

PALACE GATES **RESIDENTS'** **ASSOCIATION**

Annual General Meeting: 7pm
Thursday October 24th 2013
Held at Hobarts Estate Agents
Minutes of Meeting

Key Headlines

- Summer fete, September picnic and Carol Singing were all a success and will be repeated next year – all contribute towards important revenue raising for the PGRA
- Over £450 to be spent next year on plants and improvements for the various flower beds and hanging baskets
- Food-Co-op and gardening group continue and new participants are always welcome
- Pinkham Way Campaign has proved very successful but pressure needs to be maintained so development on this important site does not proceed in the future
- Planning application for block of flats next to 'Dave', the hardware store, was refused but applicant may submit further plans. An on-going situation that needs to be monitored
- Further traffic calming measures have been implemented. Traffic calming in our streets is constantly evolving and PGRA

will maintain pressure on Haringey and The Police to constantly monitor and enforce speeding – a new lobby group is proposed

- New campaign to lobby for a pedestrian crossing in Bedford Road has been initiated
- New PGRA website is under construction and is due to go live at the end of 2013
- 'Save our Shops' day to be launched
- Action Group to be set up to monitor the on-going development of the Retail Parade in Crescent Road
- A members' talk on The New river to arranged for Spring 2014

1. PGRA Activities

Kevin Stanfield: The following activities have taken place during the last year:



- Carol Singing on the Triangle. A great success, which will be repeated on Thurs Dec 12th.
- Summer Fete. A great success, now in its third year. Will be held again in June or July 2014.
- Neighbourhood Picnic, held for the second year in late summer on the 'green triangle' at the corner of Palace Gates Rd and Alexandra Park Rd.

Ongoing activities:

The Food Co-operative has now been running successfully for 3 years. There is a meeting every 6 weeks, held in a private home, where residents can order healthy dry foods and eco-cleaning products. These are obtained from Infinity Foods. A catalogue is available on their website. Prices are generally cheaper than health food stores. Anyone interested in joining the regular meetings should contact Annabel Gregory at pq.foodcoop@gmail.com or 0208 374 0303

The Gardening Group meets at 11am every first Saturday of the month, except during the depths of winter, to maintain and improve the beds on the Palace Gates Triangle and the beds at the mini-roundabout at the junction of Crescent Rd and Albert Rd. Emails are sent in advance with information of what work will be done. All volunteers are welcome! Anyone interested in joining the Group should contact Indijana Harper on Indijanah@aol.com

2. PGRA Accounts

Kevin: Presented the Treasurer's Report for October 1st 2012 to September 30th 2013 on behalf of Walter Macharg, who was unable to be present at the meeting.

Accounts:

Opening Balance: £1143

Income:

- Subscriptions	£315
- Fete Net Proceeds	£305
- Carols Net Proceeds	£65

TOTAL INCOME £685

Expenditure:

- Christmas lights	£140
- Donation to charity	£110
- Plants	£141

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £391

Closing Balance: £1437

Spending Plans for 2013/2014:

Proceeds from the Fete, Carol Singing and Membership Subscriptions contribute towards our expenditure. This coming year we expect to spend in excess of £450 on planting and maintaining the beds on the Triangle and at the mini-roundabout;

PGRA subscriptions for 2013 /2014:

The annual subscription of £5 is now due for the year October 2013/2014. The PGRA currently has 121 members. Thank You to those who have already paid the 2013/2014 subscription. An email will be sent to all members reminding others to pay their subscription

Cheques should be made payable to the 'Palace Gates Residents' Association'.

Payments can also be made direct either by Internet banking or by Standing Order to the PGRA's account:

Barclays Bank
Palace Gates Residents Association
Sort code 23 32 00
Account no. 70796956

or by Paypal to : palacegatera@yahoo.co.uk

3. Projects to Improve the Environment

Planting at the mini-roundabout at the junction of Crescent Road and Albert Road:



Molly Doran: The beds at the mini-roundabout became the responsibility of the PGRA two years ago. The Council intended to tarmac the whole area and the PGRA intervened with the offer to pay for the maintenance and improvement of the new beds. This is a significant undertaking, which will take a few years to show full results.

Initial planting of wildflowers and dogwood was requested by residents. This planting proved unsuccessful and weeds took over. The PGRA Gardening Group has spent a lot of time clearing weeds and has now introduced other plants.

In the last month work has begun to construct pathways in order to partition the large bed and to reduce its size. This will allow better access for weeding and planting. Work will continue in the coming months.

Five dwarf fruit trees (gages and cherries, as requested by residents) will be planted in November. We also plan to put in other shrubs and perennials in the spring.

Indijana Harper: Volunteers are encouraged to join in the gardening activities whether you are aged 8-80! We are always grateful for an extra pair of hands. It is always good to meet new faces, talk and hear a variety of opinions.



All donations of plants are also very welcome.

Graham Warne: Earlier this year some vehicle tyre tracks were clearly visible on the edge of one of the beds. Perhaps we should approach Haringey Council to install some bollards to provide greater protection.

4.PGRA Campaigns

a) The future of Pinkham Way

Susie Holden: Introduced Stephen Brice, the Chair of the Pinkham Way Alliance (PWA).

Stephen Brice:

Update from Chair of the Pinkham Way Alliance

Many members of the Palace Gates Residents' Association recently added their names in support of our petition to halt a colossal and expensive waste contract being negotiated by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA).

On September 27th the Authority announced it was abandoning the process, and was looking at 'less expensive' plans'. This is in spite of repeated guarantees of the previous plan's gilt-edged 'value for money'!

People power and localism have won a big battle. But the fight to save Pinkham Way is far from over.

PINKHAM WAY STILL UNDER THREAT

- Although the Authority no longer wants to process black bin bag waste at Pinkham Way, it is still determined to build what we calculate could be a very large waste plant on the Pinkham Way site, a 16-acre Grade 1 Nature Conservation area in Haringey.
- Barnet Council still plans to move its entire fleet of bin lorries out of Barnet (London's largest borough) and onto Pinkham Way, which is in Haringey. This could add more than 1,000 vehicle movements per day to an area which is already suffering serious gridlock and air pollution.
- Although the NLWA bought the Pinkham Way site outright, it has no planning permission and our job is to ensure it never gets it. This means concentrating pressure on Haringey Council to help us protect the site.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

Please go to the PWA website: www.pinkhamwayalliance.org and sign up to our newsletter. We will keep you in regular contact with developments on the continuing struggle.

Please also can you take a few minutes to complete Haringey's current survey on "how you use and view open spaces and how you think that they could be improved."

It covers parks, sports and play facilities, and so on, but also, more importantly for this campaign, green space and nature conservation.

In trying to pave the way for huge industrial development at this valuable conservation site,

the borough ignored its own Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

The reality is that consideration of this aspect was stifled. If this attitude to conservation concerns or angers you, then this survey is a good chance to let Haringey know, and to suggest that they take a more responsible and less expedient approach in future.

Please go to:

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/open-space-study>

The deadline for completion is Saturday 16 November.

b. Opposition to the Planning Application for the construction of 3 flats in Crescent Rd next to Dave's hardware shop.

Kevin: A year ago a Planning Application was submitted for the construction of a building containing 4 flats. This was rejected by Haringey's Planning Dept and the subsequent Appeal by the developer was also dismissed by The Planning Inspectorate.

The latest Planning Application, this time for a modified design, containing 3 flats, was refused permission by Haringey's Planning Dept on Oct 22nd 2013. The grounds for refusal were:

- The building would be out of keeping with the harmony, rhythm and proportions of the terrace.
- The development provides an unsatisfactory amount of car parking.

It is likely that the developers will again make an Appeal against this decision, so we must keep up our efforts to campaign against any such proposed development.

c) Improving the Traffic Calming measures in the Palace Gates Area

Tony Hopkins: During the last year the Focus Group on Traffic Calming in The Palace Gates Area, which consists of a number of local residents, including PGRA Officers, has held regular meetings with Haringey Traffic Officers to progress improvements to the traffic calming measures introduced two years ago.

The following improvements, which were outlined at last year's AGM, have now been implemented:



1. Additional 20 mph signs have been painted on the carriageway at the entrances to the Palace Gates Area from Albert Rd at Alexandra Park Rd, Victoria Rd, Clifton Rd and on Albert Rd at the junction with Durnsford Rd.

2. Additional 20 mph signs have been painted on the carriageway on Palace Gates Rd and on Alexandra Park Rd, close to its junction with Palace Gates Rd.

3. The centre white lines in Palace Gates Rd and in the straight, wide stretch of Alexandra Park Road between its junction with Palace Gates Rd and Bedford Rd have been removed, as they gave the impression of non-residential, non-traffic calmed through routes and therefore encouraged speeding.

4. The footway parking bays in Palace Gates Rd have been moved further into the carriageway, to provide a narrowing effect for the carriageway itself and also to increase the width of the footways on both sides of Palace Gates Road, which were particularly narrow.

5. Speed camera warning signs have been installed beneath the Vehicle Activated 20mph Signs on Alexandra Park Rd and on Palace Gates Rd. We were informed by the Haringey Traffic Officers that, although under current legislation these roads are not eligible for actual speed cameras to be installed, it is perfectly legal to fit warning signs even where no speed cameras actually exist.

6 A Public Consultation was held in summer 2013 on the removal of the Passing Place and Single Yellow Line waiting restrictions in the middle section of Crescent Rd. A 2 to 1 majority of respondents supported removal of the Passing Place. A Statutory Notification regarding the removal is due to be published within the next few weeks.

These Focus Group meetings will be continuing on a regular basis during the coming year to ensure that further improvements can be delivered.

d) Campaign to lobby for a pedestrian crossing on Bedford Road

Indijana: Has set up an e-Petition on the Haringey website, requesting the council to install a marked pedestrian crossing on Bedford Rd N22 to provide safe access from Alexandra Park Rd and Palace Gates Rd to Alexandra Palace station and into Wood Green.

The e-Petition goes live on Saturday October 26th and can be found at the following link: <http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx>

Indijana already has a hardcopy petition, containing approx 50 signatures. She will continue to collect signatures on this petition to supplement the e-Petition.

5. Progress on building a new Website for the PGRA

Kevin : Has started work on a new Website for the PGRA. A mock-up of the Home Page was shown, containing tabs for: About the PGRA, Campaign, Groups, Upcoming Events, Discussion Board, Contact Us

It is planned that the website will be launched by the end of the year.

It will facilitate the sharing of information and ideas and should reduce some of the need for circular emails and leaflets.

6. Open Discussion and Future Ideas

a) Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Indijana: Attended the latest Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Ward Panel meeting on behalf of Jimmy and Tony, who were not available.

The Alexandra Ward, of which we are part, has the lowest crime rate in Haringey. Thanks are due to our local PCSO's Avra Wyke and Jeff Darby.

Christine Black: Advised that the catalytic converter had recently been stolen from her car. General discussion confirmed that this is becoming a common type of vehicle crime, as catalytic converters are easily removed. Be vigilant

Susan Edwards: Expressed concern at the number of instances when youths gather in Alexandra Park in the late evening, parking their cars along Alexandra Palace Way, and leave large amounts of dumped rubbish.

Nigel Scott: Mark Evison, the Parks Manager for Alexandra Park, is aware of this problem.

b) Support our local shops

Kevin: Suggested that we should organise a 'Support our local shops day', as has been tried successfully in many local areas. He will lead the Scheme and keep us advised.

c) Speeding Issues

Jimmy: Speeding remains a serious problem in our area. Jimmy proposes to lead a new campaign, to be called 'Traffic 2014'.

Jimmy Athanassiou said that although much has been achieved by way of traffic calming – by the joint Residents/L.B. Haringey Traffic Focus Group - these last three years, new problems had now arisen.

There were now new problems such as speeding police cars; rail replacement coaches and even HGVs. The introduction of a CPZ in Palace Gates Road/Alexandra Park Road has meant fewer cars are parked during the day. In Palace Gates Road this has meant that more Lorries are getting through and car speeds are up.

Jimmy proposed a new working group to be set up (to be called Traffic 2014) to pressure the Council to do something about these new problems. There will be 5/6 people in the group and Jimmy and Indijana Harper will lead on this. Please contact Jimmy with comments at his email at: j.athanassiou4@gmail.com.

PGRA will continue to put pressure on Haringey and the Police to monitor and enforce speeding in our streets

Indijana: It was advised at the latest SNT meeting that local police officers would like to have a meeting with PGRA residents to discuss the speeding problems. Residents should inform Jimmy of their particular concerns.

Annette Commissar: Motorists are ignoring the speed camera warning sign on Palace Gates Road, which is located close to her house.

Graham Warne: Although fixed speed cameras are not actually installed, the warning signs should assist the use of mobile speed cameras by the police.

Tony: Pointed out that the documents on the Public Consultation on a default 20mph speed limit throughout Haringey state clearly that a 20mph speed limit is now enforceable by the police. This Public Consultation runs until October 31st. All residents are urged to send their comments to:

www.haringey.gov.uk/20mph

d) Talk on the New River

Kevin: Following the interesting talk on our local area last year by Albert Pinching of the Hornsey Historical Society it is suggested that we should ask Rachel McDonald, also of the Hornsey Historical Society, to give us a talk on the New River, which has just celebrated its 400th anniversary. Members agreed that this would be an interesting topic

e) Action Group on the Crescent Road parade

Frances Dolan: Expressed concern at the deteriorating condition of some of the shops in Crescent Rd. There are also ongoing problems with piles of refuse awaiting collection and concerns about the legality of the change of use of various properties.

Frances is prepared to lead an 'Action Group on the Crescent Road parade', in order to monitor the situation in this retail parade. Members agreed this was a good idea.

David Beacham: Advised that any suspected instances of infringement of planning regulations should be referred to Haringey Planning Enforcement.

f) Issues for Disabled people

David Aprahamian Liddle: Expressed concern that, as a blind person, he has recently encountered a number of difficulties when walking in our local streets.

The most recent case was when a vehicle was parked on the footway in front of the garages by Bolster Grove in Crescent Rise.

There is a common problem when a diversionary route is not provided round works affecting the footway. On the last occasion, where work was taking place on the corner of Dagmar Rd and Crescent Rd, David reported the matter to Haringey 'Single Frontline' and fortunately the problem was addressed and resolved in two hours. (The contact number for Haringey Single Frontline is 020-8489-1335).

Another issue concerns overgrown hedges, which project into the footway, restricting the width of the footway. This problem is particularly noticeable in Palace Gates Road, where the footway width is narrow due to footway parking.

After a general discussion on this issue it was noted that Haringey Council have been effective in the past in ensuring that overgrown hedges are cut back. It was agreed that it was not appropriate at this stage for the PGRA to take direct action with the occupiers of offending properties.

Grant Gahagan: pointed out that there is now an Our Haringey app, which allows the reporting of problems, such as overgrown hedges.

g) Vehicles driving out of Crescent Mews

David Rennie: Commented that he was recently almost hit by a vehicle driving out from the exit from Crescent Mews alongside the Sweet Tree Bakery at a speed of about 10mph. Although there is a STOP sign painted on the road, this is often not observed. Residents experiencing similar problems should report them to Haringey Council.

In general discussion it was noted that Crescent Mews is actually a private road. However, Haringey Council arranged for the STOP sign to be painted on the road and should therefore retain responsibility for safety at this corner.

It was also noted that Gee and Garnham, the company whose premises in Crescent Mews are regularly accessed by very large vehicles, has gone into administration.

7. Annual General Meeting –Election of Officers

The following Officers were re- elected:

Kevin Stanfield – Chair

Tony Hopkins – Secretary

Jimmy Athanassiou– Deputy Chair

Walter Macharg – Treasurer

The PGRA Committee currently consists of the 4 Officers above plus the following members:

Indijana Harper

Annabel Gregory

Susie Holden

David Rennie

During the last couple of years several former Committee members have moved away from our area. Therefore some new members are needed.

Molly Doran and Grant Gahagan kindly agreed to join the Committee.

Annette Commissar and Grant Gahagan also kindly agreed to join the Fete Organising Committee.

8. Any Other Business

Kevin: Thanked Chris Devonport for allowing the PGRA to use Hobarts premises for the meeting and also for his generous contributions towards the work of the PGRA.

List of attendees

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