

Haringey Federation of Residents Associations - 10th March 2022

General meeting at All Good Bookshop, Turnpike Lane (and zoom)

Present: Dave Morris (**Flexmere Marshall Residents Group, N17**); Geoff Ambalino and Liz Pine (**Woodlands Park RA, N15**); Jacob Secker (**Broadwater Farm RA, N15**); Sue Penny (**Clyde Area RA, N15**); Joyce Rosser (**Warner Estate RA, N8**) *Online:* Michael Edwards (**Hermitage Road & New River RA, N4**); Lorna Reith (**Ferry Lane Action Group, N17**); Chris Setz (**Broadwater Farm**) **Apols:** Lauritz Hansen-Bay (**Hampton Ct Owners Association, N10**); Martin Ball (**Dowsett Estate RA, N15**); **Glasslyn, Montenotte and Tivali Roads RA, N8**

1. **Minutes of last HFRA General Meeting, 4.11.2020** Agreed. Matters arising included below.

2. Local Reports

Hermitage Road & New River RA Group covers Hermitage Road and connected streets. Not very active since the covid pandemic started; sent in responses to Cycling and Walking consultation, and there are issues relating to the nearby St Ann's Hospital site development. The association is around four years old with about 60 members.

Ferry Lane Action Group Residents Association for the large Council estate in Tottenham Hale, active for over 25 years. Have restarted face to face meetings, and a range of events have been held or are being planned including Eco Day with local primary school. Tottenham Hale redevelopment issues affecting the estate - have had a few benefits eg new benches paid for by developers. From May 2022 Ferry Lane will be in South Tottenham ward. They have met with Spurs Foundation. FLAG have an active WhatsApp group. Their regular Newsletter is due out soon.

Warner Estate RA Produced and distributed their annual newsletter/report in October last year with much local news, including report of Council refusing planning permission to a nearly four storey development on Priory Common Orchard, following local campaigning. In New Year heard that developer had appealed to Planning Inspectorate. WERA has made submission to Planning Inspectorate but is also asking Council Legal Department to enforce a covenant on the site made in 1995 when it was first sold to a private developer. WERA hopes to start meetings and other events soon. Have 3-400 on their internal email list which is used for a range of communications.

Broadwater Farm RA Active for over 30 years. In 2021 organised a Summer Funday and then a Children's Christmas party. In June 2022 they are planning some Windrush events (they are seeking funding for these). Two and a half blocks on the estate are being demolished due to safety concerns – a residents ballot was held about this, and the Council's proposals for building replacement Council housing have been agreed. Council tenants will be offered new council homes but at slighter higher rents. The Health Centre is to be demolished and rebuilt smaller. There will be a paved square in the middle of the estate. Lots of activities on the estate, including a community-run food bank.

Woodlands Park RA Currently an email group. They have applied for new street trees. Area will become a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in June - a School Street has already started. WPRA are aiming to call a face to face meeting soon.

Flexmere Marshall RG Currently a WhatsApp Mutual Aid group.

Clyde Area RA Group is currently quiet. Main activity is in support of the nearby Wards Corner campaign.

3. Planning issues

Michael talked about **St Ann's Hospital development** – consultation – residents forum. Need to protect green space, and ensure community buildings properly funded, etc.

Just Space is a London-wide community network of dozens of organisations (including some from Tottenham). Lots of online meetings and workshops to develop and produce a special Recovery Plan for London (to complement their pre-covid Community Plan for London). Lot of important issues in the new document (at printers), to be launched soon.

Sue described what is happening at **Wards Corner** – campaign started in 2003, and has battled away for nearly 20 years against a corporate-led demolition plan backed by the Council. The community and traders produced

their own Community Plan (which got planning permission). The Developer finally pulled out and now the Council is backing the Community Plan. The community have set up a Community Benefit Society to take things forward – doing fundraising; door knocking locally; holding workshops etc.

Dave described the Council's current threats of **house-building on undesignated green spaces** (many on or by Council estates). The Haringey Friends of Parks Forum had successfully lobbied 4 years ago for the Council to agree to place 'Fields In Trust' protective legal covenants on all officially designated public green spaces (as set out in the Local Plan) which are owned and managed by the Council, slowly being implemented by the Legal Dept - but undesignated spaces remain vulnerable and need local people to champion and protect them. This includes green space on Monument Way (now lost), next to the Tiverton Estate (recently given planning permission), on the Ramsey Court Estate on Park Road (where there is a determined campaign of opposition), and many other sites being eyed up. Haringey Friends of Parks Forum say housebuilding should only be allowed on genuine brownfield sites. Chris said that threatened or neglected spaces should not only be protected but also be improved through local people helping create long-term management plans.

Jacob agreed there was a need to protect green spaces on council estates. 'Infilling' is a general concern across London. Competing issues: housing targets versus green space. Estates becoming more built up all the time. It was suggested that Broadwater Farm and Ferry Lane raise these concerns at Homes for Haringey residents engagement forums.

Details have been passed on to the London branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England who are preparing a major report/campaign to publicise and protect green spaces under threat.

4. Public Services

Parks and Green Spaces It was noted that the Council's recently-adopted policy of promoting "Co-production" has in fact been happening around greenspace for over 20 years due to the ever-growing influence and activities of Friends of Parks groups (now over 55 groups) and their very active borough-wide Forum. The Forum continues to meet bi-monthly, attended by senior Council reps. Recently the Forum has been helping develop the new 15 year Green Spaces Strategy, has succeeded in persuading the Council to put more staffing in parks (following savage cuts in 2011), and took part in a Parks Summit last weekend attended by 80 people.

Waste and recycling Veolia's service has suffered from pandemic staffing problems. Lots of recent controversy and community campaigning over plans to expand the Edmonton Incinerator.

Homes for Haringey A recent residents' ballot has agreed that this service should return to be under direct Council control. A key issue is likely to be the new governing structures, which under HfH used to have extensive residents involvement and scrutiny. We as HFRA re-affirmed our support for the RAs on Council estates, and their efforts to empower Council tenants and leaseholders.

5. **Mutual Aid** We noted the impressive spread of covid-related Mutual Aid and whatsapp groups and now an outpouring of concern to help refugees from Ukraine. There is much overlap with RAs.

6. **Haringey's Community Networks** As well as the HFRA and the Parks Forum, we noted the continued good work by other community-level networks including Sustainable Haringey and Our Tottenham. We also noted social media platforms such as Next Door and Haringey Freegle.

7. **AOB** Jacob, as our HFRA rep on the **London Tenants Federation**, reported that it continued to be a significant London-wide liaison network taking up tenants issues. These include relating to the London Plan social housing policies and targets, and efforts to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions (eg promoting refurbishment rather than demolition/rebuild).