

Haringey Federation of Residents Associations

Minutes of General meeting, 4th May 2023 - At the All Good Bookshop (and on zoom)

Present: Sian Roome (Fountain Area RA); Jeremy Cassidy (Fountain Area RA); Dave Morris (Flexmere Marshall Residents Group) - *chaired*; Joyce Rosser (Warner Estate RA) – *took notes*; Jacob Secker (Broadwater Farm RA); Geoff Amabilino (Woodlands Park RA); Mick Gerrie (Bounds Green & District RA); John Miles (Parkside Malvern RA); Lauritz Hansen-Bay (Hampton Court Owners Association)
Apologies: Lorna Reith (Ferry Lane Action Group); Cynthia (Chettle Court Residents); Amit (Gardens RA).

1. **Introductions, Apologies and welcome.** Dave explained that the HFRA was just ticking over these days having been very active for 15 years from 2001 onwards. At its height there were around 180 RAs, but some have morphed into online comms. It is estimated there are currently around 100 Residents Associations (nearly 40 of which are on Council estates, with the majority being street or neighbourhood-based).
2. **Minutes of last general meeting** (Held on 10th March 2022) These were circulated and agreed, with one amendment - Jacob clarified that new rents planned for many of the replacement flats on Broadwater Farm are likely to be significantly higher than existing ones.

3. Local Reports

Fountain Area RA, N15 Jeremy reported on latest issues. The campaign to block a Cash Casino on site of William Hill betting shop had been opposed and blocked. There is now a café on the site. A campaign to get the local post office reopened was successful. They organised a petition to improve the Seven Sisters train entrance – they had met with Joanne McCartney (GLA deputy mayor), TfL and local councillors – there is some movement.

The Council hall they and adjacent RAs have used for meetings for ten years has been redeveloped for housing, and no alternative venue offered – so they are currently meeting in the nearby Edgecote Grove Tenants Assoc meeting room, and are storing their gardening equipment in a garage. They are trying to organise a summer event. They produce a door to door newsletter, delivered to hundreds of local homes twice a year.

Warner Estate RA, N8 Joyce circulated the WERA 2022 annual Newsletter. 60 residents attended their last AGM. They have been successful in blocking a development on Priory Common Orchard. The area is currently experiencing some disruption (especially to bus routes) because of the ongoing work on the Muswell Hill Flood Prevention Programme. This will result in several new SuDS (drainage). WERA has a representative on the Alexandra Palace and Park Board. They have an active email list of around 300 households, and donations by members cover all their costs.

Parkside Malvern RA, N8 John reported 500-600 households in the area. Explained that the RA's "glory days" in the past resulted in a wide range of successful activities and lobbying. A main effort now is concentrated on practical work on their local tiny green spaces which they have taken over. Difficult relationship with Wood Green Regeneration team despite years of effort to engage. Unhappy about density of former Hornsey Gasworks (Clarendon) development underway – 1700 units. Other main concerns – their area not included in improvements such as pavements. Battles with council over this.

There has been some traffic calming measures. Various local WhatsApp groups but they have not increased activity or attendance at events/meetings. Developing relationship with nearby Collage Arts.

Bounds Green & District RA, N11 Long established RA covering around 30 streets. Mick reported that they have monthly committee meetings, usually attended by Councillors as well. Links with other local groups/campaigns within their area eg Pinkham Way Alliance, Friends of Bluebell Wood, Friends of the Greens, etc. Campaigns to protect open spaces, street trees, etc. Road, pavement and lighting issues. Problem with pigeon droppings under railway bridge over North Circular Road. Unhappy with some of the speed bumps. They monitor building proposals eg Bowling Club development, Baptist Church development, etc. They attend Ward Panel meetings. Look after flower beds. They have supported other nearby RAs' campaigns.

Woodlands Park RA, N15 Geoff reported little activity apart from their internal email lists communications. They have taken over and revamped a small community garden (with some funds from Council).

Broadwater Farm RA, N15 Active for over 30 years. Council estate. Jacob reported that they hold three open meetings and AGM each year. Concerns include anti-social behaviour and safety issues. They successfully lobbied for a Repair Surgery every week on the estate. They held a Windrush event. Two blocks are being knocked down and replaced (due to safety issues) so they visited new developments in Barking to see potential design of new housing units – have raised concern with some aspects. Also standing up for tenants rights regarding rehousing and return to the estate after the works. They have a children's Christmas party every year and support a range of community events and initiatives on the estate. Local Low Traffic Neighbourhood controversy (see below). They have their own small office and also use the BWF Community Centre.

Hampton Court Owners Assoc, N22 Lauritz said there are 14 flats. Since Covid little interaction. Knowledge of and access to local services is an issue.

Flexmere Marshall RG, N17 Dave said things had been low key. Mainly WhatsApp communications. 250 homes. Regularly report dumped rubbish. There are 3 very active Friends Groups for local green spaces.

Ferry Lane Action Group, N17 – Active for over 30 years. Council estate. Lorna sent in a written report. Its going well, bulb planting, lots of home repair issues so have met with Senior Housing Officer; Holding a Green Day with local school;

Northumberland Park People, N17 – new RA for the area set up by local people. Supporting local residents running a popular food bank.

Reports taken from Council magazine 'Homes Zone':

Stellar, Altair, Lindales and Bennets (SALB) RA, N17 – Council estate. Set up a community garden and food growing project

Chesnuds RA, N15 - Council estate. Residents' annual trip to Southend.

Edgecote Grove RA, N15 – Council estate. Have been distributing free food to local residents.

4. Some key Issues

Access to Public Toilets – John Miles explained about the new Loos For Haringey campaign calling for a strategy for access to public toilets (eg in many streets and parks), backed by good public signage.

Haringey Over 50s Forum and Hornsey Pensioners Action Group are in support. Held deputation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. HFRA 15 years ago supported campaign on this, calling for a council-run scheme for local cafes and pubs to designate their loos as 'community toilets'. We agreed to support Loos For Haringey.

Lower Traffic Neighbourhoods – These are being brought in to try to reduce traffic in local neighbourhoods and encourage cycling and walking. However, they are also leading to long and complex detours for local car journeys. Jacob described big problems for people driving to and from Broadwater Farm. Issue very controversial as expressed at a large local public meeting. Mick reported that an LTN in Bounds Green has split opinion, with particular problems on Bowes Park Estate. Some people believe that the scheme is about money making from fines. Jeremy says his area is now much quieter and safer, but there are some problems. Geoff says the Woodland Park scheme has resulted in some quieter streets but longer drives for those using cars. It seems the schemes as currently set up affect some local bus services and taxis. John Miles added that heavy traffic has been a long-running issue for Hornsey Park Road, but difficult to tackle.

Haringey Footways – Joyce said that she had been asked to raise this by Haringey Living Streets who are planning to produce a map of paths and footways around the borough. Full details will be sent out to HFRA and other networks. Mick raised concern about not wanting people tramping through Bluebell Woods (a small patch of ancient woodland suffering from compaction).

Planning, including Wards Corner – There was no time to discuss the many planning and development issues and controversies around the borough. However, Dave reported that he had attended a recent Wards Corner (Seven Sisters) meeting to discuss the future of this key site – after 15 years of tireless campaigning it seems that local people are on the verge of a historic step forward. The private developer had dropped out and the Council was at last backing the community campaign to take over and renovate (rather than demolish) the whole site. A Community Benefit Society has been set up to achieve this, and will be formally applying to the site owners, Transport to London, when the official bidding process opens later this year.

5. Other residents networks

Dave circulated recent updates from some other resident-run networks:

Haringey Community Centres Network – this links around 30 community-run centres. Issues with leases and rents. Have held negotiations with the Council.

Haringey Friends of Parks Forum – very active, meet every 2 months. 60 local Friends Groups.

Haringey Community Action Network – new campaigning network set up after a 200-strong public meeting in Sept 2022. Links a growing range of community groups and campaigns, and trades union branches. Has an emphasis on local poverty and austerity policies. Plan a workshops/discussions event on June 11th. We agreed to affiliate to HCAN, with the proviso that we will of course decide for ourselves which, if any, local campaigns we will support.

Sustainable Haringey – this was previously very active and currently is a loose communications network. It was noted that the local Extinction Rebellion group held a recent well-attended meeting with other community groups, so networking around green issues and campaigning is in flux at the mo.

6. Internal HFRA Matters

HFRA Officers: Secretary – Dave Morris (reaffirmed). Chair – Joyce Rosser (reaffirmed). Treasurer – Geoff Amabilino (reaffirmed).

Finances – Geoff says we have around £1,600 in our account, plus some ring-fenced money held for other bodies. Geoff will circulate report.

HFRA email list for all RA reps - is being updated. 225 reps on it, but all RAs are asked to check and send Dave any corrections. The list is for key strategic info and announcements. Could be used more.

London Tenants Federation – Jacob Secker reaffirmed as our rep to this active network. It links together and focuses on social housing tenants borough-based organisations and their issues. Takes part in London-wide consultations and lobbies the GLA and Mayor regarding estate protection, renovations and services, and rent levels etc. Jacob to circulate their Annual Report.

7. AOB

Public Service Protection Orders – consultation ongoing until October. Geoff to send out link.

Next meeting – in a few months. Joyce, Dave and Geoff to arrange.