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General Meeting 7:00pm Friday 12th October 2012 The Triangle Centre, Paignton Park

Minutes

Attendance

Guests:

Brian Ellick, Team Leader, Neighbourhood Action Team (Haringey Council); Stelakis Vachos, Recycling Manager from Veolia; Pauline Syddell, Community Neighbourhood Watch Link Manager; PCSO Yaman, PCSO Matabur, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Seven Sisters (SNT); Andy Topp, The London Wildlife Trust (LWT); Cllr Joe Goldberg (Haringey Council).

Residents: FD, AM, PL, JB, KB, RH, JH, JS, RF, TC, CD, LP, TL, EJ, TS, SC, PT, LB, MH

Committee: DB, JF, HF, DC, RS, MR, GW, NW, CC,

Apologies: AB (Resident), Charles Mugenyi (Rev'd, Woodberry Down Baptist Church), SGT Steve Groome and PC Chris Watts (SNT), Cllr Claire Kober (Haringey Council),

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions:

Chair (DB) opened the meeting and welcomed guests and residents. Residents and guests introduced themselves.

2. Rubbish/recycling collection:

Brain Ellick outlined his role as team leader for the Neighbourhood Action Team (NAT) and his responsibilities regarding waste disposal:

- Waste contract monitoring and management (refuse, recycling, street cleaning, gritting, fly-tipping, rubbish in front gardens, graffiti & fly posting, dog fouling).

The team also take enforcement action on a range of street offences and monitor & inspect highway maintenance and safety.

In 2009, the council undertook a survey/consultation with residents regarding waste and recycling which helped shape the current waste & recycling contract with Veolia. The contract with Veolia is set to deliver a 40 percent recycling rate by 2015.

Stelakis Vachos (Veolia) explained that phases 1 & 2 had been rolled out in the west of the borough. Following the first 2 phases, recycling had increased by 100 tonnes per week. The final phase of the changes to waste collection is now being introduced in the east of the borough. Residents should have received a leaflet detailing the main changes.* Recycling will be collected weekly with non-recyclable waste collected every other week:

Weekly recycling: a bigger wheelie bin (240l) will be provided to homes that can accommodate the bin at the front of the property. If not possible, green recycling sacks will be provided. The following items can be recycled - paper, cardboard, carton, plastic, tins and cans, glass bottles and jars.

Weekly food waste recycling: Food waste recycling is part of the weekly recycling service. Food waste now includes cooked and uncooked foods. The food can be placed into the recycling waste box or into approved compostable liners - not plastic bags.

Fortnightly collections non-recyclable waste.

There may be a change to the collection day in the future and residents will be notified if this happens.

* Veolia Contact Centre – for detailed information:

- enquiries.haringey@veolia.co.uk
- 020 8885 7700 (8:30-17:30)
- www.veolia.co.uk/haringey
- www.haringey.gov.uk

Resident feedback:

Jubb Powell House (Viridian Housing) - concerns raised by the manager that there is not sufficient space for all the bins required to cater for residents recycling and that non-residents are using the bins outside the property.

Action: NAT to visit.

A lot of concern regarding litter and street cleaning, particularly along the junctions onto Seven Sisters Rd and in Candler St:

A resident in Vartry Rd commented that members of the church on the corner of Seven Sisters Rd continually needed to sweep outside the church as there was so much litter there.

Other residents described the volume of litter in Candler Street and lack of bins which were once present. Although the council had inspected the cleanliness of the street, the inspections had taken place around the same time each day which didn't present a true picture of the street. The bins had not been replaced as they had attracted dumping. This had not helped ease the problems in Candler St.

Residents were also concerned about the impact of the new garage on the junction of Candler St and Seven Sisters Rd. One resident asked if the council would be monitoring the garage. Another resident asked that the bin near the bus stop outside the telephone exchange be replaced. This was removed after vandalism.

Members also raised frustrations about the mess left in streets after collections.

Brian Ellick reported that Candler St was swept twice a week and Seven Sisters Rd is constantly being swept which also included a 50m sweep down adjoining roads. He urged residents to report any mess left after waste collections.

Action: NAT to monitor the street cleaning in the area, particularly in Candler Street and review the issue of bins in and around Candler St.

3. Crime and Security issues:

PCSO Yaman and Pauline Syddell advised residents about security issues and scams:

Residents to be aware that burglary often increased in the run up to Christmas and to consider security measures like timers for lights.

Be aware of bogus callers -always ask for ID then call and check it.

Be aware of anyone calling from a bank and asking for pin numbers. A current scam involves a caller purporting to be from a bank or police. The suspect tells the resident that their bank account has been compromised in some way. The resident may be asked to ring the bank back using the phone number printed on the back of their bank card. This helps to convince them that the call is genuine. However, the fraudster has kept the telephone line open so even though the resident believes they have called the bank, they remain connected to the fraudster. In many cases, the

fraudster is able to obtain the person's name, address, bank details and pin and card which are then used fraudulently.

There is a new service to help recover stolen 'smart' phones that have tracking applications installed and makes it possible to locate a phone using its GPS signal. The technology enables police to track phones on behalf of victims of phone theft, where possible, they will recover the phone and deal with any suspects.

If a phone with an 'app' installed has been lost, the owner can log on to the application's website, activate the application and locate the handset. However, if a phone is stolen, the owner should make contact with the police as soon as possible, either via the 999 emergency number or if you are not able to report the theft immediately on the 101 number. In both instances you will need to give the police operator your logging in details. It is strongly recommended that owners rely on the police rather than try to recover stolen phones themselves, as this could place them in difficult or even dangerous situations.

Operation Hawk: This is an ongoing operation to crack down on drug crime in the borough and the police are requesting any information from the public. If you have any concerns or suspicions, please report it. If you witness something directly call 999 and if you are not able to do at that time, please call 101 when you can, to report it.

Resident feedback:

Candler Street - Residents reported that drug dealing is occurring on the street. *Police request all feedback either on 999 when immediately witnessing or on 101 to report.*

Residents in Vartry Road reported a woman that often sifts through rubbish in front gardens and wanted to know if this was illegal.

This is not illegal however if residents witness anything beyond this, to report it.

Several residents wanted feedback on a suspected stabbing that had happened on Seven Sisters Rd/St Ann's Rd at sometime between the 10th and 11th October.

Several areas of both roads had been cordoned off by the police.

Action: Police/SNT to report back on stabbing incident

4. Plans for improvements to Paignton Park:

Andy Topp, from LWT has been working around the community over the last 18 months with a number of projects, alongside the Wildlife Volunteers, Friends of Paignton Park, The Parks Dept and the VCRA.

LWT are planning with community partners, to plant a hedge, to attract wildlife on the border of Paignton Park alongside Eastbourne Rd. The planting would be a mix of British native species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Oak, Ash. This would be planted in sections, in order to maintain access and reduce residents' concerns about a 'barrier' that might encourage crime. It would need to be maintained every couple of years by local volunteers.

Resident feedback:

A resident commented that she had witnessed people using areas of Paignton Park as a toilet and was concerned that this might further attract antisocial behaviour.

Some residents concerned that hedging might encourage crime. Historically, there used to be hedge through the centre of the current park which residents felt was unsafe as it was overgrown and dense.

Chair commented about the issue of maintenance: volunteers might not always be residing locally in the future so that any new planting should consider this.

Residents suggested lower level planting, possibly using plants that might be less dense. There was some discussion though that even shrubs such as rose or lavender needed regular pruning e.g. raised bed at the bottom of Franklin St.

A resident reported that the lighting down the centre of Paignton Park was not working.

Action: LWT and partners to look at choice of planting for hedge.

Action: Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to contact Parks Dept re: lighting in park

Other projects coordinated by LWT, coming up:

Sunday 28th October, from 11am-3pm at Stamford Hill Primary School, Berkeley Rd, Tottenham N15 6HD *Help us with school garden reconstruction*

Friday 2nd November, from 10am – 3pm at East Reservoir Community Garden, 1 Newington Close, London N4 2RH *Half Term Photography Day (cameras provided)*

Wildlife Photography Competition at Vartry Community Residents' Association
Prizes – 12 Olympus SP-62OUZ Cameras and free entry to Wildlife Photographer of the Year

LWT Contact details: Andy on 07834 867422 atop@wildlondon.org.uk

5. Manchester Gardens:

Chair reported that we had made a link with HAGA who were interested in helping us to maintain the gardens. We hope to work with other organisations in the area to maintain small structures that are central to our community.

Manchester Gardens is neglected and no longer has a park keeper. The barbs from the hawthorn bushes are encroaching onto the pavement and bindweed is prolific. Residents reported that there is drinking happening in the park and also wire shredding, for scrap metal. A resident commented that the wire shredding had been cleaned up after the offer of a broom, however for many people this is off-putting. Another resident reported that there is a big problem with dog fouling which also deters families and children. The signs concerning dog mess need to be replaced.

Action: VCRA volunteers will be starting the first clear up of the gardens on Sat 13th October. It is hoped that this will be the first of a series of regular maintenance projects in Manchester Gardens.

Cllr Goldberg discussed the issues concerning parks in the borough. 25% of Haringey is covered in green spaces. Over the last decade, these spaces have been markedly improved with many gaining 'green flag' status. The cuts in public spending has meant that the Parks Services have seen a 50% cut in their overall budget which is going to impact particularly on smaller green spaces. He added that he did not want to see parks returning to the state they were in, in the 1980's and is keen to support residents in maintaining the improvements that they had made.

Action: Cllr Goldberg, Pauline Syddell, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to contact Parks Dept re: lighting in Paignton Park.

Action: Cllr Goldberg to feedback on the issues raised regarding Manchester Gardens.

6. Night Shelter and Food Bank

Chair read out letter from Charles Mugenyi, regarding the winter shelter project:

Woodberry Down church on Vartry Road operates a Winter Night Shelter in conjunction with fourteen other churches across all denominations in the Haringey borough during the coldest months of year from December to March. The winter shelter has been in operation since 2009. Although,

the shelter operates from December, Woodberry Down opens its doors from end of January to mid March for six or seven weeks only.

The **winter shelter** is run and provided for by volunteers only from local churches and their communities. The winter shelter is now seen as a partnership of local communities and churches in helping the homeless. The winter shelter volunteers take turn to provide and serve evening meals and breakfast, prepare sleeping area for up to 12 people per night; do bedding laundry and provide takeaway sandwiches each morning.

The overall winter shelter coordinator, Lia Leonis provides extra services to the shelter guests, working with the Haringey council housing department, housing associations and other statutory organisations to help men and women come off the streets and help them deal with some of the issues that lead to homelessness.

A food bank – we are increasingly providing emergency food to those in need who just turn up on our church doors. Many are strangers but we are getting to know them as they may come again. Some of these live in our immediate community - on Vartry Road.

Our food bank is not sophisticated: it constitutes dry foods including tinned food – *allsorts*, long life milk and bread which we keep frozen.

We also get demand for money, but we don't give out cash or hand out cheques: we charge people's gas or electricity keys with a maximum of £10 if it is a family but usually £5 and also can buy weekly bus pass or a charge Oyster cards. Before we do this, a person has to validate their claims and there are ways to vet their requests.

The reason for bringing this to the meeting is to inform our neighbourhood some of the services we at the church provide in the community and also to invite some you who may feel inclined to support these projects in one fashion or another.

There are many ways you can support this work, a) by volunteering at the winter shelter – more information on the church website. Marcus, Deborah, Joe and Henrietta and Claire have been involved in the shelter. b) You can contribute to our Food bank by providing items indicated above.

The church is open on Wednesdays from 10am-8pm, for any other days please call 02088022846, if you would like to drop anything.

Kind regards, Rev'd Charles Mugenyi

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Residents discussed the impact of cuts to welfare benefits in relation to vulnerable residents and pensioners. The Manager of Jubb Powell House reported on the impact on their residents. Another resident commented on a recent 'Moneybox' programme on Radio 4 that had raised an issue concerning council tax benefits when pensioners are also living in the same household with a person not entitled to council tax benefit/relief.

A resident asked about cuts to Haringey's Leisure Services and particularly the impact on Tottenham Green Leisure Centre for staff and users.

Cllr Goldberg explained that Haringey Council was one of the last remaining council's to run its own leisure centres. The decision to hand over the contract is expected to lead to better facilities for residents and it is expected that staff will transfer.

7. Any additional items

There were no other items. Chair thanked guests and residents.

The next committee and general meetings are still to be confirmed.