

Minutes of the meeting of Vartry Road Residents Association

Date: 17 September 2009, at Woodberry Downs Baptist Church, Vartry Road

Present

Guests: PC Watts 772YR, PC Compton 700YR, PS Smyth P517YR, (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Bandele Oredein (Tenancy Management Officer – Homes for Haringey), Sade Ademosun (Resident Involvement Team - Homes for Haringey),

Members: Isobel H, Katie Findlay, Laura O'Connell, Mary Ramgoolam, Anthea Brook, Jade Doherty, Deborah Cawkwell, Evelyn, Patricia Lewis, Ralph Gayle, Joel Furze

Officers: Claire Cammarata (Chair), Henriette Fritsch (Treasurer), Hazel Joseph (Secretary),

Apologies for absence: Ann Maguire, Tom Cammarata, Ruby Smallin, Seble Tadesse (The Bridge NDC),

Minutes of last meeting: minutes were agreed to be a true record.

Agenda

1. Welcome

Bandele Oredein (HFH), new members and met police (SNT).

Sade (Resident Involvement Team) explained that attendance forms need to be completed at each meeting.

2. Model Constitution

The constitution was looked at with the proposed amendments added and was agreed. Deborah Cawkwell fed back to say that a number of local streets were interested in affiliating with Vartry Rd and association. It was decided by all that we would be a stronger association by amalgamating with local streets in the immediate area. It was agreed that we amend the constitution to include the streets interested in affiliating and that the name of association, Vartry Road Residents Association, should be changed to Vartry Residents Association.

3. Bank account

There had been an application made to the bank but there had been some confusion over names on the application. It was agreed that Mary would be the third signatory along with Claire and Henriette.

4. Feedback on bid for Home office funding

Joel reported back on a bid that we had submitted for funding for security devices which had been unsuccessful. Pauline Siddell (Neighbourhood link manager) had reported back to chair, that there had been no successful bids in Haringey. The safer neighbourhood team said that one possible reason for this is that they had been successful in securing a bid for window lock etc and wanted to roll this out in the Seven Sisters area. The NDC have agreed to allocate £1000 to the project but Haringey Council have been slow in agreeing to match funding. (The safer neighbourhood team estimates that the scheme would cost £2000).

5. Seven Sisters SNT – briefings about specific issues in neighbourhood

a. The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) was set up in December 2008 to address burglary, motor vehicle and other crime in the area. They have been communicating with neighbourhood on crime prevention especially reminding people to lock windows and doors when out.

b. St Mungo's Hostel in Vartry Rd

The police reported that there was some success with the residents of the hostel, but that some of the people living in the hostel continue to commit criminal offences. There is a feasibility study/proposal to extend the facility to create an additional 5 flats. An overwhelming majority of the members were opposed to this, particularly as it was felt by several community partners and members, that the existing site was too small for more accommodation

Action:

- I. The Planning office was to be contacted by Sade to see how far the plans have gone.
- II. SNT said they would speak to the manager to see if he has any information.
- III. The council was to be approached to see if it is going through

c. Burglary

There have been a number of burglaries in Vartry Road. The SNT suggested anti climb paint. One of the issues is the access from Amhurst Park Rd (London Borough of Hackney) into Vartry Road - it is possible to gain direct access from Amhurst Pk Rd into the gardens in Vartry Road (London Borough of Haringey). Both boroughs are aware of the problem but each claim that the other is responsible for securing the properties. SNT offered Crime Prevention advice.

d. Prostitution

Police are aware of 3 girls who have started working in the area and have been working hard to move the girls on.

e. Fly Tipping

Members need to be pro-active and call the council immediately as this is a problem in the area.

6. **Tenancy Management Officer – briefings about role**

Questions and answers - regarding housing issues

a. Empty properties

Bandele Oredein said that most of the properties on Vartry Road are privately owned and so the council has no power over these. He said if there are any empty council properties then it takes up to 6 months to evict squatters.

7. **AOB:** Funding forms to be completed and signed when bank account set up. Once we have funding we will make a contribution to the church for the let of their premises for meetings.

Next meeting: Thursday 14 January 2010 at Woodberry Down Baptist Church, from 6.30-8pm.