

**19.00 Thursday 30th June 2022 – British Legion**

**Steering Group Meeting & AGM**

**SG Members**: Ken Woods, Shobhana Shah, Bill Beardon, Shaz Mohammed, Sharon Reid, V Ranjan Narayanasamy, Shamin Manji, Varsha Patel (Chair), Ahamed Amin (Daud), Erica Fontaine and Dennis Barker.

**Residents:** Channiah Jegargeeswaaan, Otilia Spinola, Lester, Hodan ABD, Deekha Mohamuel, Hafsa Begum, Franchine Reid and Kadra Hosh.

**Independent HFTRA**: Paddy Lyne.

**ITA**: Raj Kumar and Casey Dalton.

**Cllrs:** Cllr Eden Kulig.

**LB Harrow**: Alison Pegg, Anthea Watkins and Pierre Wilson-Cox.

**Apologies**: Amita Jagai-Kempster. Shivakuru Selvathurai, Alison Coudray, Fiona Allen, Grace N’Guessan, Kandiah Thayaparan, Rekha Mehta, Cllr Stephen Hickman, Marry Hannington (LB Harrow), Salome Irungu (LB Harrow), David Worrall (LB Harrow), Nesan Thevanesan (LB Harrow), Andrew Champion (LB Harrow), Rachel Dimond (MyYard), Cllr Mina Palmer and Carol Sormaz (CCR)

**Apologies, Declarations & Welcome**

Varsha welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Good news stories**

Allotment- Erica will be the resident lead on the Pleasant Place allotment. The allotment team have kindly agreed to cut down the tall grass and clear the area. The plan is to then put cardboard and bark chippings so raised beds can be added. Otilia Spinola expressed an interest in being involved in the allotment, volunteers will be contacted at a later date when they are needed. Anthea will liaise with the Allotment team to receive confirmation of the date the clearance will take place.

Community needs survey - Anthea has received 41 responses in total. The results of the survey will help inform future community development work that the Council will undertake on the estate.

Newsletter - Anthea was thanked for the quality and clarity of the content of the recent Newsletter.

1. **Notes of previous meeting held on 26th Mat & 20th June 2022**

Agreed.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)**

This document has been revised by Anthea. The Steering Group has reviewed the document and Raj has sent back the initial comments. . Final suggested changes and amendments will be sent by Monday 4th July. Anthea acknowledged the work done by Mary and Salome on this document to address the comments received so far.

“Meet your Neighbour” for Phase 1 residents

The event has been arranged for Sunday 30th October 2022. 2pm - 4pm. (with setting up earlier in the day.) at the British Legion. This will be an opportunity for Phase 1 residents to meet their new neighbours. It was mentioned that residents will need to know their own flat allocations so they can identify who their neighbours are.

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) & Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNP)

Frankie and Rekha have registered for the NHW website. Nesan has been working with the police to establish a stronger working partnership. Rachel Dimind has been invited to join the Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings and Dennis Barker is happy to continue representing the Steering Group at SNP meetings. It was noted Cllr Stephen Hickman has taken on the role that Cllr Dan Anderson previously held on the SNP due to the electoral boundary changes. It would be helpful for Cllr Hickman to let Dennis know of future dates for SNP meetings.

Invitation to LBH Leader and local Ward Councillors

These invitations have been sent.

Cllr. Eden Kulig was in attendance and Cllr Stephen Hickman sent his apologies (due to a family matter arising today). Cllr Eden Kulig said she is happy to continue the good work previously undertaken Cllr Sarah Butterworth and Cllr Dan Anderson in supporting the Steering Group and attending meetings. She explained that Stephen and her both have jobs, in addition to their roles as Councillors, and so they will possibly divide some of the meeting responsibilities. The Steering Group welcomed and thanked Eden.

Alison (LBH) said Cllr Mina Parmar sends her apologies for today’s meeting, she also has a full-time job. Anthea said Cllr Parmar has conducted an estate walkabout on 24th June (together with Dai Rees, Tom Mackin, Rachel Dimind, the estate managers, Anthea and Nesan Thevanesan LBH).

Alison reported Cllr Parmar expressed it is a priority to take the Phase 2 and 3 regeneration forward. Cllr Parmar can be invited to a future Steering Group meeting.

Social Housing and Consumer Regulation Training

Raj will be happy to run an hour training session in July/Aug around the Social Housing Regulation Bill. The date will be included in the newsletter. An invitation has been also sent to Rosie Weir, Chair of Harrow’s Residents Council. Erica will remind the Resident Board of the open invitation.

Social Value Wates Residential (item deferred Sept/Oct).

1. **AGM** Varsha stepped down as chair & Anthea chaired the meeting for the period of the AGM:

Committee Member resigning permanently were Kandiah Thayaparan and Ghizlaine Darugaa.

Thanks were noted by the Steering Group for Kandiah and Ghizlane’s contribution over previous years.

Members standing down and re-standing and unanimously voted back were:

Alison Coudray

Dennis Barker

Shivakuru Selvathurai

Varsha Patel

Rekha Mehta

Ranjan Narayanasamy

Char’s Role:

Ken Woods stood down as Chair.

Ken was thanked by the Steering Group for all his dedication and hard work over the past 7 years. Ken said he is keen to remain an active member of the Steering Group, which was welcomed by all.

Paddy suggested Ken would be considered to be a future honouree President on his retirement.

New Chair: Varsha Patel was elected chair - proposed by Shaz and seconded by Erica Fontaine.

Vice Chair:

Bill Bearden stood down as Vice Chair.

Bill was thanked by Steering Group for being such a huge support to Ken and fellow members.

Again Bill is keen to remain a Steering Group member.

New Vice Chair: Erica Fontaine was elected Vice Chair - proposed by Varsha and seconded by Ken.

New Members:

Francine Reid and Kadra Hosh were voted in and both had signed the required Code of Conduct.

A few words from the Chair

Ken wished to thank the Steering Group for ‘a tremendous 7 years’. He said he had also made lifelong friends. Ken expressed particular thanks for Bill’s support as Vice Chair. He also wished to thank Council members for working with the Steering Group. Ken said he is sorry not to see the Phase 1 completion as Chair, but regrettably he cannot continue due to ill health and caring responsibilities.

Varsha said it would be a hard act to follow in Ken’s footsteps, but looked forward to the role of leading the Steering Group.

1. **Phase 1 Update**

Alison Pegg provided an update.

Higgins are on track to complete handover of Phase 1 around Feb 2023. Harrow Council are hopeful this might be a phased handover with a chance of viewing properties in October/ November 2022. Harrow Council are also hoping to produce videos so Phase 1 residents can see progress being made. They will also provide more detailed plans including room dimensions and balcony details.

The sample boards in the community centre have received positive feedback.

Pictures of the tiles and vinyl flooring for the communal areas were shared. Alison will send electronic copies to Raj - for one week to review and express preferences.

Roller Blinds (blackout for bedrooms, dim out for other living spaces) were discussed. Residents expressed concerns about controlling lighting within rooms, Also residents expressed a desire for curtains and nets to preserve privacy. Alison said there will be curtain rails too and so an option of having both curtains and roller blinds.

Concerns were raised about fitting roller blinds in window recesses with inward opening windows. Alison will check the matter out.

The matter of whether the cost of nets and curtains will be covered by Disturbance Payments will be covered in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) that Anthea and Mary are currently updating. This is very important to the Steering Group and the residents present at the meeting.

External Window Cleaning - it was asked how this would be managed. Alison said it should form part of the Estate Management Agreement.

Alison presented two gate designs for the Main Gates. The maple leaf pattern was unanimously the preferred option.

1. **Temporary Residents Update**

In Phase 2 there are 17 families still to move to private rented accommodation off the estate.

They are being moved as and when accommodation becomes available.

A copy of the FAQs information document is being given to residents along with all housing offers. They will have free access to a removal van.

The bulky waste collection will return again on Thursday 7th July and needs to be promoted better.

Water Meters - A resident asked why these are being installed given the estate is about to be demolished. Alison and Pierre Wilson-Cox were not aware of this. Alison will make enquiries.

1. **Community Development Update**

Anthea gave an update on behalf of Rachel Dimond (My Yard):

1. Young people from the estate will be taking part in a play at The Playground Theatre, Latimer Road, London W10 6RG. 7th August 2022.
2. Art exhibition on Grange Farm Book at the same theatre from now until 7th August.
3. Ben from London Blues will run a workshop to teach the young people (8-16) how to fix bikes (he will source the bikes from an unclaimed stock of police recovered stolen bikes).

Ben will run a summer camp for up to 100 young people for the last 2 weeks of August, working in partnership with MyYard. If you have children who would like to take part contact Rachel Dimond hey@myyard.org.uk 0793 9917 800

1. Christchurch Roxeth will be running a week of activities for 8-16 year olds the first week of August.
2. **Improving communication**

At the pre-meeting Rachel Dimond had mentioned she has observed residents becoming anxious because they feel that following face to face meetings, there is no follow up email or record of what has been agreed. This leaves the residents feeling uncertain about what will be happening. Alison Pegg said she would pass this message on to the relevant teams.

1. **Any other business**

Fire Alarms on Wesley Close have been installed with no instructions and were impossible to turn off. One installed in a kitchen has had to be taken down by the resident as there was no other way to stop it as it was leading to sleep deprivation. Pierre will look into this matter.

Ken had concerns about a man with a prison tag visiting his property and asking for money. Other residents said the police are aware of this person.

Pierre explained that homes at 91-99 Wesley Close will need to give access on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July to replace leaking polypipes. He had hand delivered to all the residents in the relevant blocks and Raj had also circulated the letters on the relevant WhatsApp groups.

As the water will intermittently temporarily cut off, Ranjan requested that Pierre look into providing water to the homes during this period for essential use. Raj reported that working tenants were concerned that they may not be able to take off time at such short notice.

1. **Date of the Next Meeting 28th July British Legion**