**PALACE GATES RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**Annual General Meeting:**

**7pm Tuesday October 30th 2018**

**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 13th. Proceeds from the collection are donated to Crisis at Christmas.
* Summer Fete. A great success, now in its eighth 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.

**2. PGRA Accounts**

**Kevin:** Presented the Financial Report for October 2017 to October 2018

Accounts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Balance at October 2017** | **£2822** |
|  |  |
| Revenue in Financial Year: |  |
| Members’ Subscriptions | £200 |
| Fete Proceeds | £688 |
| Carol Singing Collection | £201 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | £1089 |
|  |  |
| Expenditure in Financial Year |  |
| AGM/Carol Singing Expenses | £69 |
| Donation to Crisis (Carol Singing) | £201 |
| Plants & Gardening | £722 |
| Web Hosting | £89 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | £1081 |
|  |  |
| **Balance at October 2018** | **£2830** |

PGRA subscriptions for 2018 /2019:

**Kevin:** The annual subscription of £5 is now due for the year October 2018/2019. A number of members have already paid the 2018/2019 subscription in advance.

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.

This year much of the effort has been concentrated on watering the beds during the long summer drought. Thanks are due to John and Indijana Harper for their hard work carrying buckets of water across the road to the large bed at the Triangle. Thanks also to those who managed to keep the hanging baskets regularly watered, such that the display this year was the best ever.

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. Also the planters on the Triangle will be re-varnished / repainted.

**4. PGRA Campaigns**

1. Liveable Neighbourhoods

**Kevin:** 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. Funds are available through the Liveable Neighbourhood Scheme to secure benefits for local communities.

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.

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

Earlier this year we met with Haringey Traffic Officers to express our concerns about traffic speeds and volumes. However, this has not resulted in any progress.

It has become clear that a different approach is required to try to gain traction in order to improve our neighbourhood, particularly regarding traffic volumes, speeding and the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled.

A small group of PGRA members have been working to design a questionnaire in order to gather local support and behavioural data. The questionnaire is designed to understand the concerns of as many local residents as possible: it is not designed to evaluate preferences for any particular scheme or solution. The questionnaire will be administered by the PGRA.

**Alessandra Rossetti:** Introduced herself as one of our new local Councillors, recently elected in May. She emphasised the importance of the questionnaire being led by local residents to provide evidence to Haringey of the level of local support for improvements in our area.

 b) Pinkham Way

 **Tony Hopkins**: Following intensive campaigning by the Pinkham Way Alliance (PWA), local councillors and residents a few years ago the plans by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) to develop a Mechanical and Biological Waste Plant ( MBT) at Pinkham Way on the North Circular Road near to our area were abandoned.

Meanwhile the site has been designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

However, only a few weeks ago the NLWA submitted a new draft North London Waste Plan (NLWP) to Haringey, again including Pinkham Way as a site for potential development.

This draft plan was presented to Haringey’s Regulatory Committee for approval on October 18th and happily the Committee voted in favour of removing Pinkham Way from the draft NLWP.

The next step is that the draft NLWP goes before Haringey’s full Cabinet on November 13th with the recommendation from the Regulatory Committee that the site is removed from the draft NLWP.

There will be pressure on Haringey’s Cabinet to ignore this recommendation.

The PWA are intending to organise a petition amongst local residents to insist that the Haringey Cabinet follows the advice to remove Pinkham Way from the draft NLWP.

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

**Kevin:** The PGRAattends the regular meeting of the Alexandra Park and Palace Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee

The development of the East end of the Palace is nearing completion. The refurbished Victorian Theatre and East Court will open on December 1st. A fabric maintenance plan is now in operation.

During the year two large events were held, the Great Fete and the Kaleidoscope music festival, both very successful.

The Palace continues to work with local police to prevent anti-social behaviour.

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.

Several local residents pointed out inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the leaflet published by the Palace regarding road closures and bus diversions. The Palace has just distributed a further leaflet to correct these errors.

**Graham Warne:** Enquired about further development of the remaining areas of the Palace. Kevin advised that the development of the old BBC studios as a visitor attraction is currently on hold, while additional funding is sought. Hopefully this will be able to be progressed in due course, as originally planned.

**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 Councillors. 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 used to act as a visible deterrent to speeding motorists – and those caught on camera exceeding the limit are sent a ‘warning’ letter

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:

- 16 Burglaries.

- 20 Thefts of vehicles, mainly mopeds.

-26 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.

There has also been a spate of bogus telephone callers, also purporting to be utility or phone/internet providers, attempting to obtain personal banking data.

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

**Michael Solomon-Williams:** Enquired about the possibility of CCTV cameras being installed on the Triangle to monitor traffic speeds.

**Alessandra:** Advised that she will be following up with Haringey to enquire about the possibility of camera surveillance, including in particular standard speed cameras installed on the pavements.

**7. Open Discussion and Future Ideas**

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 corrugated iron shutters.

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. A number of residents have been seeking to establish the current activity within the shop and the extent to which everything is being carried out ‘above board’.

**Indijana:** There are concerns about hygiene in these premises, particularly as palettes are stored outside at the rear, attracting rats.

We understand a hygiene inspection hasn’t been carried out since May 2016. An inspection scheduled for earlier this year was postponed and is now due to take place within the next week.

1. Planning application for a building in Crescent Rd next to Dave’s hardware shop.

**Kevin:** A new Planning Application has just been submitted for a building development next to Dave’s hardware shop.

Two previous applications for development on this site have been rejected. Twice by Haringey Council and once by the Government Planning Inspectorate. This time the application is for a mixed residential /commercial building. A development that will have a detrimental impact on ‘Dave’ our loved Hardware Store

Details can be found on the Haringey Planning website under Reference HGY/2018/3155.The official closing date for objection is November 19th.

It was agreed that the PGRA must mount a campaign to ensure that local residents are aware of this new Planning Application, including a poster on the Notice Board.

It is intended to design a leaflet to be distributed, providing guidance as to principal grounds for objection, such as ‘Loss of local amenity ‘ and ‘ Not in keeping with the local area’.

1. Planning proposal for residential development in Crescent Mews

**Tony:** A Public Consultation Event was held in early July at St Paul’s Primary School, at which developers provided information about a proposed Planning Application for the construction of 35 residential units in Crescent Mews, designed to reflect the industrial character of the existing warehouses. Many concerns were expressed by local residents at that event, particularly regarding parking and traffic.

On October 24th updated proposals for this scheme were presented by the developers and architects at a Haringey Management Development Forum, held in the Civic Centre.

This Forum was attended by many local residents, who live close to the site, several PGRA members and also our local Councillors.

The proposed development has been altered

from 35 to 30 residential units.

It was confirmed that the residents in the development will not be eligible to apply for Parking Permits.

Many concerns were expressed about the volume of traffic movements through the two narrow access roads, both for construction vehicles and also for delivery vehicles following completion of the units.

**Indijana:** Voiced the concerns of herself and many other local residents about the inadequate light and space provision in Block D, where the affordable housing is located.

Following discussion of a number of related points, it was agreed that PGRA members should ensure that they submit appropriate objections, when the official Planning Application is lodged. Only in this way can we ameliorate the less desirable elements of the scheme, as it seems inevitable that a residential development of some sort will be approved in due course.

**Alessandra:** Following discussion with officers, it seems likely that the Planning Application will not be lodged until early 2019.

1. Development in the premises of the former Dry Cleaners

**Graham:** Expressed concern at building works, which are going on inside these premises.

**Indijana:** Believes that the owners also operate a dry cleaning business in Hornsey and may be intending to keep the front part as a sort of satellite, non-retail, cleaning unit.

1. Chairs on the Triangle

**Indijana:** Advised that 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.

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

f ) Christmas lights in the Tree on the Triangle

**Indijana:**  Enquired about whether it was intended to install additional lights on the large tree this year to provide a better display.

**Tony:** Advised that last year it became apparent that the various sets of solar –powered lights, which we have put up over the last few years, do not provide reliable illumination.

To provide a really impressive display it would be necessary to install a much large number of lights, probably with mains power. Tony will follow up with the Haringey Tree Dept, who kindly put up lights for us and attend to switch on and off the solar panels, to see if they are willing to spend a longer period of time to put up a much larger number of lights.

It was suggested that perhaps installing lights in the much smaller olive trees in the raised bed would be a better option.

**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

 **9.Any Other Business**

**Kevin:** Thanked Chris Devonport and his team at Hobarts for their ongoing hospitality and generous support of the PGRA.

**List of attendees**

**Kevin Stanfield**

**Tony Hopkins**

**David Rennie**

**Indijana Harper**

**Annabel Gregory**

**Alex King**

 **Stephen Middleton**

**Graham Warne**

**Grant Gahagan**

**Annette Commissar**

**Molly Doran**

**Walter Macharg**

**Michael Solomon-Williams**

**Jackie Baker**

**Julie Yarwood**

**Alessandra Rossetti**

**Birgitte Laursen-Jones**