**PALACE GATES RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**Annual General Meeting:**

**7pm Wednesday November 1st 2017**

**Held at Hobarts Estate Agents**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**1.PGRA Activities**

 **Kevin Stanfield:**

* Carol Singing on the Triangle. A great success, which will be repeated this year on Thursday December 14th. Proceeds from the collection are donated to Crisis at Christmas.
* Summer Fete. A great success, now in its seventh year. Money raised at the Fete contributes towards the PGRA’s annual expenditure.
* 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 Rise 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 Molly Doran or Hilary Reynolds.

**Annabel Gregory:**

The Food Co-operative has now been running successfully for about 7 years. There is a meeting approx. every 4 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. The Food Co-operative is considering the purchase of a storage unit to hold stock; this would be co-funded by the PGRA.

**2. PGRA Accounts**

**Kevin:** Presented the Financial Report for October 2016 to October 2017

Accounts:

**BALANCE AT OCTOBER 2016**£2572

Revenue in Financial Year:

 Members’Subscriptions                        £260           Fete Proceeds         £820

Carol Singing Collection                        £216

Haringey Grant (gardening)                       £865

TOTALREVENUE                                     £2161

Expenditure in Financial Year:

Carol Singing Expenses                              £32

Donation to Charity                                    £216

Purchase of Gazebos                                £320

Plants and Gardening                                  £1167

Donation to APN Forum £100

Web hosting cost                                            £76

TOTAL EXPENDITURE                                  £1911

**BALANCE AT OCTOBER 2016                                       £2822**

 PGRA subscriptions for 2017 /2018:

**Kevin:** The annual subscription of £5 is now due for the year October 2017/2018. A number of members have already paid the 2017/2018 subscription in advance. A mail will be sent to all members, who are due to make payments for 2017 /2018.

It should be noted that Haringey Council require that registered Residents’ Associations maintain a list of paid-up members.

The simplest method of making payment is by

direct bank transfer to the PGRA’s account:

Barclays Bank

Palace Gates Residents Association

Sort code 20 32 00

Account no. 70796956

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

Members paying by direct bank transfer are requested to confirm their payment by email to Kevin Stanfield (Kevin.stanfield@btinternet.com) and Walter Macharg (macharg51@gmail.com).

Alternatively cheques should be made payable to 'The Palace Gates Residents' Association'.

**3. Projects to Improve the Environment in the PGRA Area**

 -Maintenance of the beds at the Palace Gates Triangle and at the Crescent Rise mini-roundabout:

 **Molly Doran:** The Gardening Group consists of a small core group of regular volunteers. More volunteers are needed, as the upkeep of the beds, particularly those at the mini-roundabout, requires a fair amount of time and effort. Also during the last year or so a number of other gardening projects have been established in the neighbourhood, which has meant that the time available from regular and potential volunteers is now being spread more thinly. We may consider calling on the resources of some of these other gardening groups to assist on a mutually co-operative arrangement. **Indijana Harper** mentioned that such an arrangement was working well for the Friends of Ally Pally Station.

Our main project this year has been the construction of a rockery at the Crescent Rise mini-roundabout, for which we received a grant from Haringey. We are very grateful to Alfie Bines, who provided expertise and manpower to assist us with the construction. Unfortunately a few months after the rockery was completed a large number of the rocks were stolen. We have been able to carry out a fairly satisfactory temporary ‘repair job’, while we consider whether to replace some of the missing rocks.

We have recently been cutting back shrubs at the beds on the Triangle and refreshing the

hanging baskets with winter planting. We will be planting spring bulbs and plants in the beds at Crescent Rise this Saturday. We are grateful to Dave at Crescent Hardware shop for supplying plants at very reasonable cost.

Plans for next year include the planting of more mature shrubs, which will reduce the amount of maintenance required.

**4. PGRA Campaigns**

1. Better Streets

**Grant Gahagan:** Gave a presentation, highlighting the problems we are continuing to encounter in our local streets, mainly excessive speed, through traffic and anti-social driving. As a result we are suffering from reduced safety and increased air pollution.

The Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy aims to reduce the number of car journeys, particularly those through residential streets, and to make streets more Healthy and Liveable.

The PGRA has been active in the last year in trying to improve the situation in our area. We have participated in several Community Roadwatch sessions, to assist in enforcement of the 20mph speed limit.

The next Community Roadwatch check will take place at 1200 on Dec 11th in Durnsford Rd at the junction with Albert Rd. Members of the local community are encouraged to attend.

We have also attended the regular meetings of the Alexandra Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Haringey Transport Forum.

Most recently we met with Haringey Traffic Officers, the Cabinet Member for the Environment and our local Councillors to express our concerns and to seek solutions.

Our concerns were acknowledged and a further meeting is planned for the end of January, where options will be discussed to address the particular problems. Timescales will also be discussed. We recognise that any improvements will not be delivered in the short term. We remain hopeful that progress can be made towards achieving a ‘Quieter Neighbourhood’ scheme, as has been implemented in some other London boroughs.

 b) Pinkham Way

 **Susie Holden**:

August 2016 saw the Examination in Public of Haringey Council's Site Allocations. Pinkham Way was removed from Site Allocations at the insistence of the Inspector – Haringey Council capitulated immediately.

* No reasonable prospect of development (NPPF Section 22)
* Was unnecessary to fulfil LBH employment strategy

Inspector’s report April ‘17

* In the section on Site Allocations DPD she mentioned that the site had been vacant for years and that there was no reasonable prospect for development.
* In the section on Strategic Policies, she commented that it was unnecessary for LBH employment, that *‘it is now a site of nature conservation importance and the subject of a long campaign by residents for the removal of the employment designation’*.
* Reminded LBH – AGAIN – of NPPF 22 which advises councils against continuing designation for employment in this situation.
* Pointed out that the decision to recommend removal of employment was not within her remit.
* But that anyway, any application would need to satisfy national, regional and local planning policies.

She had to detail reasons for removal in the report section dealing with Site Allocations, but important to note that she *was not required to make any further comments at all*.

Thus we can assume that all these are designed to give clear guidance A) to LBH in the next iteration of SP, due fairly soon, and B) to the next Inspector, that she didn’t consider the employment designation justified. PWA doesn’t believe that the employment designation will survive the next public examination, and that the site will be left as a Grade 1 SINC (site of Importance to Nature Conservation). The Inspector’s comments indicate that this is Pinkham Way’s proper planning status.

Summary – the status of the site has altered radically after the LBH EiP / Inspector’s Report, in that the Council’s failure to bring forward a single piece of supporting evidence during the 9 years of this issue has at last been crystallised into official independent pronouncement.

The site should be removed from the next iteration of the draft North London Waste Plan (NLWP) (whenever that will be – it’s now 10 years old and in apparent abeyance) and councils should stop wasting scarce resources pursuing what is in effect a dead duck. Judging from the comments from the NLWP consultants after the last consultation (2015/16) they could well be advising the N London Councils that enough is enough.

To maintain and improve the nature conservation value, the site needs proper management. PWA submitted a 5-year Site Management Plan in 2014 and wishes to discuss proposals with the owners to implement this plan.

**5. Alexandra Park and Palace - Update**

**Kevin:** Attends the regular meetings of the Alexandra Park and Palace Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee, as the PGRA representative.

The development of the East end of the Palace continues. The Victorian Theatre and East Court are due to open in Autumn 2018. The development of the old BBC studios is currently on hold, while the budget is re-scoped.

The Junior Go-Ape course opened earlier this year and the Adult course opened earlier this month.

Conditions for the Park license for an increased number of outdoor events are still being considered.

The Park is seeking to close the road through the park to private vehicle traffic on New Year’s Eve to try to reduce the increasing amount of anti-social behaviour, which occurs on this occasion. It is believed that the W3 bus service would not be affected.

The Fireworks festival takes place this weekend on Friday and Saturday, which involves a complete road closure and a number of parking restrictions in neighbouring roads.

**Indijana**: Expressed concern that disabled residents would be severely impacted by the parking restrictions and suggested that it ought to be possible for them to obtain exemption.

**6. Police and Crime Report**

**Tony Hopkins**: Every 3 months representatives of the PGRA attend the meeting of the Alexandra Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team panel together with members of the local Police and local Councilors. These meetings are an information-sharing forum, where the public have the opportunity to hear about local policing issues, express their concerns and agree priorities for police action in the local area.

For the last several years the PGRA has stressed that traffic speeding in our area must be addressed. The Community Roadwatch scheme is one such initiative

We are pleased to hear that we live in a ‘relatively’ crime free neighbourhood ward. Latest crime statistics from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for the last 3 months are:

- 21 Burglaries.

- 20 Thefts of vehicles, mainly mopeds.

-16 Thefts from vehicles, mainly builders’ vans

We have been advised to be vigilant when using mobile phones or tablets in the street, as brazen theft by moped drivers is an increasing problem in London

There has recently been a spate of bogus callers, preying mainly on older residents, pretending to be utility company representatives. They operate in pairs, one person distracting the resident, while the other commits a burglary.

The Police urge residents to call 101 to report anything suspicious.

**7. Open Discussion and Future Ideas**

1. Alexandra Park Rd entrance to Alexandra Park

**Stephen Middleton:** The Friends of Alexandra Park have applied to Haringey for a grant to enable planting of greenery on the newly rebuilt wall on the side of the pedestrian footpath leading from Alexandra Park Rd into the park, in order to soften the appearance of the long stretch of brick work.

1. Noise from trains near Alexandra Palace station

**Ruth Cowan:** The noise level from trains, which is audible at the Bedford Rd end of Alexandra Park Road, is becoming increasingly troublesome. This occurs mainly in the peak periods, but also at night with freight train movements.

It seems likely that the increased noise has resulted from the removal of trees and vegetation from the railway bank last year. It is suggested that some sort of sound barrier could be erected, perhaps similar to the new timber fence recently erected in Dagmar Rd to replace the previous slatted metal fence, which has been effective in reducing the noise level from trains.

**Michael Solomon-Williams:** The Friends of Ally Pally Station have taken this matter up on Ruth’s behalf and have contacted Govia Thameslink Railway and also Network Rail.

Michael mentioned that the Friends are planning to establish a rose garden on the railway bank in the enclosed area next to the footpath leading down from Bedford Rd, which might assist with muffling the train noise. The Friends also have plans for a more extensive re-planting of the railway bank.

1. Planning application for flats in Crescent Mews

 **Kathryn Dean:** Urged local residents to consider the recent re-application for the construction of flats in Crescent Mews to replace the existing office buildings. Details can be found on the Haringey website. Comments and Objections should be posted on the website before the Closing Date of November 14th. The previous application was rejected on the grounds of an inadequate Transport Statement, which did not fully justify the impacts on transport and noise.

**James Patterson:** Suggested that grounds for objection should include strong doubts as to whether the new Transport Statement would prove to be sustainable over the next 30 or 40 years.

1. Friends of Ally Pally Station:

**Michael Solomon-Williams:**

The Friends of Ally Pally Station was set up in summer 2016 to fill the station platforms with plants and flowers. The results have been very successful and the station platforms have been full of colour though the summer.

This year additional planters have been installed on Platform 2, made out of timber from trees in Alexandra Park.

Students from Heartlands High have constructed planters, which are on Platforms 3 and 4.

Stencils created by children from local schools are now decorating the re-painted footbridges.

Plans for 2018 include a ‘climbing plant wall’ on Platform 1, new benches on Platforms 1 and 2, possibly made out of sleepers and solar lighting in the fenced-off area next to the footpath leading up to Bedford Rd, which is very poorly lit.

The log-standing problem of water -pooling on the footbridge remains a matter for concern. A possible solution might be a plastic roof over the footbridge.

Gardening Parties are held every few months on Sunday afternoons. The Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday Dec 12th.

More information can be found on the website:

[www.friendsofallypallystation.co.uk](http://www.friendsofallypallystation.co.uk)

1. Alexandra Palace CPZ: Possible extension to include Crescent Rd and Dagmar Rd

**Alice Norris:** Mentioned the current Consultation being held by Haringey with residents of Crescent Rd and Dagmar Rd as to whether there is support for the existing Alexandra Palace CPZ to be extended to either one or both of these roads.

**Tony:** The closing date for this Consultation is tomorrow, Nov 2nd. Residents of these two roads are encouraged to submit their views, if they haven’t already done so.

This Consultation follows a survey carried out in April / May this year to determine which roads in our local area wished to be consulted again on the possible extension of the CPZ into their roads. The only roads, where a majority of respondents indicated that they wanted another formal Consultation, were Crescent Rd and Dagmar Rd.

**Liz McShane:** Haringey officers expect the result of the Consultation to be processed in time for a decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Environment before Christmas.

It is expected that any decision to extend the CPZ will be implemented by approx March 2018.

**8. Election of Officers**

The following Officers were re- elected:

Kevin Stanfield – Chair

Tony Hopkins – Secretary

Walter Macharg – Treasurer

The PGRA General Committee consists of the 3 Officers above plus the following members:

Alex King

David Rennie

Molly Doran

Grant Gahagan

Jackie Baker

 **. 11. Any Other Business**

1. Alsur Delicatessen

**Michael**: Expressed concern at the

shabby appearance of the Alsur Delicatessen shop unit ( 7 Crescent Rd). These premises started some years ago as a retail shop, but soon afterwards became just a wholesale storage unit with the corrugated iron shutters permanently closed.

The outward appearance deteriorated further a couple of years ago, when the shop sign fell down in heavy winds, leaving an unsightly gap in the shop front.

It was suggested that the PGRA should take action to request the owners of the premises to improve the appearance of the shop front.

1. Bench or chairs /tables on the Triangle

**Indijana:** Suggested that the PGRA should consider putting chairs and tables on the Triangle at fine weekends, as Haringey had been uncooperative with our plans for installing a permanent bench, either round the large tree or a simpler design at the back of the notice board.

The chairs and tables could be stored in a secure timber shed, which could be located at the back of one of the beds next to the raised bed on the Triangle.

**Jackie Baker:** In response to concerns expressed by **Kevin** and others that the timber shed might not prove sufficiently secure and would be prone to vandalism, Jackie mentioned that a neighbour had installed a very robust plastic storage unit, which appeared to be vandal-proof.

**Indijana:** As an alternative to storing chairs and tables on the Triangle, she has some suitable chairs, which could be positioned at the back of the notice board and fastened securely to the legs of the notice board.

**Walter Macharg:** Expressed concern that fixed chairs on the Triangle might lead to anti-social behaviour.

**Kevin**: Considered that the PGRA should definitely try a semi-permanent scheme to provide some seating on the Triangle in 2018.

1. Thank you to Hobarts

**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**

**Kevin Stanfield**

**Tony Hopkins**

**David Rennie**

**Indijana Harper**

**Annabel Gregory**

**Alex King**

 **Stephen Middleton**

**Graham Warne**

**Grant Gahagan**

**Jackie Baker**

**Ruth Cowan**

**David Beacham**

**Liz McShane**

**James Patterson**

**Rob Aston**

**Annette Commissar**

**Molly Doran**

**Kathryn Dean**

**Walter Macharg**

**Susie Holden**

**Michael Solomon-Williams**

**Jackie Baker**

**Alice Norris**