

# Haringey Federation of Residents Associations

## Minutes of General Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (on Zoom)

**Present:** Lorna Reith (Ferry Lane Action Group); Joyce Rosser (Warner Estate RA); Geoff Amabilino and Liz Pine (Woodlands Park Road RA); Hugh Williams (Palace View RA); Dave Morris (Flexmere Marshall RA); Martin Ball (Dowsett Road RA). **Apologies:** Glasslyn Montenotte & Tivoli Roads RA, Broadwater Farm RA, Parkside Malvern RA

### 1. Introductions and apologies

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

The minutes of this successful meeting held in the Green Rooms were agreed. It had been intended to hold another meeting in early 2020 but that had not been possible because of the Covid epidemic.

### 3. Reports from local groups

*Flexmere Marshall RA* Dave said that the group was set up five years ago in an area of around 300 mainly Council homes. Around 60 are members. Things have been quiet recently. They have taken up road safety and local green spaces issues. Since Covid mainly mutual aid activities on a special WhatsApp group with 24 members.

*Palace View RA* Hugh reported that they had their AGM last year. Their Facebook page gets lots of postings. Street party planned for this September was cancelled.

*Ferry Lane Action Group* <https://www.facebook.com/FerryLaneEstate/>

Lorna said that they have an email list and have had two recent newsletters. They had to cancel AGM and their estate Eco Day. The mutual aid WhatsApp group has 40 members. There has been a consultation about extending parking on the estate. They had a collection and distanced presentation for a street sweeper who retired. They have a "Good Neighbours" scheme and have arranged "adoptions" by residents of new street trees. Two committee meetings held on zoom and one outside in the summer. As they are a Council estate she attends borough-wide Homes for Haringey meetings.

*Warner Estate RA* <https://wera-n8.co.uk/> Joyce said that they cover 650 households. They have 360 members of their email group. They produced their annual newsletter in August 2020 but have postponed the AGM until 2021. Main activities have been around litter picking in Alexandra Park and food bank work.

*Dowsett Road RA* Martin said that this is a loose group with an email list. It has not been very active recently. A MUGA (multi-use games area) is being established in Down Lane Park (to open 2021). He reported that there is an active RA on Chestnut Estate taking up issues about the Tottenham Hale tower block developments, one about taking over some of the front lawns of people's gardens.

*Woodlands Park Road RA* Geoff and Liz reported that this group has been quiet – mainly an email group. They said that some members involved in StART (St Ann's Redevelopment Trust). A planning application for a telecom mast near Chestnut Park was turned down. The Red House redevelopment is underway with a new Friends of Parks group from Culross Estate/Stanley Road looking after green areas.

*Glasslyn Montenotte & Tivoli Roads RA* <http://www.gmtra.org.uk/>

Unable to attend but had sent an annual report about a range of activities and issues.

### 4. Mutual aid groups

There was discussion about the many local mutual aid groups which have sprung up in streets and neighbourhoods throughout the borough in response to Covid issues. Many linked to Res Assocs. A lot of social media activity, shopping for isolating people, free food deliveries etc. The Council has recently been taking a coordination lead on this.

## **5. Planning**

The Our Tottenham network is active but not as much as a few years ago. There is likely to be a 2-3 year consultation on new Haringey Local Plan. The Council want to make 1000 new council homes by 2020. There are proposals for small developments, eg on car parks in council estates.

Problems about work on Tottenham Hale developments going on until 9pm. Lorna mentioned closure of local bus stops for months because of these developments. FLAG have had meetings with the contractors over various issues.

## **6. Public services**

The budget-setting process has just started but the Council faces major underfunding problems with an extra £20 million more cuts.

Haringey Defend Council Housing is very active. There have been protests over high service charges for some Noel Park Estate leaseholders.

Haringey Community Centres Network is active trying to promote centres and protect them during the covid crisis. More community-run community centres are closing due to covid-related restrictions and lack of funds eg The Irish Centre, Women and Children Centre in Northumberland Park. Have met with the Council to get some support (eg rent and business-rates suspensions agreed etc).

Haringey Friends of Parks Forum very active – got 2500 signatures on petition which triggered a deputation and full Council debate on the urgent need for more resources for the struggling parks service. Green Flags maintained. There may be proposed charges for parks tennis courts.

Also mentioned:

- target to reduce number of illegal fly tipping sites
- consultation over change of name for Black Boy Lane in light of the debates sparked by the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement this year.
- everyone thanked Bruce Castle Museum for the amazing blogs they have done since lockdown.

## **7. Sustainability**

The Council has issued draft Haringey Climate Change Action Plan for consultation (for details see new Haringey Climate Forum website). Sustainable Haringey network continues to produce Monthly Mailing of environmental events in the borough.

Community representatives attend the Council's Transport Forum which has been meeting online. Proposals for Living Streets/school streets. Haringey Living Streets is very active. Other matters mentioned included: failure to deliver cycling provision (although Ferry Lane does now have proper cycling lanes); lobbying for improvement to Lordship Lane junction; etc.

Haringey Extinction Rebellion group active, mainly online this year.

## **8. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be in 2021 (not yet clear whether this will be in a local venue or online). It was suggested that some RAs' newsletters might be circulated to the group.