



## PMRA - YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

### Chair's Report to Annual General Meeting 2016

*Our 17<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, Kate, John Bourke, John Murray, Debbie, Ivor, and Don. Thanks also to John Miles, who though not a formal part of the committee, has been invaluable in the progression of our local agenda. 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.**

#### **Heartlands Resident and Business Liaison Group and demolition of gasholders**

Kate Glensman, Ryan King, Marcus Ballard and John Miles continue to attend the monthly meeting with National Grid and the Gasholder site team. Through the RBLG, we continue to receive reports, comment on them, raise topical issues about the works, contribute information, and pursue PMRA's concerns regarding the public park in particular. The minutes of these meetings are kept in detail by Local Dialogue and published at [www.haringeyheartlands.com](http://www.haringeyheartlands.com). Progress with the work has been steady, although slightly slower than expected and the remediation is not now expected to finish until early in 2018. Noise levels have been acceptable. There has been minimum disruption because of traffic. Reasonable hours have been kept (with no weekend working at all to date) and only one or two slight problems from intrusive smells, either from the sludge or the cutting of rusty metal. PMRA appreciate the attention the team bring to this process of regular consultation and discussion - at times, with respect to Japanese Knotweed and traffic management for example, our contributions have been of practical use.

The major event of the year within the RBLG followed National Grid's appointment of the Berkeley Group as the site developer in February 2016. Their manager for the site, Ashley Spearing, has attended the RBLG since March and met informally with Marcus on a number of occasions. During the year National Grid and BG received planning permission to make changes to the proposed development which include the resiting of the Pressure Reduction Station and the incorporation of a 'pocket park'. PMRA attended Haringey's development forum on these issues in the summer and wrote in support of them while pursuing concerns about the overall impact of development on the area and its biodiversity. The Berkeley Group have said they aim for the development to be of as high a quality as possible and have accepted PMRA's challenges regarding the greening of the site and have adopted our demand to 'save the song-thrush' as a working objective. Their early documentation can be found at <http://www.stwilliam.haringeyheartlands.com/>. PMRA has expressed disappointment at the delay in consultation on the environmental planning (a fete proposed in the summer has not happened, for example) but useful discussions continue. We have valued the conversation about sensitive areas like the 'earth bund' behind 125 and 151 HPR.

Gasholder No. 1 was dismantled during the summer with strong reactions on social media. Before demolition, a group of PMRA members and local historians were able to make a visit to the site in February 2016. National Grid and the developers (St William of the Berkeley group) have assembled articles of interest from the gasholders, identified by residents, as the foundation for memorialising the gasworks on the site and in the area. The Berkeley Group are seeking to appoint an artist but work to resume consultation on this proposal has been delayed. We are also determined to ensure that the Moselle Brook is not lost to future generations and that, through partnership working, every opportunity is taken to explore its restoration across our area. We have made a good start and are hopeful that something can be achieved.



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We responded in June to National Grid and St. William proposals for approval of 'reserved matters' under the outline permission and were pleased that protection of the lime trees open space in Hornsey Park Road and creation of a community park came a step closer with the grant of planning permission in July, 2016. We are now working to extend its influence through enhancements to the street, to create wider and safer pavements, slow the traffic and introduce space for planting and residents and visitors to pause. All this would be a terrific achievement.

### ***Haringey Transport Forum and Hornsey Park Road traffic management***

Since the winter of 2015, John Miles has represented PMRA on the Haringey Transport Forum, where he contributes generally to discussions about walking, cycling and bus travel. PMRA's specific objective has been the withdrawal of out-of-service buses from Hornsey Park Road except during emergencies or the closure of Alexandra Park. The main problems are caused by traffic conditions in central London and near Holloway Road. Accompanying two of our local councillors and Haringey officials, John and Ben Payne took part in an Arriva route-test of the 'spine road' in February. PMRA accepted that this was not acceptable in its present condition as a bus-route and proposed that Alexandra Park be used instead. Arriva accepted this change which was confirmed at the Transport Forum in the spring. Initially, use of the road by buses was considerably reduced but the practice was resumed during the Wightman Road closure and the problem has continued. It will be raised again - along with the issue of speeding which has recently worsened - at the October forum.

On a similar note, through the Community Streets project we hope to continue pushing the council to keep a focus on improvements to an environment badly affected by traffic and parking and proximity to the town centre. Our priorities are enhancements that will help transform roads back into neighbourly residential streets that feel safe and help nurture community. In May, officers attended our spring get together at the Lime Trees to help develop ideas. A consultation will start shortly on which we hope you will support the association to deliver these priorities.

### ***Community Gardening***

In the spring, with funds from the Electoral Reform Society, we began replacing the Lavender in the community garden at the junction of HPR and Clarendon Road. At the same time in the area outside the doctors' we successfully transplanted a young blackthorn tree on to main mound, and planted out the young oak donated by the Woodland Trust to mark the Queen's Jubilee. Sadly, this was damaged later by the contractors when they cut the grass. Both these areas, along with the lime trees, are kept clean and any dumping is reported very promptly.

In July, 2016, Heartlands High School's art club delivered their latest addition to our community gardening project: a colourful and lively mosaic featuring Alexandra Palace and Park, the Underground, Shopping City, the library, Wood Green Common and gas holder no.1. Congratulations to the art club on creating such a masterpiece. The community gardeners will finish it off with a new planter and there will be more coloured lighting. Earlier in the year, we planted more bulbs and have continued to look after and improve the six community garden spaces. We have continued with our community gardening on the first Saturday of each month but can always do with more hands.

### ***Team Noel Park***

Since February 2016 John Miles has attended a regular meeting with council officials, elected members and other tenant and resident associations. The aim is to improve quality of life in Noel Park. The main focus so far has been on fly-tipping and street-cleaning and to a lesser extent anti-social behaviour. Charlotte Levey is the project manager and the meetings are currently chaired by Councillor Stephen Mann. The police and neighbourhood safety teams attended one meeting and representatives of Veolia another. Residents have mainly been involved with the poster campaign to discourage fly-tipping - around 20 people came to the Parkside Malvern photo-shoot, and in planning the two Community Clear Outs with Veolia. It has not so far been possible to get to grips



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with the detail of contracts and service specifications - a particular difficulty in trying to pin down the inconsistency and poor quality of street-sweeping. There have also been improvements to security in and around Martins Walk during this year. One welcome future priority for Team Noel Park will be the problems caused by multi-occupation in Noel Park and the dire situation of many such tenants.

### ***Wood Green Futures consultation, the Area Action Plan and tall buildings***

We have responded to the council's emerging plans and in May 2016 held a well-attended forum with the Wood Green Futures team and St. William to discuss their plans and our concerns. We remain concerned at the council's overambitious and disruptive Options 3 and 4 which will see the Mall being redeveloped, a reshaped town centre, tall buildings, and no Crossrail2 at Turnpike Lane.

### ***Neighbourhood Watch***

Through Ryan King, we continue to support the Neighbourhood Watch. Ryan has continued to personally monitor the anti-social behaviour and drug-related activity at Turnpike Lane, regularly phoning 101 with reports and encouraging other local residents to do so as well. He has attended Ward Panel meetings and through these assisted in setting area policing priorities and has also had several conversations with local PCSO Yildiz Ali, who is sympathetic to our concerns, about issues affecting the area. A few months ago he made a contact within the largely Somali group dealing drugs at Turnpike Lane, which has helped provide further understanding of the real systemic issues that need to be addressed if the problems are to be solved. After a couple of years with little progress since the last campaign, a couple of shootings along Turnpike Lane and increasing anti-social behaviour led to a recent public meeting with representatives of the Metropolitan Police and David Lammy MP for Tottenham. After the meeting, Lammy took Ryan's card and the two hope to be in contact soon about formulating a bigger vision specifically for the Turnpike Lane part of our wider area.

In January 2016 Ryan had to break into the home of an elderly neighbour who was home, but unresponsive. The man was found to have fallen and had been on the floor since the afternoon of the day before. He was promptly taken to hospital where Ryan continued to see after him, arranging a temporary stay in a care home while ensuring the man's home was set in order and arrangements for ongoing care were in place for his return. Ryan urges local residents to be diligent in looking after isolated and vulnerable neighbours, whatever their age, but particularly the elderly and especially as the winter months set in.

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

We again enjoyed a successful 'Winter Drinks and Cake' event at the close of last year but especially significant was the pulling together of what turned out to be a very good Christmas Quiz night with the Noel Park North Residents Association and friends. Personal politics had left the annual event on the rocks and without a venue, but members of PMRA rose to the challenge at the last minute.

We also held an event at the Lime Trees in early summer where we served cakes and cold drinks while discussing memorialising the gasholders and plans for a new pocket park

### ***In Memorium***

We were sad to hear recently of the death of Paul Walker after several years battling cancer. Founder of Yoga Matters and a former committee member, Paul was an invaluable help to our community gardening efforts and the Neighbourhood Watch. He will be missed.

### ***In Conclusion***

Thank you for helping us this year. We look forward to working with you in the year to come!

Ryan King and Marcus Ballard, Co-Chairs for PMRA