



**Vartry Residents' Association
GENERAL MEETING
6:30-8:30pm Thursday 14 January 2010
Woodberry Downs Baptist Church
MINUTES**

Attendance

Guests

Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT): Police Sergeant (PS) Smyth,
Police Constable (PC) Watts, Police Constable (PC) Crompton
Haringey Enforcement: Brian Ellick

Residents

Mary Ramgoolam, Deborah Cawkwell, Marcus Haas, Cllr Dhiren Basu, David Bennie, Roger Harris, Rev Charles Mugenyi, Tess Landy, Barry Morgan, Evelyn Kerrigan-Lebloch, Ruby Smallin, Patricia Lewis, Gordon Brodie, Ben Aveston

Officers

Claire Cammarata (Chair), Henriette Fritzsche (Treasurer), Hazel Joseph (Secretary), Joel Furze (Projects Manager)

Apologies

Residents: Caroline Smart, Grace Watts, Ann Maguire

Guests: Sade Ademosun, Homes for Haringey (HFH); Seble Tadesse, New Deal for Communities (NDC)

Matters arising from the previous meeting

St Mungo's proposed extension

SNT had spoken to the Manager of St Mungo's who seemed to think that the proposed extension was not going ahead due to lack of space. However, Rev Charles Mugenyi (Woodberry Down

Baptist Church, who is the landlord of St Mungo's) was of the opinion that there were still plans to put up a structure on the site (in the courtyard) and that this might be temporary - an additional 5 flats. A feasibility study with architects drawings dated November 2007 was circulated. It was felt that a temporary structure would not be acceptable and that if an extension were to be planned, then this should be a proposal that must be made available for public scrutiny. In AOB it was agreed that Charles was to clarify with the church authorities whether St Mungo's were intending to extend existing premises. Following the meeting, Bennie agreed to also work on following this up.

***ACTION: Bennie & Charles to follow up**

AGENDA

1) *Welcome*

To all new residents and guests.

2) *Minutes from last meeting*

Minutes agreed to be a true record.

3) *Running costs*

Feedback on 'start-up' funding application: grant application was successful and £475 was awarded to the association for running costs by Homes for Haringey.

4) *Bank account*

Approval of telephone banking : the Treasurer proposed that we should opt for telephone banking and the motion was agreed by a show of hands.

***ACTION: Treasurer (Henriette) to set up telephone banking**

5) *SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team)*

PS Tom Smyth: feedback on anti-burglary project: The SNT reported that reduction of burglaries in Vartry Road was a priority for them as it had the highest reported amount of break-ins (26 in an 18 month period). The SNT has secured a sum of £1000 to purchase locks. It was hoped that the NDC would match fund the initiative but due to lack of funds, they are unable to do so. There will be a cost of £400 for fitting the locks, but PS Tom Smyth was hopeful that funding could be found for this.

A resident also reported that there was a burglary problem in Richmond Road. His home had been recently burgled as well as 3 other homes to his knowledge. SNT said that the anti-burglary project would be extended if possible, but that this would have to be evaluated in terms of priority across the area.

The SNT anti-burglary project to fit secure locks was welcomed by residents. In addition, the SNT pointed out that residents could request advice on the security of their own home and that an officer could make an evaluation visit.

It was pointed out that a problem shared by both Vartry Road and Richmond Road was ease of access to back gardens. For Vartry Road, there was access via the flats on Amhurst Park Road and via Paignton Park. Paignton Park was also the access point for recent burglaries in Richmond Road. Even if a resident erected a barrier, there still could be access to their home via a neighbour's garden if they did not have a barrier.

One resident reported that following a burglary she was not informed about what happened after the inquiry. The SNT team said that procedures have now changed and that all victims of crime now should receive follow-up information on the status of the investigation.

Regarding ease of access to back gardens, it was also pointed out that some cats in homes which backed on to Paignton Park had been shot and injured/killed with an airgun. The SNT had followed this up with house calls and leafleting, but had nothing further to report.

6) *Haringey Enforcement*

Brian Ellick: feedback on 'Clean Sweep' initiative & resident involvement re rubbish & dumping: Brian reported that Festus Akenboli had been working to resolve long outstanding issues such as fly tipping, rubbish in yards, and other environmental issues. Brian had been on a 'walkabout' of the local area and had leafleted residents who were in breach. 9 fixed penalties (to date) had been issued to people who have failed to clear their rubbish (usually businesses). 13 fixed penalties had been issued for rubbish in front yards. 900 properties have been leafleted about dog fouling.

Clean sweep initiative takes place on 25 January 2010 in the area. Graffiti will be removed and a deep clean made.

7) *Association name*

Proposal of new name to reflect extension to neighbouring streets: it was felt that the name 'Vartry Residents Association' might not be sufficiently inclusive to the additional streets; they might think it had nothing to do with them if they did not live in Vartry Road. It was agreed that suggestions for the change should be submitted by email or via the website (http://www.vartry.org/contact_us/). An ad was to be put in Haringey People, Joel will design a flyer to be put in key public spaces (for example on noticeboard in park). The proposals will be brought to the next meeting where a decision will be made.

*ACTION: Joel to design publicity flyer

8) *Demonstration of new website*

Deborah gave a demonstration of the features of the new residents' association website and navigated the members through the site. The address is:

<http://www.vartry.org>

Thank you Deborah for all the hard work in developing the site. Can any photos of the local area for the website be sent via the website. There is a 'contact us' page, where people can send a photo or a message at:
http://vartry.org/contact_us/

9) *What's happening now & needs your support* ***Winter Shelter at Woodberry Downs Baptist Church***

Rev Charles Mugenyi asked for help in running the winter shelter which will run for 6 weeks from Friday 29 January 2010 to 2 March 2010. Volunteers are needed for the evening/night/breakfast shifts. Donation of socks, toiletries, canned food, etc are welcome.

Please contact Rev Charles Mugenyi if you can help:
190 Vartry Road, South Tottenham, London N15 6RA
Tel: 020 8802 2846 / Fax: 020 8802 3323
Email: woodberrydown01@aol.com

There is also more information about this on the residents' association website on the 'events' page:
<http://vartry.org/events/>

10) Any other business (AOB) - “YOUR SAY!”

Homes for Haringey Special Grant for Residents' Associations

Henriette suggested that we applied for the Homes for Haringey grant to fund the further development of the website to incorporate a web 'Forum' (interactive noticeboard, where members can discuss issues) and also to provide funding for some training for those unfamiliar with computers and the internet to enable them to participate in the website activity. It was unanimously agreed that we should submit our proposal for this special grant.

*ACTION: Henriette to submit application for this grant

St Mungo's

Residents requested clarification on any proposal regarding extension of the existing site.

*ACTION: Charles and Bennie to investigate

Grants

Cllr Dhiren Basu suggested that the group should apply to Haringey Council for the 'Making a Difference Grant'.

Action Points

- Bennie and Charles to follow up on St Mungo's proposed extension
- Treasurer (Henriette) to set up telephone banking
- Joel to design publicity flyer
- Henriette to submit application for Homes for Haringey Special Grant for Residents' Association for funding to extend website and provide some training

Next Meeting

Thursday 25 March 2010