

Eastcote Residents' Association

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 29th November 2017

Venue Elsie Fischer Room at St Lawrence Church

Present – Alison Holtorp (Chairman), Irene Groom (Secretary), Deesha Chadha, David Harper, Chris Hankin, Ian Murray, David Payne, Malcolm Penny, Jackie Redrup, Karen Spink, Chris Groom (President), Councillors Catherine Dann, Becky Haggar, Eddy Lavery. Dev Chadha, Frank Gaughan, Melody Gordon.

1. Apologies for Absence – Alison Akerman, Keith Barnard, Carolyn Derecki, Alison Dungworth, Arthur Plummer, Councillors Teji Barnes, Nick Denys, Michael White. Andrea Gohil, Cllr Duncan Flynn (NWHills RA)

2. Amendments/Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the meeting on 27th September 2017 were approved by a show of hands.

3. Matters arising from the 27th September 30th

- Everything on the Minutes shown as action to AH are being dealt with.
- New paving in front of Field End Parade needs to be monitored and problems reported immediately.
- Zebra Crossing (Field End Road by EHG)
 - KS still following up re clearing grit etc. left behind on the pavements during installation.
 - A complaint has been received regarding the lack of lighting on the crossing; we understand that the nearest lamp standard is to be changed to LED which may solve the problem.
- Open Forum – notes from tables being followed up where possible. A De-brief of this event to be discussed at the Executive Meeting after this meeting.

4. New Resident Issues

- None

5. New funding requests

- None

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Chairman's Report - AH

- AH attended Flood Meeting at Town Centre (10th October 2017) to hear the Environment Agency (EA) presentation about help available to residents, how to set up Flood Action Groups and to discuss how to share information between various interested parties. A Field End Road group has been started from which 2 spokesmen will be attending the next meeting at the Town Centre on 30th November 2017. It is hoped to set up another group for those affected residents living along the River Pinn valley. Please encourage anyone who is affected to come forward.

(Post meeting update re FLAG Group Meeting 30th November 2017.

- EA is looking at the whole Pinn Catchment Area (Hatch End & Pinner, Ruislip, Cannon Brook, Ickenham, Uxbridge and Yiewsley). Hope to consult with RA's early in the New Year.
- LBH has a very informative site on flooding which is being continually up-dated.)

7.2 Conservation

IM attended a meeting of the London Green Belt Council on Wednesday 22 November at Portcullis House.

The meeting was the AGM so the usual AGM business was transacted with all existing officers and committee being re-elected. Finances are sound and membership has increased during the year by about 20%.

Apart from AGM matters, various other matters of interest arose some contained in The Chairman's (Richard Knox-Johnson) report as follows:-

The London Green Belt Council (LBGC) is now enjoying better recognition by Government. Letters of reply to questions/observations are now being signed by the Minister himself rather than a PPS.

- LBGC has obtained several quotes in newspapers reports/articles as well as appearances on TV news bulletins. There is considerable interest via social media sites.
- The number of sites on Metropolitan Green Belt land currently under threat amounts to 403 for a potential 160,000 dwellings.
- Some 50 media/press releases have been issued during the year.

- An All Party Parliamentary Group for London's Green Belt has been formed with Co-Chairs being Lord Roberts of Riverside and Crispin Blunt (MP Reigate). Gareth Thomas (MP Harrow West and LBGC sponsoring MP for questions in the House etc.) is a Vice Chair.
- A campaign is to be launched to make the London Metropolitan Green Belt a National Park with all the statutory powers (and privileges) that this will provide. It is recognised that this will not easily be granted and is therefore a long term objective (upwards of 20 years).

A "Guest" speaker and member of the Council was the leader of a successful campaign to prevent a housing development on Oakfield Playing Fields in L.B. Redbridge an important local community facility. The subject of the talk was how to organise and run a successful campaign, there is a several page dossier available should anyone want it.

7.3 Finance – AD

- Approval was sought to pay the invoice for the Poppy Wreath of £20 also a donation –this was discussed and it was agreed, by a show of hands, to pay £30 to Eastcote Royal British Legion.
- Balance of HSBC current account at 5th November was £2,449 with no payments made since that date.
- There is problems regarding the on-line access and if not shortly resolved AD will be looking to change banks.

7.4 HARA (Hillingdon Alliance of Residents Associations) – IG

- At the latest meeting the speaker was Fran Beasley – CEO of L.B.Hillingdon.
- There were two other speakers, Chris Mansfield and Vicky Boorman – they gave a talk on flooding in Hillingdon.
- This was followed by reports from other RAs and other matters.
- Next meeting is 15th January 2018 – speaker to be advised in due course.

7.5 Health and Community Voice - MG

- A resident, Melody Gordon (MG) has agreed to represent ERA at Community Voice meetings.
- The speaker at the meeting on the 2nd November was Dr. Akbar talking about St. Marks Hospital.
- "Hard of Hearing" leaflets were distributed.
- Hillingdon Health Watch survey on GP Services is on the website.
- Latest Community Voice information has been circulated to members.

7.6 Newsletter - DH

- The latest dates for submitting articles for the next Newsletter will be forthcoming soon.

7.7 Parks Report

- Eastcote House Gardens- are holding the annual tree dressing with 5 children's choirs on Saturday 2nd December at 1.30pm.

7.8 Planning – JR

The planning report for October and November will be distributed with the minutes. JR reported the following:-

- 20 Abbotsbury Gardens – application for an House Multiple Occupancy (HMO) – this has been refused. Property is already in multiple occupancy so we wait to see if LBH decides to take enforcement action.
- Garage Block in Southbourne Gardens – 3-storey building of 6 x 2 bed flats. Residents have already contacted JR re this development. ERA will send in an objection.
- Black Horse Pub, erection of garden shelter – the applicant's appeal against refusal has now been received. Anyone wishing to comment must do so by 29th December.
- Eastcote Motor Services, illuminated and non-illuminated signage - the applicant's appeal against refusal has now been received. As this appeal is under the Commercial Appeals Service, residents cannot submit further comments. However, all representations made to LBH at the time of the application, will be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate.

7.9 SNT/Police – CH

- Following the recent MOPAC/MPS consultation on Public Access, it has been decided that Ruislip Police Station will not be sold. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will continue to use it as a base. The front desk has been operated by volunteers and there will be a further consultation to decide whether this will continue. Uxbridge station will close within the next month and will be sold eventually and the Borough's 24/7 Police Station will relocate to Hayes.

7.10 Road Stewards – AA

- No report.

7.11 Transport - IM

IM attended a users meeting of FOMLUC in Harrow on 21 November. The meeting was very short and the main issues discussed were as follows:-

- Stations Step Free Access – an initial list has been published and as expected the first major project will be Harrow on the Hill station which will be dealt with in three stages. The main College Road entrance/exit will be dealt with first and work is expected to start in December to be followed by the Lowlands Road side a few months later. The third and most controversial stage will be the bus station area which involves the demolition of existing buildings (an office block and multi story car park) and the construction for housing, above a remodelled bus station of twin “towers” each of 16 floors; this will go to the Planning Committee in January but is already gathering a lot of local opposition because of the perceived visually intrusive nature of the scheme. It is also proposed to install a single lift at Northwick Park. Amersham is on this initial list of stations to be provided with step free access although this facility is currently available with staff assistance (passengers for the “northbound” platforms need to literally cross the tracks at a designated crossing point). There are no stations yet listed on the Uxbridge branch.
- Staff presence at stations – great concern was expressed at a report in BBC TV London news bulletins concerning the frequent absence of any staff presence at various Underground stations. The one featured in the news bulletins was Wimbledon Park but the reporter also mentioned a number of other stations where this is said to have occurred including Eastcote and Ickenham. Amersham is also known to be without staff from time to time. The Chairman of the meeting was asked to write to LU expressing our concerns over this issue.
- The Chesham Transport Users Group have organised a public meeting in Chesham Town Hall on 12 December starting at 7.30pm which will discuss updates on Met Line issues. The meeting will be addressed by Nick Dent, until very recently General Manager of The Metropolitan Line and an Amersham resident. Nick has just been promoted to Director of Line Operations.
- There is no further news concerning The Met Line Extension (Croxley Link) and talks between the London Mayor and others concerning funding issues are continuing.

A full meeting of FOMLUC with Met Line management is planned for Wednesday 24 January 2018 at Baker Street which IM hopes to be able to attend.

8. A.O.B –

- As there have been no requests for funding from organisation, a suggestion was made that ERA should give money to local charities – this is to be discussed in the New Year.
- It was reported that there were problems with the barriers around the Christmas Tree being moved/blown around. The suggestion of a permanent tree being installed with permanent railings to be discussed in the new year.
- **ERA meeting dates for 2018 -** 17th January, 28th February, 21st March (date changed due to Easter), 25th April, 27th June, 25th July, 29th August (date confirmed), 26th September, 31st October, 28th November.
- The AGM in May – 29th May 2018.
- Open Forum in October – Tuesday of Autumn Half Term - date to be advised.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

The next meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY 17th January 2018 in Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church, starting at 7.30pm. Reports and apologies to Irene Groom.