Big Lunch event on Salisbury Road Green Space.

The Hills Echo continues to be the envy of other Residents' Associations both near and far. Alan, the Editor has done an amazing job with the newsletter which now more than covers its costs.

At the last AGM, we were looking for a sponsor for our website and Intoto Kitchens has offered to do so. During the year, the website has received a phenomenal 3,500+ hits, so we are now also achieving another goal, that of making it a major information channel for the Community as a whole. Ray our web master has done and continues to do a tremendous job over a number of years for which we thank him.

Tony our President has already acknowledged Andrew Retter, which I wholeheartedly endorse, but in addition to that, I would like to thank Cllr Jonathan Bianco, Cllr John Morgan, the Town Centre Regeneration Team at Hillingdon Council led by Jales Tipple, including the three external consultants, who have all been immensely supportive of what we have achieved over the last 12 months.

Nick Hurd too has also been a great supporter of the Association and he jointly chaired our second Community forum, from which we are still working on the outcomes. We have subsequently had a number of meetings during the last 12 months regarding the future of the Northwood & Pinner hospital site. Nick Hurd has also been made aware of the impact of HS2 on Northwood Hills.

Finally, the Association continues to have Committee representation on a number of external Committees and I am conscious that a number of the team have done an impressive amount of work supporting these other bodies on our behalf. Thank you.

I'm sure that there are others that I have not thanked. They will know who they are so a big thank you to anyone that I may have inadvertently missed. It's been a busy year and there are some big challenges for the coming year. Thank you for listening and thank you for your support.

#### **5) Hon. Treasurer's Report**

FM proposed a modification to the presentation of the accounts and this was accepted. The accounts were proposed and accepted by the meeting. FM was thanked for all her work in managing the accounts throughout the year.

#### **6) Election of Officers**

The officers and committee members were elected.

#### **7) Nick Hurd MP and Minister for Civil Society**

Nick Hurd very kindly gave up his time to briefly attend the meeting. He congratulated NHRA on all their hard work. He pointed out that Northwood School had become a real positive for Northwood Hills over recent years and the central government money now available for the rebuild should help it to go from strength to strength. The traffic issues are very real ones and will be monitored.

The potential sale of Northwood TFL land to a supermarket now seemed to be dead and buried, although not within Northwood Hills ward, the traffic impact, once again had been noted.

Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital definitely is now surplus to NHS requirements and the site would be likely to become another block of flats were developers not taken on. He urged the local community to step in to give the lead for a community facility to be put in its place. There was a window of opportunity which would be lost if not grasped soon.

The efforts of NHRA in Northwood Hills have achieved much, he congratulated the organisation and hoped that these would be continued.

#### **8) Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Kershaw, Hillingdon Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police**

Superintendent Kershaw, newly appointed, shared his aim of crime prevention and Hillingdon being the safest borough in London with residents not experiencing being victims of crime. The visibility of police officers he knows does a lot to enhance crime prevention and he is hoping to make that a priority.

Identity fraud and internet crime are also a key issue, ensuring that organised cyber criminals are up against a well-educated and aware population. Young residents can be a great help in this area. The Little Book of Scams was available through the NHRA website, with lots of good advice.

Speed gun training for the whole team is to be addressed, as well as a dedicated ward officer.

#### **9) Ian Cantley, Chairman, Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group and Stuart Hunt, LBH Green Spaces Area Manager**

Interesting talks were given, explaining the Woods move into local council ownership in 1928 from Kings College and Maynard Keynes. In 1978, after no coppicing in the Woods for over 50 years, the Ruislip Woods Working Party agreed a 100 year vision and the Woods Advisory Group was formed. The Ruislip Woods Trust was set up as a fund raising group for activities such as school visits.

The current activities in the Woods were covered, adders in Poors Field, all manners of groups visiting, eg schools, disabled groups, corporate days, churches, even NHRA could visit as a group, perhaps doing a Badgers watch. Any resident wishing to volunteer in the Woods would be very welcome to contact Stuart Hunt or the Ranger, Richard Hutton.

#### **10) Question Time**

Questions received from the floor were answered by the speakers and Ward Councillors Jonathan Bianco, Duncan Flynn & John Morgan. These included:

Noise and antisocial behaviour outside Arens Bar: residents were urged to report any incidents, similarly for any young peoples' behaviour on Joel St.

Twice Yearly Police Reports to be included in The Echo were requested.

A long discussion took place on parking, pot holes, speeding, rat runs and traffic issues in general. The Councillors agreed to look at resurfacing for Briarwood Avenue and Ferndown.

#### **11) Any other Business**

The flipcharts around the room were explained. The following points were added:

- 1) Use NHRA notice boards for the very things they were intended for events/changes etc.
- 2) Provide a Policing notice board clear and apparent for purpose.
- 3) Be active in finding a solution for the elderly day and longer term care in this, their residential area
- 4) Introduce resident parking permits in local roads
- 5) Poor quality of Briarwood Drive road surface
- 6) Litter problem at back of bar and KFC backing onto Briarwood Drive

#### **12) Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The chairman thanked all present for attending. The meeting closed at 9.30.