



PARKSIDE MALVERN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Hornsey Park Road, Malvern Road, Park Ridings, Alexandra Road, Ravenstone Road, The Avenue, N8.)

Chair's Report

Annual General Meeting – 4th October 2017

Our 18th year has been our most challenging to date. We are working on more fronts and collaborating with more organisations than ever. The hasty publishing of the Area Action Plan has completely changed conversations, relationships and agenda across our area. There are opportunities to influence change as never before but there are also huge risks and, for some, unacceptable consequences.

We owe particular thanks to the Grace Baptist Church for the use of their hall and Homes for Haringey and The Mall for their support. We are deeply grateful for the tireless work of John Miles, co-opted to the committee and not only heavily involved in the work of the association but also an excellent communicator with the many organisations and individuals with whom we must now work closely. Thanks must also go to this year's Committee - Polly, Dorothy, Olga, Ben, Clement, John, John, Debbie, Don, Kate and Niki and all who have helped arrangements run smoothly, attended meetings on our behalf or supported the Association over the past year.

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

Area Action Plan (AAP), Heartlands, The Mall, Iceland, Chocolate Factory and other sites

We have committed many hours to events, meetings, responses and lobbying on the AAP, Heartlands and Iceland, in particular. We objected to the AAP and presented our counter view on what the area needs and what would be best for its community. The AAP seems ill-conceived and likely cause harm to the community and fail us. We have worked with St William on the creation of a new park behind the lime trees in Hornsey Park Road and associated street works and how best to protect valuable habitats within the Heartlands site and supported our neighbours in Caxton Road, Tower terrace and the Warberry Road area, as the scale and impact of the AAP have been revealed to us. We attended the New London Architecture event sponsored by Haringey to fire up interest and support from, amongst others landowners, investors and developers and were interested to learn that while Haringey seems oblivious to the risks and potential harm the AAP might bring, their invited guests were not so sure. The introduction of 'Meanwhile' businesses and opportunities is welcome but it's happening at the same time as established businesses and employers are being driven out.

Community Streets and Hornsey Railway Bridge

After more than a year's work with Haringey and a decade of lobbying, a new gateway to the south end of Hornsey Park Road has been installed to announce the transition from main road to our residential area, slow traffic and make cycling safer. Shortly, there will be new trees and planters, a sign to name our area and hopefully repaired pavements and an end to parking on the pavement. The project is smaller than we had hoped for but with gateways at both ends of the road, we can now lobby for a restriction on HGVs.

With the Haringey Cycle Campaign, we have lobbied Haringey on modifying their plans for the cycle lane and junction improvements beneath Hornsey railway bridge and junction with Tottenham Lane and continue to pressure the council to widen the north footpath beneath the bridge and provide an east bound cycle lane.

These two modest changes will make it safer and more pleasant for walks to school, the station, to visit friends and local parks: they will connect us across the physical and social divide created by the railway.

Website and twitter

Our website and twitter account continue to be a source of information and forum for lively debate on key issues affecting our area and a place to voice concerns. We are very grateful for the time and effort Clement has put into making it such a success. Please do contribute to the debate, share items of interest and stay in touch.



Restoring the Moselle – Hornsey’s only river

PMRA is the river’s only true champions – all others point only to their policies and aspirations but over the last year, with the help of Thames 21 and others, we have established beyond doubt that it can and must be restored to the surface of the new Heartlands. In June we organised a joint event with Thames 21, Hornsey Historical Society and authors of Haringey’s Lost Rivers, Friends of Parks at the Big Green Bookshop: we have met Haringey’s Planners and Heartlands’ developers, completed detailed work on the feasibility of restoration and applied for project status and support from UCL’s Engineering Exchange and the River Lea Partnership for ‘Community led championing and co-design to restore the Moselle Brook through Wood Green as part of its Regeneration’. We need our community to demand that the river and its nature are part of the redevelopment of Wood Green.

Residents and Businesses Liaison Group (RBLG)

PMRA continues to host this group which brings together our community, developers, businesses, council officers and ward councillors. We are grateful for the commitment to its success from National Grid, St. William and The Mall Corporation as we have expanded our agenda from one concerned with site operations to collaboration and coordination of ideas and concerns arising from evolving plans for major redevelopment.

History and the area’s heritage assets

In April, we held a ‘Springtime Celebration’ beneath the lime trees in Hornsey Park Road to say goodbye to the gas holders and discuss plans for the pocket park and home for fragments of the holders. Through the RBLG, we have increased our understanding of the story of the Hornsey Gas Works and seen the importance of preserving both its memory and surviving heritage assets. Following sterling work by Eugene, we hope to start an archive shortly and with the help of St. William celebrate the Hornsey Gas Works in the design of Heartlands and its open spaces to ensure it is never forgotten.

Community Gardening

Now past its 10th year, we meet on the first Saturday of the month and this year had our efforts recognised by the award of a ‘Haringey In Bloom’ Certificate of Merit. We planted more bulbs and completed a planter beneath the new mosaic on Mayes Road. We desperately need help in the upkeep of our community garden spaces. The 10 exhibition boards displayed in Martins Walk in August showed quite how much we’ve achieved over the years. We will shortly complete our main project for this year, the planting for the southern gateway to Hornsey Park Road – a mixture of trees, planters and flower beds to add to the Lavender Garden and Hornsey park Surgery open spaces.

Winter Drinks and Cake + Christmas Quiz and Social – 3rd and 10th December

We held both popular events in December, in their now established homes – the corner of Mayes Road and Hornsey Park Road with the Shopping City and community gardening as our backdrop and the Asian Centre. They take us out to meet the community and have a bit more fun than is possible at general meetings, in the process bringing us together with our neighbours in Noel Park, our ward councillors and local businesses.

Bring and Take event – 5th November

With support and encouragement from HfH, we arranged the area’s first ever exchange of household goods, tools, toys, small items of furniture, computers, working electrical items, sports equipment - anything really as long as it wasn’t too large or heavy to carry and was still usable. Much of what was brought was new or nearly new. Electrical items were all PAT tested and an electrician was on hand to give advice. Sadly, the event was not well supported, perhaps because of its proximity to Christmas or the weather but most likely because this sort of thing needs to be part of a larger more open event.

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.



Team Noel Park (TNP)

Despite exemplary commitment from John and Polly on behalf of PMRA, Team Noel Park came to an end with the Community Fun Day in March. PMRA helped plan the event which took place in St Mark's Church Hall and at the Salvation Army as well as contributing exhibition material and led group discussions on community gardening. The main legacy from TNP has been the Parks department's support for setting up the small Westbury Banks Nature Reserve in the east of the ward and some useful contacts and work with Veolia around the Community Clean Up in October. In the last Team Noel Park meeting we contributed to an evaluation of priorities for the neighbourhood but the opportunity to meet with neighbouring residents and local officials was never quite realised.

General Elections Hustings – 31st May

The holding of election hustings is probably the most important thing PMRA can do – bringing before the community those who seek to represent us in parliament and make our laws, and helping us to exercise our right to choose. And the candidates had a message for us: if, as some suggested, there is something of a democratic deficit between local government and the community in Wood Green, democracy provides the means to hold those responsible to account. We look forward to the debate ahead of next May's local elections.

Community Clean Up Day – 15th October

We organised this event with Haringey's Team Noel Park and Veolia in a joint (and joined up) effort to raise residents' awareness of the free collection services for large/bulky items, reduce dumped rubbish in the street and keep our front gardens and forecourts free of household items and discarded furniture. While the level of community engagement was disappointing, the Clean Up Day was the perfect opportunity for us, as individuals and neighbours to work together and spruce up the area and to remind ourselves what a fine place it is.

Transport Forum

We represent the area on this Haringey group that brings together council officials, TfL and transport operators, amongst others. Our concerns remain the number of buses and condition of the pavements in Hornsey Park Road as well as the environmental impact of so much traffic and, in the north of our area town centre parking.

Other bits and pieces

We have found ourselves involved in a great number of conversations with others in an increasingly busy and diverse area, including Haringey Friends of Parks, Friends of Lordship Rec and the campaign to save Caxton Road. We hoped, but were unable to have our own event as part of The Great Get Together (backed by The Big Lunch and Jo Cox Foundation). We have supported and worked with residents of Sky City as the AAP threatened to take their homes away. Through John Miles, Cllr Mann and HfH, we have encouraged group action against the scourge of Japanese Knotweed that affects so many. We have had occasion to discuss the Haringey Development Vehicle (HDV) noting its controversial, political nature but accepting it to be outside the remit of our constitution.

In Conclusion

We urgently need more help and support. Those who remember the association being founded will recall far greater support from residents – attending meetings, writing letters, helping with our costs - joining in, yet in the age of the internet and smart phone, home seems to get forgotten. Please support us in any way you can and stay in touch and involved with issues that affect us all.

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 2018, to help make our area one we are proud to call home.

Ryan King and Marcus Ballard, Co-Chairs for PMRA

4th October, 2017