



Grange Farm Community
Building better lives

FAMILY FUN & COMMUNITY SAFETY DAY

HELD ON SATURDAY 15 JULY 2017

GRANGE FARM ESTATE, SOUTH HARROW, LONDON

Summary Report Produced by John Harvey,
One Enterprise Ltd on behalf of the Grange Farm Steering Group

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SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

According to the Health Impact Study carried out by the Harrow Public Health team in 2016 some of the key features of the population who live on the Grange Farm estate are:

Ethnic groups

Black and minority ethnic groups make up 65% of the population. Of existing Grange Farm residents, English is spoken as the first language in 51% of households. A significant proportion of the adults were not born in the UK and there is a diverse mix of people from countries all around the world.

Children

Around a quarter of the current properties house children: 16% of households had dependent children and 16% were lone parent households.

Low income households

The census data shows the area has limited employment options and correspondingly low household incomes. The average household income is under the national average with most residents finding it difficult to cope on their incomes and often in receipt of benefits.

People living with long term health conditions

37% of those completing the survey had a medical condition that has lead them to put in a request for a ground floor residence.

Residents living with a disability

A third of the residents completing the survey have reported a disability and one in ten of these respondents reported the need for a carer.

Other socio-economic features are:

- Often families do not live in traditional nuclear family structures.
- Adults are typically aged 45 or under and two-thirds have children, ranging from nursery to secondary school age.
- Since homes are typically one or two-bedroom flats, living conditions can be cramped.
- The majority of residents now living on the Grange Farm estate are temporary tenants who have been allocated empty flats from which long-term secure tenants have been decanted in preparation for the planned demolition work. This has produced a significant increase in the local population - especially of households with children and has presented additional challenges for the neighbourhood.

SECTION 2: PURPOSE OF THE FAMILY FUN & COMMUNITY SAFETY DAY

Since 2015 the estate has been the subject of demolition and redevelopment proposals by Harrow Council. Therefore, Harrow Council established a Steering Group (made up of residents) to represent the interests of the wider community in formulating the future plans for the estate. This Steering Group (SG) took the initiative in organising the Family Fun Day – which this year was expanded to include Community Safety issues as anti-social behaviour, vandalism, dumping of waste and drug dealing have become a more visible problem impacting on the estate.

The Family Fun and Community Safety Day was held on Saturday 15 July 2017. It was organised by the residents who live on the estate – who also organised and ran similar events in July 2016. The primary purpose of the event was to:

- Bring closer together the various communities who live on the estate;
- Raise awareness of community safety issues;
- Signpost residents to support agencies; and
- Seek community-led solutions to local issues.

Funding for the event came from:



SECTION 3: ORGANISATIONS AND PEOPLE ATTENDING

The following organisations had stalls or representatives at the event:

- Harrow Federation of Tenants & Residents Associations (HFTRA)
- Harrow Council Housing and Regeneration team, supported by Hawkins Brown (architects) and Redloft (project managers)
- Harrow Council Adult Community Family Learning - Gudjera Lukminaitė and Amina Hersi
- HOPE - parent mentoring, anger management, mother tongue parenting support and money management. Represented by Jane Jaroudi and Amina Hersi
- Ignite (shared a stand with Xcite) - who work with the community to build change around young peoples' interests and needs. They seek to engage young people aged 13 – 25 in centres in Wealdstone, Rayners Lane, in Harrow Recreation Ground and all areas within Harrow reporting high levels of youth anti-social behaviour
- Kidology - dance group to make use of community hall to offer classes which is intended to serve as a distraction tool for reducing ASB
- Kingdom Security - anti-social behaviour team (under contract from Harrow Council). Uniformed personnel - Zafar Jan and Adele Mariane, whose role is to detect ASB at an early stage, seeking to prevent it developing into something more serious. They have powers to issue on the spot fines for litter dropping and spitting for example.
- The Lighthouse Café - a church-based community café, which is planning to support residents of Grange Farm through outreach and community events. Represented by Andrea Joseph and Dianne Taylor.
- Diane Lopez - a community photograph initiative co-ordinator
- Metropolitan Police Safer Transport Team – represented by Sergeant Akinde Akiwimu and Constable P. Sillitoe
- Lolita Parekh - a local artist working with young children
- Radio Harrow - represented by Brian Rose who introduced the music and dignitaries
- Victim Support - an organisation funded by MOPEC to support victims of crime, accidents and terrorism. Represented by Kenny Tang
- Watford Football Club - youth community team who supervised a football shoot out competition
- Xcite - training and job preparation for local people and activities designed to provide distraction from general hanging around, smoking, drinking alcohol in public and taking drugs.

In addition to these organisations there were other stalls and attractions which included:

- Bouncy castle/trampoline
- Bicycle repairs and maintenance workshop
- Caribbean food stall
- Pop-corn stall
- Pop Band
- King Shumba Steel Band

- Smoothie drinks bike riding
- Philippa Leigh - ukulele singer.

Between 1pm - 4pm it was estimated that some 180 local people attended the event of which about half were teenagers and children. Considering the poor weather, the turnout is deemed as a great success. Other attendees included:

- The Mayor (Councillor Margaret Davine) and Lady Mayoress
- Leader of Harrow Council (Councillor Sachin Shah)
- Grange Farm Steering Group (Ken Woods, Bill Beardon, Shaz Mohammed, Ranjan Narayansamy, Fiona Allen, Amita and Robert Kempster, Marim Sekanderzada, Kandiah Thayaparan, Shamim Manji, Alia Noormohamad, Ghizlane Darugaa, Varsha Patel, Rekha Mehta, Shivakuru Selvathurai and Alison Coudray).
- HFTRA (Paddy Lyne, John Allwright and Joy)
- Director of Housing (Nick Powell) and Head of Housing Regeneration (Alison Pegg)
- One Enterprise Ltd, Independent Tenant Advisors (Raj Kumar, John Harvey and Zainab Malik).



SECTION 4: COMMENTS AND ISSUES RAISED ON THE DAY

The Mayor gave a short speech, which included the following observations on the event:

“This is an extremely good community event. It has lots of people enjoying themselves and children having fun. It shows Harrow at its very best; when people from many different backgrounds and cultures come together and enjoy each other’s company”.

Brian Rose of Radio Harrow:

“This is a great day of fun and coming together. It shows Harrow in its best light. We need to teach others how to do the same”.

A local resident (female Muslim):

“Today is really good. We should do it more often. Although we have recently had problems on the estate if the people are this friendly I will definitely want to return when the building work finishes”.

Gerry Archer, King Shumba Steelband:

“It’s a pleasure to be part of such a great event and to see so many happy and positive people”.

Other issues mentioned by people attending, included the following:

“A group of children [identified as new to the estate] are causing widespread fear through their bad behaviour. They are climbing on buildings, vandalising cars and threatening towards us. These things are now being reported to the Police and the Housing Department [Resident Services], but nothing is changing.”

“Kids doing art classes is good, gives them something different to do. Better than watching TV all day”.

“The estate looks good today and the grass is cut, can we please keep it like this?”

“The summer holidays are coming soon, can you plan more things for children?”

“When is there going to be a proper rubbish and waste collection service? It’s a disgrace at the moment”.

SECTION 5: MULTI-AGENCY WORKING

Four key themes are emerging:

- 1) Basic housing management needs to improve to deal with low-level issues, such as cleanliness of blocks, regular grass cutting, repairs and vermin on the estate;
- 2) Waste and refuse collection remains an issue due to the failure of residents to recycle waste correctly. In addition there are individuals from the estate and outside who are regularly dumping waste on the estate;
- 3) A new “group” of young people is emerging with anti-social behaviour tendencies that needs to be nipped in the bud; and
- 4) Drug dealing is a common occurrence, which has not been given sufficient attention. Some individual households are regular users of drugs.

The above issues require a multi-agency response from the Council, Police, the community, youth services and the third sector.

The remaining longer-term residents of Grange Farm have seen a decline in the quality of their life due to:

- The community having been scattered across Harrow, many tenants no longer know who their neighbours are and social ties have been broken. The council is responding by looking to recruit a dedicated part-time community development worker to be based on the estate. Furthermore, a local lettings plan is being devised, which will aim to keep existing residents in the same blocks when they are decanted within the estate;
- The physical environment has deteriorated and Council-wide resources are now being coordinated to remedy this situation; and
- Anti-social behaviour has increased and some residents (young and old) no longer feel safe. The Council’s ASB Officer has been informed of the issues.

In essence the community fabric needs to be rebuilt and holding the Family Fun and Community Safety Day is part of the process to rebuild the social connections and community cohesion.

There are positive steps from the Council with:

- The development of an Action Plan, which will help coordinate the response from the various teams within the Council;
- A proposal to appoint a dedicated part-time Community Development worker to be based on the estate; and
- A six weekly Estate Walkabouts. The latter is a good example of partnership work with the Police (Safer Neighbourhoods Team) being invited along. The next walkabout will be on 6th September 2017 at 14.00 and will focus on dealing with ASB, as well as other estate-based issues. Attendees will include the following, in addition to the Police:
 - Fiona Allen, Resident Steering Group member
 - Danielle Brown, Genesis Neighbourhood Officer
 - Bill Beardon, Harrow Council Caretaker

- Beljit Dhaliwal, Harrow Council
- Claire Flowers, Redloft, Interim Regeneration Manager, Harrow
- Raj Kumar, One Enterprise ITA for Grange Farm
- Emmanuel La Force, Harrow Council Surveyor
- John O'Neil, Genesis Area Manager.
- Marim Sekanderza -Resident Steering Group member
- Dave Worrall, Harrow Council Housing Officer
- Steve Weston, Harrow Council Housing Manager.

The long-term regeneration of Grange Farm will take another 4 - 5 years and in summary there are five clear lessons learnt by the Steering Group:

- 1) To sustain a sense of community there needs to be a continued investment and capacity building of the community and Steering Group itself;
- 2) The Council's Action Plan needs to have clear outcomes and outputs;
- 3) The partnership arrangements need to be formalised and regular meetings programmed for the duration of the regeneration project;
- 4) Temporary residents now form a majority of the occupants on Grange Farm and require a different and targeted management scheme; and
- 5) Young people on the estate need positive interventions to avoid being criminalised.

APPENDIX A: BUDGET AND COSTS

The total cost of the Grange Farm Fun and Community event was £5000. Numerous funders were identified, which included a contribution of £2000.00 from LB Harrow.

£2,100.00 grant was secured from the Young Harrow Foundation (YHF), which was used for covering the costs of:

- Delivery and preparation £900.00
Employed John Harvey, Associate and Zainab Malik (Intern) to meet and liaise with support agencies / community groups, who would thereafter agree to attend the event and promote community safety; and
- Equipment and resources needed on the day £1,200.00
 - Gazebos x 2 £300.00
 - Extension lead £34.00
 - Cable covers £134.00
 - Mats £55.00
 - Cameras £205.00
 - First Aider £45.00
 - Staff x 3 on site £750.00.