



PARKSIDE MALVERN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

Chair's Report to Annual General Meeting 2010

The Association is now into its second decade, remaining first and foremost a community association but nevertheless one not averse to protest or direct action.

This year, we have planned how we could grow the Association to include other roads. While we have seen numbers attending our meetings reduce, we know our work is widely appreciated. Please help us to sustain and build a strong Association by supporting our aims and meetings, joining us when you can and passing on the word.

We owe particular thanks Clement Huelse and John Miles for their help and support, and Ryan and The Grace Baptist Church for the use of the hall, without which the Association would be without a home and unable to host events like tonight's.

Thanks must also go to the Committee - Niki, Dorothy, Polly, Olga, Ben, Hashimeen, Ryan and Linda for their hard work over the year, and all who have helped arrangements run smoothly at our meetings or attended other meetings on our behalf. Many hours of time have been put in and it is only on these occasions that we have the chance to acknowledge this and say thank you.

Finally, thanks must go to 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 make our small area a friendlier, better and safer place to live. We are shortly to become the neighbour of the new Heartland's High School – we look forward to welcoming them and their school community to our corner of Hornsey and Wood Green – they couldn't have chosen a better place!

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

Community Garden Project

This year, we completed the first stage of our Hornsey Park Community Garden Project. With funding from the Council's Area Assemblies "Making the Difference" scheme and help from the Neighbourhood Management Team and local businesses, over 40 residents and others from our community created a truly outstanding garden. Many from across the area have enjoyed seeing it come together. We held an opening party at the end of June, where we were joined by Cllr Nilgun Canver, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Cllr James Stewart (a regular worker on the garden) and Simon Garrill, Head Teacher of the new Heartlands School, whose support going forward will help ensure its future success.

Some other special mentions are needed: Paul Walker and Yoga Matters, for help on every aspect of the garden but particularly for providing refreshments on the days we worked, receiving deliveries and watering the garden several times a week since April; Steve Hatch at



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Castles Estate Agents, for the banner sign and local publicity (and digging too), Willmott Dixon for installing the bench and providing materials and our local councillors James Stewart and Alan Strickland + past councillor Alan Dobbie and colleague Gulan Gul, for their hard work.

The Community Garden Project remains a priority for us. Despite the name of our area, we have no park but we have the potential to create a number of attractive open spaces that will greatly enhance it and encourage residents to 'fill in the gaps' by looking after their own front gardens or helping others to do the same - something that has already started. The 'community' gardens are:

- ❖ Clarendon Road/Hornsey Park Road – just completed
- ❖ Turnpike Lane - over 100 bulbs planted and now trees and a hedgerow planned
- ❖ Clarendon Road – there is space for another, smaller Community Garden
- ❖ Hornsey Park Road, around the lime trees – this could be small but attractive woodland garden beneath the trees, helping preserve this important opening space
- ❖ Martins Walk to Mayes Road/Hornsey Park Road - Dorothy and team have commenced work on planting in the alleyway and planters have been promised by the council under the “Making the Difference” scheme for the pavement build-out, linking the alleyway garden with the Mayes Road/Hornsey Park Road open space.

Creating the first garden has been both enormous fun and rewarding. In time we hope to bring back the “Park” in Hornsey Park – the old name of our area. Success will depend on how involved our community is prepared to become. We have made a good start.

Web Site for Hornsey Park

2009-10 was the year we created our web site with the help of Clement Huelse. The Committee agreed it should cover all of Hornsey Park and so permit the Association to represent the wider area, as a first step towards including other roads. It links us to others in the community and creates a meeting place for those who cannot make it to our meetings or are just interested in what is going on around and about. Please let us know if you have something you feel would be of interest or would like to write for it.

Coronation Sidings development

We lobbied hard against the proposal which would have seen 13m high train sheds and floodlit train servicing areas operating through the night immediately opposite the New River Village and proposed Heartlands, thereby blighting new and proposed housing alike. The proposal, which was withdrawn in the face of widespread opposition, would have caused noise and increased traffic and not provided any jobs for local people. It was the soft option preferred by Network Rail – we hope that this threat to our area will not resurface.



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Buses and traffic in Hornsey Park Road

We continued to push hard to stop the buses using the road. After lobbying, we were successful in getting traffic diverted when the High Road was closed for a car free day last summer but unsuccessful when Palace Way was closed and our area became gridlocked. Gridlock has returned this week, as long planned gas works got underway, confirming the need for the council to be much more considerate in managing streetworks that affect us.

Our October roadside protest was well attended and made the press. We were promised action and council Leader Clair Kober and TfL agreed to undertake road tests to establish that buses could use the new spine road. Despite the promises, nothing has changed so we must continue to push and probably have another protest day.

Trees and other improvements to Hornsey Park Road

We pushed hard for further environmental improvements. The kerbs through the bends were finally raised and pavements repaired. Linda met the tree officer and agreed a plan for trees in the pavement and the potential for pavement build-outs and more trees. In April, council leader Claire Kober promised funding for some environmental works: we will be working hard to ensure that money is spent in a way that will benefit residents.

Heartlands Planning Application - HYG/2009/0503

We have been told that the scheme is being looked at again in the light of comments made during the pre planning consultation. The application and our response are viewable at: <http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet>

Betting shops

As residents have become increasingly concerned at the number of betting shops in the area, we have written to the council and supported former Cllr Fiyaz Mughal in trying to stop the unchecked increase. Ryan's article on the web site helped stimulate further debate. We will work with our new councillors to support efforts to change planning laws.

Hornsey railway bridge footpath

We continued to work with St. Mary's Infant's School and joined forces with the New River Village RA, Burghley Roads Area RA and Mildura Court RA, as well as councillors, the GLA and TfL in an effort to persuade the council to widen the footpath between Hornsey High Street and Turnpike Lane. Despite our efforts and the story being featured in the local press, the council ignored all pleas. We will press the new council administration to do better.

Notice Board

Our Notice Board remains a valuable window on our area. Thanks to Polly and John for keeping it up to date and informative. If you have something that you feel would be of interest, please let us know, either at one of our meetings or via the web site.



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Neighbourhood Watch

Through Dorothy, we continue to support the Neighbourhood Watch and the Safer Neighbourhoods scheme. We still need a new co-ordinator. Until then, we will stay in contact with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and use the web site to keep in touch.

Other bits and pieces

In April, we held an election hustings with Burghley Roads RA. It was well attended by prospective councillors but not so well by residents. Nevertheless, it showed recognition of the Association and our area that so many candidates attended.

Little has been heard of the Wood Green Audit since it was completed by Laurie but we can report that a pioneering diagonal zebra crossing is being built outside Wood Green tube station. Remembering Laurie's work, the local press came to PMRA for comment.

In December, we learnt the council was unaware of the number of houses being illegally converted for multiple occupation. They are mostly poorly maintained and blight the houses around them. We have asked for the same protection afforded to the Ladder roads.

We supported calls to preserve Hornsey Gas Holder no.1 and, again were featured in the local press. Its unique character is worthy of retention and could form the centre piece of a regenerated Heartlands, if it were converted in a way that many other cities have.

We did not manage to have an annual Spring Clean this past year but this popular day remains on our agenda. We hope to have another one soon.

We continue to support the council's Community Warden Scheme. It does make a difference and is one reason why our roads look better than most – please join in if you can.

We have written to the council or attended meetings on many other issues affecting our area. We will use meetings, the web site and Notice Board 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.

In May, we said goodbye to all three existing councillors. We would like to record our thanks for their help and look forward to working with our new councillors in future.

In Conclusion

Thank you for coming tonight and for your help and interest over the past year. We look forward to seeing you again and working together in future, uncertain times.

Marcus Ballard
Chair
For Parkside Malvern Residents Association
11th August 2010