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Annual General Meeting
7:00pm Thursday 17th October 2013
Woodberry Down Baptist Church
Annual General Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Guests:

Pauline Syddell (Community Neighbourhood Watch Link Manager, Haringey Borough),
Gloria Obilana (Manor House PACT Community Engagement Officer),
Cllr Dhiren Basu (Haringey Council)

Residents:

SM, CM, DK, AB, JK, PK, GK, JS, GC, HG, PW, BM, MM, CK, DC, LB

Committee:

DB, JF, HF, RS, MR, NW, CC,
Apologies: CM

AGENDA

Welcome and introductions:

Chair (DB) opened the meeting and welcomed guests and residents. Residents and guests introduced themselves. Items added to the agenda included information about the Manor House Development Trust and the campaign to save St Ann's Hospital.

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM):

Chair drew attention to the proposed constitutional change item in the last AGM minutes which was misleading. The item should have read:

'Under our present constitution we are able to elect up to a maximum of eight committee members. Chair proposed that this should be amended to up to 12 members in total with up to 2 non-resident members. The additional members would help support the work of the RA and time commitments of the current committee.'

A vote was taken that the minutes of the AGM on the 19 July 2012 be accepted as a true record. This was agreed without objection. **Proposal passed without opposition.**

Feedback from Police/Safer Neighbourhood Team and matters arising:

Pauline Syddell sent apologies from Sue Marsh (APS) and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, Seven Sisters (SNT). Shift patterns meant that they were unable to attend the meeting.

Main news from the local police:

- Through Hi-Visibility policing and crime prevention visits there has been a significant drop in house burglaries compared with this time last year with none around the VCRA area. Coming up to Christmas, always use mortice locks, consider timers and be wary about leaving empty packaging outside. Also to be aware of open bags/purses at public events.
- There have been a number of thefts from motor vehicles. Some of these were from vehicles that had been left unlocked but also where the front driver/passenger door window had been smashed and items taken. Where possible be careful about locking vehicles and ensuring items are not left inside.

- Nationally there has been an increase in the theft of the catalytic converter portion of a vehicles's exhaust system. These are sold to unscrupulous scrap metal dealers for the platinum and other metals inside. As a result, the vehicle is disabled and repairs are costly. If you see anything suspicious, report it.
- Although there has not been many thefts of motor cycles, police are asking owners to be extra vigilant as those that have been stolen recently have had locks removed and have been placed in the rear of vehicles and taken away.

There are 2 SNT drop-in surgeries or street briefings coming up:
 02/12/13 between 10 -11am at the Cafe in Markfield Recreational Ground, N15
 18/12/13 between 5 – 7pm at Arena Retail Park, N4

If you would like to communicate directly to the Seven Sisters Team, they can be contacted on 0208 721 2671 or sevensisters.snt@met.police.uk
 The SNT is not a 24hr emergency response team. In an emergency call 999. You can also contact the local police on 101.

Resident feedback:

A resident in Vartry Road explained that his scooter had recently been stolen and that extra CCTV would make him feel safer. There was a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of increased surveillance.

JF suggested possibility of approaching the council for some ground anchors in the street for motor cycles and for some bicycle racks in the area.

Residents raised incidents of crimes including 2 stabbing incidents that had not been reported on; one in a betting shop on Seven Sisters Rd that had spilled over into Candler St and one in Vartry Rd.

Cllr Dhiren Basu raised the question of prostitution which he had witnessed coming back late from meetings.

Action:

Pauline Syddell to feedback on issues raised.

Cllr Dhiren Basu to approach the council regarding ground anchors and bicycle racks.

Manor House Development Trust

Gloria Obilana, a Woodberry Down resident is the Manor House PACT Community Engagement Officer. The Manor House PACT (Prepare, Adapt, Connect, Thrive) is a 3 year project funded by the Big Lottery Fund's Communities Living Sustainability programme. The aim is to empower local people to make greener choices in their homes, get access to training and to address climate change. VCRA area falls within the area funded by the project. PACT home is offering residents living in the area a free home energy assessment and advice on making homes warmer and saving money on bills. PACT Meals and Festivals will celebrate healthy, sustainable food with meals taking place in local community hubs. PACT training will provide a range of training opportunities helping local people to develop skills and improve access to jobs in the sustainability sector. PACT Open Spaces is offering free wildlife and foraging walks and aims to increase the involvement of local people in influencing how open spaces are managed.

For more information: www.manorhousepact.org.uk

Follow: @manorhouseimpact on Twitter

Or email/phone: gloria.obilana@mhdt.org.uk 0208 356 7590

Update on the campaign to save St Ann's Hospital

DK who is involved with the campaign introduced this item:

St Ann's hospital is the only hospital in Haringey and yet it has to serve a population of over ¼ million people. While the population has grown by 10% in the last ten years, health provision is shrinking and health inequalities are increasing.

The Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust plans to sell off two thirds of the hospital site to developers for proposed housing development. Services have already been run down despite the wards being full when current mental health provision needs to be improved including comprehensive primary care, outpatient facilities and onsite after care yet services. So far action by local people has twice stopped the mental health wards from being moved to Chase Farm Hospital in Enfield.

Instead of the same services on a smaller site, why not transform St Ann's into a modern hospital for Haringey? The site is large enough to provide more extensive and better facilities for a wide range of urgent health needs.

The planning application is due to be submitted and it is vital that local people have their say to ensure that redevelopment meets the health, jobs and training needs of Haringey. Residents can look at the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust plans at www.beh-nht.nhs.uk and lobby the Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group for a health needs assessment.

Join the campaign which meets at Chestnuts Community Centre, 280 St Ann's Road, N15 on the last Monday of each month.

Email: haringeyneedsstannshospital@gmail.com

Phone: 07831 414262

Resident feedback:

There was discussion about the campaign including continuing concerns from residents about the inadequate provision of primary health care; difficulty in seeing a GP and lack of hospital facilities in Haringey and suggestions that the Laurels Health Centre be incorporated into the site.

Chair: The site owner is still to formally submit the planning application and will legally be required to engage in public consultation. The proposal at the moment looks to be 500 homes with ¼ of the site retained for health care.

Treasurer's report and events during the year

HF reported on events from 2012 up until now including a report on finance:

The RA started 2012 **with assets** of £5.91. We received a 'Making the Difference' grant of £2000 to fund our free to residents' window box events in 2011/12 in association with the London Wildlife Trust (LWT). Many of our community events over 2011/2012 were supported by LWT and the link with them has also enabled us to make contact with local people and other organisations. Costs for our wildlife events included £1605 for materials and publicity for the projects, £300 for hall hire, £71.94 for a VCRA banner and £22.09 on refreshments.

Fundraising activities at our wildlife events in early 2012 raised £94.27 towards our costs. These included hall hire which apart from our funding from 'Making the Difference' grant amounted to £40. We also spent a total of £88.50 on web costs: flickr account, website hosting and Domain name renewals during 2012.

In December we held a successful community Christmas event in association with the Triangle Community Centre alongside stalls from local organisations. Activities included a Santa's Grotto, Christmas wreath making, craft activities, buzz wire and face painting, a Tombola, Zumba demonstration and cakes and refreshments. Sainsbury's at Stamford Hill kindly supported us with a £150 store card towards refreshment costs and items for the Tombola. Residents also supplied cakes, craft ideas, gave up their time to host stalls and activities and collected items for the Christmas wreaths. The manager of Sainsbury's, Stamford Hill attended as well as the Mayor of Haringey and the event raised a total of £244 for the RA.

After expenses, we began 2013 with £216.65 and also carried over £70.27 from the Sainsbury's gift card. In July 2013 we held a Big Lunch event in the Park which we are aiming to make a regular community summer event. We had musicians and activities and the event was supported by local residents. Despite the fact that it was the Wimbledon final on the day, the event was attended by 50 to 100 people. We spent £42.80 on refreshments which leaves £27.47 remaining on our Sainsbury's card. After web costs of £38 to date, we have a balance of £178.65.

Structure of the Residents' Association

Since the last AGM we have lost 3 members of the committee which currently stands at 7 residents and 1 non-resident. HF discussed the role of committee members who meet to plan the agenda for meetings of the RA. There is no fixed time period for committee membership. Chair asked if there were any residents present who might be interested in joining the committee and residents HG and CK both volunteered. The committee now comprises 10 in total with 9 residents: DB, JF, HF, RS, MR, NW, CC, HG, CK and 1 non-resident, Charles Mugenyi.

A vote was taken and all members were agreed without objection.

Winter Night Shelter in Haringey

RS introduced the item and explained the project which runs at weekends: Woodberry Down Baptist Church is part of the Winter Shelter in Haringey and provides 8 weeks shelter for the homeless during the coldest time of the year. The guests are vetted by a charity before they are sent to us. We get referrals from Whitechapel Mission in East London, Apex House at Seven Sisters Road and St Ignatius Church, High Road, N15.

We provide dinner and breakfast, sleepover for the nights and toiletries etc. This is supported by voluntary gifts from our congregation and the community. We normally have 12 guests each night for example 9 men and 3 women from mixed ethnicities and backgrounds.

The shelter has been successful for the last 3 years and some guests go on to find accommodation or move from the area to be with friends. At the end of the shelter all the churches meet to have a thanksgiving service. Some of the guests return and give an update about their situation.

Further information about community donations and dates for the Winter Shelter will be posted on the website as well as information and contacts for volunteers who want to support the project.

Any other business.

We are planning to hold another community Christmas event in association with the Triangle Centre on Sat 7th December 2013.

CK thanked Lyndon for his work in the community; organising the Jubilee Street Party event in 2011 and for the wildflower gardens he has created in local streets. Sadly Lyndon is moving out of the area and will be really missed. Everyone applauded him.