

**Grange Farm Steering Group (SG) Committee**

**Hub (community centre) Update**

**One Enterprise Ltd (Independent Tenant Advisor) Wednesday 18th November 2015**

**Present**: Ken Woods (Chair), Rupen Gantra, Bill Beardon, Suraya Habibzay, Shivakuru Selvathurai, Juliana Nkansa, Ranjan Narayanasamy, Dorothy Powell, Daud Amin, Fiona Allen, Sharon Reid, Kandiah Thayaparan, Victoria Vaughan, Varsha Patel and Rekha Mehta

Raj Kumar (One Enterprise Ltd)

**Apologies**: Aaron Burton.

1. Notes of previous meeting were agreed.

2. **Hub discussion**: - Specific concern that the three external organisations (Nursery, Carramea & Cadets) are been given priority over the needs of Grange Farm residents. That this in turn suits LB Harrow in terms of freeing up alternate sites for redevelopment.

- Groups such as Carramea to demonstrate their commitment to the Grange Farm residents by undertaking outreach work in the neighbourhood NOW to develop a relationship and encourage take up of their services.

- However, the SG recognised the need to have the Hub that will be used throughout the day (and early evening) & be able to generate revenues to sustain the facility.

- The SG are keen for the Hub to be a social enterprise that is controlled by the residents (through a residents association or SG in the interim working with partner organisations). This approach would ensure **pricing was kept affordable** and use of the Hub **reflected residents needs**. LB Harrow to share costings for the management of the Hub with the SG and determine the overall **ownership** for the Hub.

- Hawkins/Brown to consider measures to minimise noise pollution from the Hub.

- LB Harrow to consider parking issues that are likely to result from outside bodies using the Hub.

- The SG unanimously agreed the Hub should **not be used for any religious activities**, as plenty of local places of worship are available.

3. **Hub use priorities**: - **Health related**: For example keep fit, yoga, meditation, cooking classes and mother & toddler groups. LB Harrow to confirm GP surgery option has been considered through discussions with HealthWatch, NHS and any other relevant body. Hawkins/Brown to include a **caged area** (not necessarily next to the Hub) for football and basketball activities. In addition, discussion needs to take place about the benefits of having good quality out door gym equipment.

- LB Harrow to be encouraged to undertake a survey of the residents (especially young people) views about the best use for the Hub. The SG will assist this process by undertaking a test of opinion at the next two open consultation events scheduled for 28th November & 9th December.

- **Office Space**: would be required for the **Residents Association** (or the SG in its initial absence). Consider space for Housing Management, advice surgeries, caretaking team and Community Police team.

- **Youth activities**: Consider for example community radio, martial arts, dance, boxing, Scouts, Brownies and film club.

- **Education / Training**: Adult classes, after school clubs, managing your tenancy, tenant empowerment training, undertaking minor repairs and understanding how to use the heating system (the last two should be part of the selected **developer’s commitment**).

- **Social activities**: Parties, birthdays and family occasions (to accommodate up to 100 people).

- **Sponsorship**: Ensure the Hub secures sponsorship from the developer, other partners and local businesses such as Waitrose.

4. **Promises**: - LB Harrow to consider the provision of **flooring covering** (carpets or laminate) in the new properties. Failing this, to negotiate with a local flooring supplier for bulk purchasing, which will thereby secure a discounted rate for Grange Farm residents.

- Paul Mullins to distribute the “Promises” document by 14th December 2015.

5. **Training**: - Each SG member has been asked to complete a **Training Needs** **Assessment** form, which will form the basis of an annual training plan.

- Details of training events organised by TPAS and also Trafford Hall were circulated. If SG members are interested then to let Raj Kumar know & he will liaise with Paddy Lyne at HFTRA to see if bookings can be made at nil cost. The specific courses discussed are “*Representing your Community*” Chester (Trafford Hall) 28 – 29 January 2016; “*Tenant Involvement Now*” (TPAS) London 2nd February 2016; and “ *Consulting your community*” Chester (Trafford Hall) 10 – 11 March 2016.

Both the Trafford Hall events are residential (over night stay required) and nil cost to attendees.

- It was also agreed to explore the options for holding “in-house” training for SG members.

6. **Achievements**: - It was suggested by Bill Beardon that the SG should have a standard agenda item about achievements, which can then be acknowledged and recorded. Each of the SG highlighted their personal achievements.

- Rupen Gantra had kindly printed off full colour certificates of the Harrow Heroes nomination award, which was circulated to all the SG members present.

- Bill Beardon will speak with the photographer at LB Harrow re having free copies of the photos from the event for circulation to members. Shivakuru Selvathurai has also had a large photo made from the event.

8. **LB Harrow Consultation events**: - Members of the SG together with Raj Kumar will be attending the LB Harrow consultation events planned for 28th November and 9th December.

9. **Dates for future meetings**: - **SG** Wednesday 25th November, British Legion 19.00 (**website** with Cllr Hearnden)

- Consultation event Saturday 28th November, British Legion 12.00 – 17.00 (***community centre & estate layout***)

- Consultation event Wednesday 9th December, British Legion 17.30 – 19.30 (***designs for the flat layout***)

- **SG** Wed 16th December, venue TBC (end of year catch up!)