

# **Vartry Community Residents' Association**

[www.vartry.org](http://www.vartry.org)

## **GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**7.30 pm**

**Woodberry Down Baptist Church**

## **MINUTES**

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Guests:** Charles Mugenyi (Pastor, Woodberry Down Baptist Church), Andy Topp, London Wildlife Trust, Josh Nawras, The Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Russell King, Bridge Renewal Trust, Sade Ademosun, Haringey Residents Involvement Scheme, Cllr Dhiren Basu.

**Residents:** RS, PL, GB, DB, AB, NB, JF, HF, AN, CN, AC, MR, CG, ME, AS, JS, RH, LS, RE, LA, DC, KA, RI.

**Apologies:** From residents: CC, TC.

From our partners: Tom Smyth (Police); Brian Ellick, Haringey Street Enforcement, Claire Kober (Leader, Haringey Council).

### **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. **Minutes of the last General Meeting & matters arising from them**

The Minutes of the last General Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010 were read. A vote was taken that they be accepted as a true record and unanimously agreed.

Matters arising from the Minutes: these are listed with item Number 6 'Residents' Issues' below.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

At present we are waiting to receive the latest tranche of our grant from Homes for Haringey. There was nothing further to report.

4. **Volunteers for vacant committee and officer positions:**

There are currently eight members on our committee. Volunteers were requested, and Kennedy Afriyie volunteered. A vote was taken that he be accepted as a member of the committee and unanimously agreed. Sade Ademosun reminded the committee that they must appoint a representative who lives in Haringey's social housing to continue to qualify for Homes for Haringey's grant for our running costs. She will contact the Frederic Messer Estate Residents Association to see if one of their officers would volunteer to join our committee.

5. **Guest speaker: Andy Topp, London Wildlife Trust.**

London Wildlife Trust works with groups across Hackney and beyond. They are looking for “Community Champions” who will receive training and support. They would like to make a formal partnership with us soon. CG asked him about his current projects. They are encouraging bird and animal life with the planting of shrubs that provide them with food, and these can be in residents’ gardens. They are liaising with local schools and with St. Mungo’s for this purpose. They hold bat box and bird box-making workshops. AB asked if he could check that he is not duplicating the activities of BTCV in our area. He thought it would be a good idea to liaise and form a network of like-minded groups. JF asked how this partnership would be structured. He said that LWLT does not impose a structure; they usually have a regular monthly session with each group focussing on their project. JF asked if we could do one-off events, and he said that we could. ME and CG volunteered to be Community Champions. DB asked if we could agree to proceed towards a formal agreement. A vote was taken and unanimously agreed. JF will take it to the next Committee Meeting and then back to the next General Meeting.

**5. Guest speaker: Josh Nawras, The Bernie Grant Arts Centre, Tottenham.**

The BGAC has a project – “The Great Book of Tottenham”, which aims to record and celebrate the cultural diversity of the lives of the people of Tottenham over the course of one year, using photography, video, music, and verbal testimony. This will be in various ‘manifestations’ including a book of record. It will include one person per street to pass on the oral history of their neighbourhood. Their flyer gives full details. He asked if we could look out for suitable candidates.

**6. Matters arising and residents’ issues.**

RE stated that (as Chair of the Governors of Stamford Hill Primary School) she would be happy to be their channel of contact with us.

CG asked if the mattresses dumped in Vartry Communities’ streets could be reported. Cclr. DB reported that Candler Street suffered the most dumping of the streets in our Association. We can ask for extra street bins but they can also attract dumping. MR: Front gardens are also used for dumping and they are attracting vermin. Landlords are notoriously difficult to contact. DB: The corner of St. John’s Road and Vartry Road has an overhanging shrub, which is sheltering dumping; we need to report front gardens that are being used for dumping household waste. JF: We have the Haringey Street Enforcement phone number for this problem in our website directory, and we shall also contact Brian Ellick. **JF to Action.**

DB: could we chase up Thames Water (their contractors Murphy) to complete the installation of the new mains as the area has been pitted with their earthworks since the beginning of April.

DB: there is concern about the continuing maintenance of Haringey parks and green spaces. Residents have complained that Paignton Park “is in a disgusting state”: overflowing bins and lots of broken glass, outdoor drinking and picnicking rubbish and dumping of household items there after Easter. The Friends of Paignton Park do not currently list contact details on the Council’s website. DB asked that we register our concern about parks services in a motion: “That this groups supports the campaign to support Haringey’s parks services”. The motion was put to the vote and passed unanimously. **To Action.**

Regarding our concern for St. Ann’s Road Library, Cclr. DB informed the meeting that Haringey Council had decided to protect library services.

ME reported a mugger on Holmdale Terrace last week at 5 p.m. when a handbag and a mobile phone were snatched. The individual is known to the police and comes from Enfield. Residents were advised to be careful but reminded that this street is always a problem for police referral as it lies on the boundary between Haringey & Hackney (on the S. side of the minimarket).

AN reported a pothole in Vartry Road. RH offered to report it.

Sade Ademosun announced that Haringey Council is recruiting a “Scrutiny Group” to encourage residents to report on council services, and asked for volunteers who are good at decision-taking to contact her or Sheryl Hendrickson (Senior Resident Involvement Officer) on 020 8489 4475, or email: [sheryl.hendrickson@homesforharingey.org](mailto:sheryl.hendrickson@homesforharingey.org) for an information pack. They are recruiting from April to June 2011.

JF announced that we would be holding an event in Paignton Park, “The Big Lunch”, on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. The time is to be decided. It will have games and events. DB asked if the “Big Lunch” event would need permission to hold in Paignton Park. The small social area at the bottom of Paignton Road would be suitable; this could be an annual event. It is hoped that organisation can be minimal, just a leaflet. We can access translation services via Sade Ademosun.

JF reported that Maxine Lynch’s arrangement for the allotment fence in Franklin Street to be moved closer to the pavement had now taken place. The Council had added two further allotment areas. There had been no further complaints from residents. The meeting congratulated all concerned with this successful result.

## **7. Community Activities.**

Guerilla Gardening: AS reported on progress on the Holmdale Terrace raised bed and the difficulty in discouraging rubbish dumping there. The problem of its ongoing maintenance was discussed. JF suggested that resident volunteers could meet there once every two months to maintain it and asked volunteers to make sure they are on the GG mailing list.

HF asked for residents to look out for new trees recently planted and to do what they could to water them during the current drought (adopt a tree).

## **8. AOB.**

JF asked residents to let the committee know if they had any new ideas for projects and groups. The meeting thanked DC for maintaining our website and her IT services. CM thanked DC and another resident for doing laundry for homeless people for a fortnight. CM also requested that a representative from St. Mungo’s be invited to the next general meeting.

The meeting was closed. The date of the next meeting would be posted on our website.