

## **Chair's Report to Annual General Meeting 2015**

*Our 16<sup>th</sup> year over and we have, again been busy, quietly doing what we are here to do – be at the centre of our community and stand up for the Hornsey Park area.*

*As always, we owe particular thanks to the Grace Baptist Church for the use of their hall. Thanks must also go to this year's Committee – Co Chairs Marcus and Ryan, Polly, Dorothy, Olga, Ben, Clement, John, Amanda, Debbie, Sibel, Ivor, Don and Peter. And thank you to all who have helped arrangements run smoothly, attended other meetings on our behalf and all who have supported the Association over the past year.*

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

### ***Demolition of the Gas Holders and Redevelopment of the Heartlands***

During the year PMRA has hosted several meetings of the Heartlands Resident and Business Liaison Group. National Grid and their partners have given these meetings a high priority in returning to the planners with their plans to discharge the conditions for the remediation of the gasworks site and the dismantling of the gasholders. PMRA reps have focused on building relationships with the engineers (Atkins) and the site contractors (Colman's) and on making common cause with local businesses like Turnaround Publishers and the Electoral Reform Society in Clarendon Road. In the spring we objected formally to the discharge of conditions for the Liaison Group terms of reference and for traffic management in Clarendon Road. Amendments were agreed to the terms of reference and a constructive meeting held between the developers and Haringey Council which we attended. The outcome is not yet clear because National Grid have again delayed the start of works on the site. The next meeting of the RBLG is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. The liaison group has been successful in ensuring a much more detailed focus on concerns about noise, dust, ecological and other environmental matters. There have been very clear commitments that Hornsey Park Road will not be used by site traffic at any stage of the works. During the remediation of the site and the dismantling there will be no interference with the lime trees (which are protected) and no wholesale clearing of trees on the eastern side of the site. PMRA has proposed that these trees (which grow on top of the 'earth bund' following the line of the Moselle culvert along the back of several Hornsey Park Road gardens) be retained as natural corridors and resources for wildlife. We have continued to advocate for the opening up of the River Moselle where it crosses the Heartlands site from the railway line and arranged a walkabout with Richard Barnes of the Woodland Trust and the Haringey ecological officer Ian Holt. We will continue to raise these possibilities when the developers National Grid appoint for the site return to Haringey with their full plans for the future housing developments.

### ***Community Gardening***

Now in its sixth year, community gardening is one of the most visible contributions we make to our area. As part of the community gardening work we have continued to prune the lime trees and keep clean the unregistered strip of land on which they stand. Approximately twenty-five referrals to Veolia to remove fly-tipped rubbish under the trees have been made in the course of the year and received a reasonably prompt response. This approach works: there is less tipping than there was five years ago and the area is quite often rubbish-free for more than a week at a time. Under pressure from us National Grid finally instructed Capita their site security firm to seal the holes in the site fence. They cleared up the spoil heaps from the fly-tipping in the spring of 2014 but not, as we requested, the long-standing heaps of litter which disfigure the little copse behind the lime-trees on HPR. Every corner of our area has its own patch of community garden. The other patches

continue to be well-maintained and new raised flower bed was installed this year in one of the alcoves in Martin's Walk. Particular thanks to regulars at the monthly community gardening day on the first Saturday of each month for their support. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

### ***Hornsey Park Road traffic management***

Vibration, air pollution and reckless driving continue to be a concern for residents of the overloaded Hornsey Park Road. We demonstrated during a one-day tube strike how the road continues to be the preferred alternative to the High Road for the vast majority of drivers trying to get through central Haringey. In November 2014 Cllr Stuart McNamara attended a PMRA general meeting and invited the association to represent its concerns about traffic management in Hornsey Park Road to the Haringey Transport Forum. John Miles, as PMRA lead for the Heartlands Resident and Business Liaison Group, has attended two Forum meetings and also the Haringey Cycling Conference, at least in part to represent the concerns of pedestrians. At the Forum in March it was proposed that a meeting be held between PMRA, Haringey Council and the bus operators to discuss the misuse of Hornsey Park Road by drivers leaving and returning to the Wood Green garage. At the time of writing this meeting is yet to take place, although Haringey have unsuccessfully raised this issue again with the bus operators. John will write before the October Forum to pursue the matter.

### ***High Road Scheme and Alexandra Road***

The High Road Major Scheme has proven a somewhat divisive issue. As a long overdue maintenance project, it has been successful. As for the dramatic High Road facelift and beautification that we had hoped for, it has been a disappointment. Nevertheless, some improvements have been made and most can agree that the High Road is now aesthetically more pleasing than it was previously. Although our request for trees and buildouts at the north end of Alexandra Road was at one stage rejected, after pressure from Marcus and a meeting with Project Manager Peter Watson and Councillor Peray Ahmet, two trees were planted in the carriageway within build outs as part of the works between Boots and Martin's Walk.

### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

Through Ryan, we continue to support the Neighbourhood Watch. The Watch is a regular part of our meetings and we encourage everyone to support it.

### ***Other bits and pieces***

We had a very successful 'Winter Drinks and Cake' event at the end of November and in December we returned to St Mark's Church Hall for our traditional Christmas Quiz night with the Noel Park North Residents Association and friends.

Sadly, the application for funding a new mosaic was unsuccessful. We were awarded a Capital Clean Up kit as a consolation. We continue to be disappointed with the level of engagement we have enjoyed with Noel Park Councillors, and with the Council's "box-ticking", meaningless approach to consultations. We are also disappointed by the stalled and under-funded Community Streets project to improve Hornsey Park Road – long awaited after many broken promises to invest in and improve the road. We remain grateful for support from and partnership with The Mall and Homes for Haringey, and our contacts among Sky City residents.

In April, we held our first Parliamentary Hustings for the 2015 General Election. The well attended meeting gave everyone the chance to hear and ask questions of candidates from the Liberal Democrat, Labour, Green, and UKIP parties.

### ***In Conclusion***

Thank you to all who have supported PMRA and joined in over the past year. Please do help again and make the association stronger and more relevant to our area. We look forward to

working together in 2016, to help make our area one we are proud to call home.

Ryan King and Marcus Ballard, Co-Chairs for PMRA

## **PMRA - YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**Alexandra Road, Hornsey Park Road, Malvern Road, Park Ridings, Ravenstone Road  
and The Avenue, N8 - HYPERLINK "http://www.pmra.co.uk/" [www.PMRA.co.uk](http://www.PMRA.co.uk)**

30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

PAGE \\* MERGEFORMAT 1