



PMRA - YOUR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Alexandra Road, Hornsey Park Road, Malvern Road, Park Ridings, Ravenstone Road
and The Avenue, N8 - www.PMRA.co.uk

Chair's Report to Annual General Meeting 2019

Another year over and we have been reminded of where we began: PMRA started 20 years ago as an action group in the face of intolerable commuter traffic in one road of our area. This year, we have seen residents in Alexandra Road focus and fight back against an even more insidious threat – drug dealing and its consequences on a disturbing scale. At the other end of our area, residents in Hornsey Park Road are daily living with the stress of noise and vibration from construction work, cranes towering above their homes and the dark shadow of tall buildings encroaching on their gardens and view of the sky. Yet other streets are suffering from increasing levels of traffic and poorer air quality as Haringey continues to ignore the damaging impact of through-traffic and town centre parking on our small streets. Supporting residents and standing up for our area remains our priority but the association can never be more than the sum of its members – it needs everyone to be concerned and join in wherever and in whatever way they can.

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, Judy, Eugene, Anna, John Bourke, John Murray, Debbie, and Don. Thanks also to John Miles, co-opted member of the committee, who has been invaluable in the progression of our local agenda. Thanks to Homes for Haringey and The Mall for their continuing cooperation with us on various projects. Thanks especially to Gary Smith and Peter Thompson at Haringey. We are also grateful to friends at Caxton Road and on Sky City, with whom we have enjoyed good partnership over the years. 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.

Heartlands Resident and Business Liaison Group and Clarendon Development

This year saw the handover of the Haringey Heartlands (now called Clarendon) site from National Grid to St. William Homes LLP. This has brought with it other changes, such as the frequency with which the RBLG is held and the way local residents are engaged with news about the site. There have been some growing pains in the relationship, and over the summer and early autumn concerns about noise and potential damage to properties have increased with the works. Through the RBLG and individual meetings with St. William representatives, we continue to represent these and other concerns and interests of the local community through a very difficult time.

Hornsey Park Road

We are grateful to Gary Smith who pushed to get the Community Streets project done long after it was out of time. Long requested and desired features have yet to be implemented to the road: with cars are finally off the pavement at the south end of the road and the walk along the lime trees tidied up, we have now turned our attention to the build out in front of the lime trees, redesign of the junction with Mayes Road, repairs to pavements, a ban on HGVs, reduced traffic speed and a fairer distribution of traffic across the wider area. Of course there is always more to be done and our priorities as stated in the 2016 report remain “enhancements that will help transform roads back into neighbourly residential streets that feel safe and help nurture community.” Please work with us to that end. We hope next year to finally see safety improvements first called for in 2007 delivered beneath Hornsey Railway Bridge.

Moselle Brook and SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)

Together with the Haringey Rivers Forum, we have continued our campaign to ‘daylight’ the Moselle Brook through Heartlands, and celebrate the river’s course via a new ‘walk’ and the areas rich industrial heritage. Through the same media, we are working with Haringey and other agencies to address flooding problems in Mayes Road near the junction with Hornsey Park Road.

Community Gardening

Spaces that were previously very dull and even unpleasant have been transformed by our efforts to create and maintain small public gardens for the beautification of the area and enjoyment of our neighbours and guests. This year we planted another 600 bulbs. Our space in Martins Walk has been substantially enhanced by new planters, fencing, and most obviously two new murals at both entrances to the alley. The mural at the Alexandra Road end of Martins Walk has become something of a landmark, known simply as “the Squirrels”. A new mural celebrating our area’s diversity called



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“Lost House” is being completed at the Park Ridings end. Our thanks goes to Krishna Malla for his excellent work on these works of art.

We successfully obtained £15,000 from the Government Department of Communities and Local Government to spend on the area where Mayes Road meets Hornsey Park Road and Park Ridings. We are calling the scheme the Mayes Road Linear Pocket Park. The focus is on making the space safer, more accessible, friendlier and greener. This is quite a coup. The money has been held by Haringey and we have been working with other stakeholders toward seeing our vision take shape.

Neighbourhood Watch

Problems related to drug dealing, gangs, and related antisocial behaviour have continued to impact the area and this year reached our very doorsteps in ways that had not been quite so apparent previously. The activity was located at the Park Ridings end of Martins Walk and in the Sky City stairwells on Mayes Road and Alexandra Road early in the year. As the warmer months arrived, Alexandra Road saw most of the action, and evidence of serious crack, heroin, and spice abuse became more and more pronounced even as the dealers and users became more visible and aggressive. Ryan King met with the police in February, again with Eugene McConville in the summer, and maintained contact and correspondence with local police over the course of the year to speak to these and other issues. Sgt. Steve Humphrey attended and spoke at a General meeting on 27 February and wrote afterwards encouraged by the turnout and committing to action points raised. Another meeting, this time of the Ward Panel, was held in the church hall in April. Representatives from PMRA, the wider community, and the church were present in what seemed at the time to be a smaller but very solid, substantial meeting with, again, sound commitments made.

Unfortunately, little notice seemed to be taken or action made. The problems escalated instead of improving. A cooperative effort organised among Alexandra Road residents by Allison Farr was pivotal. The first meeting, at Shine Turnpike Lane, was packed out and led to Ryan setting up a Google Docs database where evidence was collected and crime reference numbers listed and the most affected residents forming the Alexandra Action Group. A later meeting organized by the Group, this time in Alexandra Hall on Alexandra Rd drew around 65 people, an unprecedented number for one corner of our area. The police and local officials realised that things had gotten badly out of hand, and residents have reported observable changes for the better on the road, although there is still much to be done as some of the dealers and users have been displaced to other roads. One thing that this experience demonstrates: the police do take notice of 101 calls if they get enough of them: another is that progress is made when the community focusses on an issue and works together toward a common goal.

Social events

Weather forced us to postpone our pre Christmas outdoor ‘Winter Drinks and Cake’ event to the New Year, but it was a great success and conversations were helpfully guided by a survey prepared by Debbie Sheddon on what people wanted from a residents association.

The annual success of our Winter event in many ways has served as something of an encouragement to attempting a monthly Playstreet scheme, whereby Malvern Road and Park Ridings are closed to traffic for children to play and families to socialise with their neighbours from all streets on one Sunday morning at the end of each month. This was so successful that it has been held every month over the summer with the most successful being the most recent, moved up a Sunday in observance of World Car Free Day. A lovely time was had by all!

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