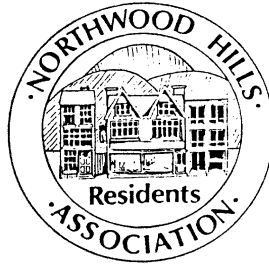


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Northwood Hills Residents' Association

Minutes of the 77th Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 20th May 2015, at
7:30pm at Heathrow UTC
(Subject to approval)

PRESENT

A total of 90+ residents and visitors attended the meeting and were warmly welcomed by Andrew Riley, the Chairman (ARly). Dwayne Philip, Vice Principal of the UTC also welcomed members of the community to the new UTC which hopes to nurture and educate young people aspiring to become engineers.

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nick Hurd, Shanti Panchani and Andrew Retter.

2) Presidents Opening Address

Professor Tony Lane, President, thanked the committee for all their hard work, especially the Chairman. The plans for the new build of Northwood School were displayed, for all to view.

3) Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 25th June 2014

Approved

4) Matters Rising

None

5) Chairman's Report

ARly welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief summary of the work of the last 12 months. Boris Johnson, Ed Miliband, Lord Baker, Group Captain Andy Bacon (Base Commander RAF Northolt) and Air Vice Marshall Atha all had made official visits to Northwood Hills so the area is very much the place to come!

The last 12 months has been a very busy time for your Residents' Association.

Shortly after the last AGM we joined forces with Fairfield Church to hold "The Big Lunch" on Salisbury Road Green. This family fun picnic event attracts more people each year and if you have never attended we would love to see you at this year's event on Sunday 7th June. It really is a great way to meet people, even neighbours who you may never have spoken with before and there will be plenty of fun for Children.

In September we held the second Independents Day event in Joel Street aimed at getting local people to use the shops and business. There were many bargains to be had and it was particularly pleasing to see businesses such as Robin Paterson, the butcher, donating as many burgers and sausages as the Scouts could cook to help the Scouts to raise money on the day. A stage was erected outside the William Jolle and several bands & groups performed throughout the day. Across the road at the Namaste Lounge there were fairground attractions for children and we were delighted that the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress spent nearly 2 hours talking with business owners and shoppers. It was particularly gratifying that at the end of their visit they said they would like to encourage community groups across Hillingdon to hold similar events.

In October last year and also earlier this month we held our bi-annual Clean up day, the latter with our new bright yellow tabards embossed with 'Northwood Hills Residents Association'. We were pleased to see an increased number of people help with this in March. Talking of keeping things neat and tidy I am delighted that Martin Weedon, one of our Road Stewards together with 2 others, has volunteered to take on the up keep of the station garden following the retirement of the station master. To get them started TFL have given them a grant of £250 and NHRA has agreed to give them a further grant of £50. I believe that the Councillors are also looking to give them a grant of £50.

Also in September and this March we published the bi-annual newsletter "The Hills Echo". This is very much the envy of other Residents' Associations and at this point would like to thank the Road Stewards and everyone involved in the distribution, which this year due to our lead Road Steward and also his wife being unwell, proved complicated.

In December we held what is now an extremely popular and permanent feature in our Calendar, the Grand Christmas Lights Switch On Event with all the schools in the Ward taking part. It was a huge event and pleasingly we were able to defray much of the cost with sponsorship from

the local businesses and also a grant from Hillingdon Council, which was very much appreciated. I for one thought that the Christmas lights looked spectacular.

In early March we held our annual supper party which this year had entertainment provided by a "mind reader" and 2 very talented local students Lois Goswell and Jess Mindel who entertained us with piano and voice.

In addition to running events, members of the Committee have also attended numerous external meetings ranging from topics such as, Health, Police, other Residents' Associations, Ruislip Woods and much, much more.

We have also looked at many planning applications and made objections where warranted. Good examples of this are 4 letters of objection regarding Haydon School's application for a 3G rugby pitch with floodlights, which was to have been used by external groups up to 10pm at night and an application to build another children's nursery behind the vets at Joel Street Farm. The 3G pitch did not receive Planning Permission. Despite the Planning Committee making a site visit at 4:45pm on a Friday evening to witness the traffic congestion in Joel Street, for some reason on that day, it was not evident and as a result, that application was approved.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, the numerous other people (too many to mention) who have helped us over the last 12 months and whilst we are totally apolitical, also include the Ward Councillors who have even taken on tasks such as sweeping the Car Park outside the Namaste Lounge ahead of the Christmas event.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to talk about the regeneration of Northwood Hills. Nobody is saying that what has been created is perfect but Northwood Hills does now look very clean smart and open for business. Prior to the regeneration 25% of the shops in Joel Street were vacant. That number has reduced considerably. The number of occupied units is now circa 95% and it is a similar story at Argyle House where occupancy has increased from 50% to 95%. Other businesses are now known to be positively looking to open in Northwood Hills.

The Post Office has been officially upgraded and now has bank status; Northwood Hills officially has a Bank! In fact it is so popular that some people wanting to make a large withdrawal at 5:00 am in the morning

couldn't wait for the Post Office to open, so blew the ATM up to make their withdrawal! Please don't do that!

I recently heard a comment "the specialist shops such as The Safe Deposit Centre, Stompbox and 7Sins are not the type of shop I would use". That may well be the case, but these specialist shops are very successful businesses and are bringing footfall into Northwood Hills particularly between the hours of 9:00 to 5:00 and businesses, which you probably do use such as Sultans, are benefiting so much so they have expanded. Our High Street is now vibrant and over time I expect that some of the food outlets may revert back to retail shops.

Northwood Hills, like other Town Centres is no longer a 9:00 to 5:00 economy. It is never going to be like it was in the 1960s with little traffic (there is a well-known photo of a dog standing in the middle of Joel Street taken in 1966) and shops such as Sainsbury are never going to return to Northwood Hills. I read in Monday's Telegraph that by 2075 supermarkets, as we know them today will have disappeared.

People are not just arriving by car. Since the regeneration works started, TFL entrance/exit weekday gate usage at the station has increased by as much as 30%

I've also heard rumours that the central reservation is going to be removed - the Councillors assure me this is not true! It is an incorrect rumour and not helpful at that. All residents of Northwood Hills were given the opportunity to comment on the designs for the new look Northwood Hills before the plans were approved.

The responses to the surveys showed that the overwhelming view of residents of Northwood Hills was they wanted the area to be more vibrant and attractive with a wider range of shops and services. I think this has been achieved;

- The overall appearance of Northwood Hills has been transformed from a forgotten shopping centre into one that is firmly on the map. One that traders in Pinner are now concerned about.
- As I said earlier, the number of empty shop units has reduced considerably and Argyle House is now at 95% occupancy.
- Interest in houses and prices are rising, making the area desirable to live in and increasing the value for residents.
- With the increase in Harlyn School to 3 forms of entry and the number of nurseries opening, the demographics are changing. New life is being drawn to the area.

It is clear that delivering what ultimately the residents requested has created benefits that are there to be seen.

Two key problems that were there before the regeneration commenced are parking and traffic congestion. The former has been improved by the increase in the number of parking spaces, something that has gone a small way to redress the issue when former Councillors some years ago agreed to sell off the car park. Ahead of the Q&A session later I've asked Cllr Bianco to talk briefly about parking and congestion as I think that may address a number of questions and concerns.

Finally, the biggest question being raised in by some residents is "why were the angled parking bays turned around resulting in the need to reverse into the parking bays?" The answer is very simple; It is not illegal (as some people think) to reverse into a main road but it is not advisable. Main roads by definition are busy and there is increased chance of collision due to the presence of more cars on the road. If an accident occurred due to someone reversing into a main road, even a minor accident, then there is the possibility of the driver being prosecuted for driving without due care and attention - none of us would wish to happen to residents. (source: www.Askthepolice). A local resident petitioned the Council on the issue in 2013 but lost.

Thank you for listening and thank you for your continued support.

6) Proposed change to the Constitution:

TD kindly introduced the Constitution amendment:

Item 10: "Road Stewards, Honorary life Members (who are not members of the Executive Committee) Local Councillors, Local Police Officers and Local Community Police Officers, may attend and participate in Committee meetings but will not be entitled to vote."

Replace this by:

"Current members or any party with an interest in Northwood Hills may attend Committee meetings and may, by invitation of the nominated Chairman of the meeting, participate; however only Committee Members will be entitled to vote."

The amendment was agreed by the meeting.

7) Hon. Treasurer's Report

FM presented the accounts which were then proposed and accepted by the meeting. FM was thanked for all her work in managing the accounts throughout the year.

8) Election of Officers

The officers and committee members as below were nominated and seconded by various residents present.

a) Election of President

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
President	Prof. Tony Lane MA BD DD (Oxon)	Prof. Tony Lane MA BD DD (Oxon)

b) Election of Chairman & Vice Chairman

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Chairman	Andrew Riley ACIB	Andrew Riley ACIB
Vice Chairman	Leo Mindel	Leo Mindel

c) Election of Committee (as a whole)

Position	Current Committee Member	Committee's Nominations
Vice Presidents	Erika Kimber, Lishman Easby, Vacant	Erika Kimber, Lishman Easby, Vacant
Hon. Secretary	Trevor Dixon	Trevor Dixon
Minutes Secretary	Maxine Goswell	Maxine Goswell
Hon. Treasurer	Fiona Morgan FCCA	Fiona Morgan FCCA
Hon. Auditor	Jane Bearman ACMA	Jane Bearman ACMA
Transport Officer	Herbert Levinger	Herbert Levinger
Planning Officer	Anila Hashim	Anila Hashim
Press Officer	Andrew Riley ACIB	Andrew Riley ACIB
Environment Officer/Consultant	Lesley Crowcroft - (Consultant)	Lesley Crowcroft - (Consultant)
Health Officer	Herbert Levinger and (co-opted) Joan Butfield	Herbert Levinger and Joan Butfield
Quartermaster	Vacant	Vacant
Police Panel	Graham Mann	Graham Mann
Road Steward Co-ordinator	Paul Akers	Vacant
Shops & Businesses Liaison	Trevor Dixon	Vacant
Schools Liaison	Lucy Hall	Vacant
Editor of The Hills Echo	Alan Lester	Alan Lester
Advertising Manager	New Post	Vacant
Web Master	Ray Krystofiak	Ray Krystofiak
Social Media Manager	New Post	Vacant
Events Committee	Lynne Halse, Christine Bushell, Leo Mindel,	Lynne Halse, Leo Mindel, Vacant
Committee Members	Jane Clayfield, Lyn Ives, Lucy Hall, Andrew Retter	Jane Clayfield, Andrew Retter

9) Presentation - Air Vice-Marshall Stuart Atha

Air Vice-Marshall Stuart Atha gave a fascinating insight into the work at Northwood Base. It would not be unreasonable to say that there is no more important a base in the whole of Europe than Northwood Nato HQ. The 2,000 staff provide advice to government for all the UK national armed services, European wide and Nato forces. Logistics for operations such as the Ebola crisis, Somalian piracy and migrant rescue in the Mediterranean are all directed from Northwood. Currently, 24 international operations are dealt with from the Base.

10) Inspector Rob Bryan, Hillingdon Borough Metropolitan Police

Inspector Bryan gave some interesting figures on the crime rates within the Borough. Burglary and violent crime are the priorities and Smart Water kits are to be available from July which allows residents to mark their property with a DNA coded spray. Prevention measures such as alleyway lighting, burglar alarms, reporting cold callers and strange vans/individual behaviour can really help reduce criminal incidents.

Antisocial behaviour is recognised as something that impacts residents even if it isn't criminal activity. Residents were urged to contact the Safer Neighbourhood team to report this.

Residents' confidence and satisfaction with the Police was also important, so improvements can be made. Inspector Bryan urged all present to sign up to the email list to receive updates/information on current police activity. This will allow the police to communicate more effectively and specifically with residents.

11) Question Time

Prior to question time, Councillor Jonathan Bianco explained about the parking consultation which is currently ongoing. Questions received from the floor were answered by the speakers and ward councillors Jonathan Bianco, Duncan Flynn & John Morgan. Some of these included:

- Parking by Hillside School
- Pelican crossing at the top of Joel St rather than a zebra crossing
- Traffic issues in Joel St and South hill Lane
- Reinstallation of recycling bins by Windsor Close
- Drug dealing outside Northwood Hills library

12) Future Priorities for the Association

The Chairman and Minutes Secretary made a plea for more residents to come forward to help run the Residents Association, as the number of active members is very low. Without more assistance, future activity will be limited.

Forthcoming Events - Please Mark Your Diaries
The Big Lunch (held in association with Fairfield Evangelical Church), Sunday 7 th June at Salisbury Road Green. A great opportunity to have fun and informally meet people you don't know.
Last date for submitting items for publication in the Autumn Hills Echo - Friday 11th September 2015
Northwood Hills Clean Up Day - Saturday 10 th October - help us keep Northwood Hills Clean and Tidy. Meet at Northwood Hills Station at 10:00.
Grand Christmas Lights Switch On Event - Saturday 14 th November.

13) President's Closing Remarks

The President thanked all present for attending. Meeting closed at 9.30.