



PARKSIDE MALVERN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Hornsey Park Road, Malvern Road, and Park Ridings, N8.)

Chair's Report to Annual General Meeting 2009

The Association passed its 10th birthday in 2009. We remain a community association, as well as a force for change, where change is needed. I am happy to report that it is fit and well but it needs your support if it is to grow and be able to do and achieve more for our area.

Our longest serving Chair, Laurie Owen, has decided to stand down this year. I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all his hard work over the years. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well as he moves on to pastures new.

Our Assistant Secretary Jayshree Patel has also decided to stand down. Again, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for her hard work over many years.

This year, we have been assisted in much of our work by Tony Moseley, who has provided expert advice on traffic and development issues affecting our area. Our thanks go to Tony.

I would like to thank all of the Committee, particularly Niki, our Treasurer and all who have copied and delivered our leaflets, helped arrangements run smoothly at our meetings or attended other meetings on our behalf. Many hours of time have gone into all these activities and it is only on these occasions that we have the chance to acknowledge this.

Finally, I would like to thank all who have supported the Association over the past year, those who have come to our meetings and all who have played their part in helping to make our small area of Hornsey and Wood Green a friendlier, better and safer place to live. This was acknowledged in the planning application for the Heartlands development – praise indeed. We have nothing if we cannot say these things of where we live.

Over the past year, we have written, lobbied and worked on a great many issues affecting our area.

Through Dorothy and Niki, we have continued our engagement through Neighbourhood Watch and the Safer Neighbourhoods programme but the single greatest thing we have done is to look out for each other and report suspicious or anti-social behaviour. Our Neighbourhood Watch needs a new co-ordinator. Until then, the Association will provide the point of contact with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Through the 'Making the Difference Bid, we now have an Association Notice Board at the north end of Hornsey Park Road. Thanks to Polly for keeping this up to date and informative.



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Our new Notice Board has given us a presence beyond leafleting and meetings. Thanks to Linda, we now have the means for people to contact the Association by phone or e-mail – see the contact details on Notices on the Board. Looking to the future, it would be great if we were able to have a web site, with information on the Association and local issues and links services or useful contacts.

After much lobbying, we have finally succeeded in getting the council to change its policy and give Hornsey Park Road a 20mph speed limit. The public consultation papers have just been issued. It is hoped that the new speed limit will be in place by September 2009.

We continue to lobby the council for long overdue environmental improvements to Hornsey Park Road. In a year that will take us to local elections, we are entitled to ask 'what has this council done for Hornsey Park Road'. We have called on it to signpost traffic to the new spine road and prioritise the traffic lights to divert traffic away, create width and weight restrictions to stop HGVs using the road, create attractive gateways at both ends of the road and safe crossings, and install measures that will reduce the speed of traffic (but not traffic bumps!). With the ideas from recent Association meetings, we will be preparing our own action plan, to which we will be asking the council to commit its energy to get things done before next year.

We continue to press the council to complete the promised traffic calming works in our area and have expressed our extreme disappointment at the low quality of the works completed to date.

We have lobbied for and recently received proposals for tree planting in Hornsey Park Road, to help make the road more attractive. More on this later.

We have lobbied the council to stop buses using Hornsey Park Road, when on diversion from the High Road.

We have responded to the Heartland outline planning application. Our concerns are those expressed at the Association meeting attended by our three ward councillors and representatives of the land owners and applicants, including the density and height of buildings, overlooking and loss of daylight, mix of housing, lack of local facilities and open space, construction traffic and noise, and additional traffic in Hornsey Park Road. The application is still to be determined.

We worked with St. Mary's Infant's School to achieve improvements under the railway bridge between Hornsey High Street and Turnpike Lane. The fruits of this work have been the widening of one footpath, better street lighting and the planting of planter at the corner with Tottenham Lane. We are continuing to lobby for the widening of the path on north side.

We have written to the council and attended public meetings on the new Heartlands School and expressed our concern at the lack of progress and disappointment in the way the



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council recruited governors without any approach to people in our area. The council's poor and opaque communication is in direct opposition to its case for being awarded the project by the Schools Adjudicator – that it would create a first class new school for the community by September 2010.

The Wood Green Audit was completed and published and many of the key recommendation used in the Supplemental Planning Document published by the council to guide policy and development of Wood Green town centre and the High Road. Our thanks go to Laurie for his tireless and expert work on this. A copy of the document is available on request.

Our 'Making the Difference' bid this year was for landscaping and improvements to the open space on the corner of Clarendon Road, at the south end of Hornsey Park Road. We look forward to hearing on this shortly but would have preferred that the council had landscaped the area, as it should have, as part of the spine road works. If we are successful, we will be looking for help in planning what to plant and looking after it.

We did not manage to have an annual Spring Clean this past year but it was not for want of trying – the council is no longer supportive of this enterprise. We hope to have another go in the coming months.

We continue to support the council's Community Warden Scheme, reporting dumped rubbish in the street and helping to keep our streets clean and looking a little better.

We have written to the council or attended meetings on many other issues affecting our area. In future, the Notice Board will be used to keep everyone up to date.

In December, we returned to St Mark's Church Hall for our traditional and hugely enjoyable Christmas Quiz night with the Noel Park North Residents Association and friends.

Finally, I would like to express thanks to our ward councillors for their support over the past year and for alerting us to local issues that we might not otherwise be aware of. A good example of this would be the number of betting shops opening in the area. In the mean time, we look forward to working with them over the next year and would ask that they redouble their efforts to help us achieve the changes and improvements that we all know are needed and due to us.

Marcus Ballard
Acting Chair
For Parkside Malvern Residents Association

19th June 2009