

PALACE GATES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Annual General Meeting: 7pm
Tuesday November 10th 2015
Held at Hobarts Estate Agents
Minutes of Meeting**



1.PGRA Activities

Kevin Stanfield:

- Carol Singing on the Triangle. A great success, which will be repeated this year on Wednesday December 9th. Proceeds from the collection are donated to Crisis at Christmas.
- Summer Fete. A great success again, now in its fifth year. Will be held again in summer 2016. Additional help from other members will be much appreciated, as the event requires quite a lot of organisation.

- The Food Co-operative has now been running successfully for about 5 years. There is a meeting every 6 weeks, held in a private home, where residents can order healthy dry foods and eco-cleaning products. These are obtained from Infinity Foods. A catalogue is available on their website. Prices are generally cheaper than health food stores. Anyone interested in joining the regular meetings should contact Annabel Gregory.
- The Gardening Group meets at 11am every first Saturday of the month, except during the depths of winter, to maintain and improve the beds on the Palace Gates Triangle and the beds at the mini-roundabout at the junction of Crescent Rise and Albert Rd. Emails are sent in advance with information of what work will be done. All volunteers are welcome! Anyone interested in joining the Group should contact Molly Doran or Hilary Reynolds.



- Our efforts at the mini-roundabout were recognised this year, when we were awarded the Runner-up award for best Neighbourhood Improvement in the Haringey in Bloom scheme. Congratulations to all involved!



- As a result of our ongoing efforts we were also awarded a grant of £420 from the Haringey Open Spaces Small Grants scheme towards the cost of gardening tools, compost and plants

2. PGRA Accounts

Kevin: Presented the Financial Report for October 2014 to October 2015..

Accounts:

BALANCE AT OCTOBER 2014	£1799
Revenue in Financial Year:	
- Members' Subscriptions	£290
- Fete Net Proceeds	£701
- Carol Singing Collection	£179
TOTAL REVENUE	£1170
Expenditure in Financial Year:	
- Christmas Lights	£44
- Carol Singing Expenses	£70
- Donation to Charity	£179
- Plants/Gardening	£363
- Notice Board repairs	£10
- Web hosting cost	£61
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£727
BALANCE AT OCTOBER 2015	£2242

Spending Plans for 2015/2016:

Money raised at the Fete contributes significantly towards our expenditure. This coming year we expect to spend over £400 on planting and maintaining the beds on the Triangle and at the mini-roundabout. This figure includes the costs of timber signs to be installed in the beds, indicating that they are funded and maintained by the PGRA.

We are also considering the idea of having a timber bench installed on the Palace Gates Triangle. It would probably be a circular bench with arms at regular intervals, placed around the large ash tree in the centre of the Triangle.



In answer to **David Liddle's** concern that a bench might obstruct pedestrian movement across the Triangle, particularly for people with impaired vision, it was pointed out that the proposed location round the tree in the centre of the Triangle was not in the path of normal walking routes.

Debby Carr was concerned that it might attract vagrants, loitering and anti-social behaviour, as had been the case with the bench which was placed at the rear of the Triangle some years ago.

Indijana Harper pointed out that the environmental improvements on the Triangle, which had been made since the removal of the old bench some 10 years ago, including the creation of the raised flower bed in place of the old bench, meant that the Triangle no longer attracted anti- social behaviour.

Kevin: The approx. cost of the bench could be between £1500 and £2000, which would require substantial funding beyond the resources of the PGRA.

Tony Hopkins: We have recently been advised of a new scheme to be launched by Haringey called 'Ward Budgets', covering expenditure items of a minimum of £1000. We will discuss with our Ward Councillors how we might be able to secure funding from this scheme.

Permission to install a bench would require approval from Haringey's Highways Dept.

PGRA subscriptions for 2015 /2016:

Kevin: The annual subscription of £5 is now due for the year October 2015/2016. A number of members have already paid the 2015/2016 subscription in advance. A mail will be sent to all members, who are due to make payments for 2015 /2016.

The simplest method of making payment is by direct bank transfer to the PGRA's account:

Barclays Bank
Palace Gates Residents Association
Sort code 23 32 00
Account no. 70796956

or by Paypal to : palacegatera@yahoo.co.uk

Members paying by direct bank transfer are requested to confirm their payment by email to Kevin Stanfield (Kevin.stanfield@btinternet.com) and Walter Macharg (macharg51@gmail.com).

Alternatively cheques should be made payable to 'The Palace Gates Residents' Association'.

3. Projects to Improve the Environment in the PGRA Area

-Regeneration of the flower beds at the mini-roundabout at the junction of Crescent Rise and Albert Road.

-Maintenance of the beds at the Palace Gates Triangle:

Kevin: The Gardening Group consists of a small core group of regular volunteers. More volunteers are needed, as the upkeep of the beds, particularly those at the mini-roundabout, requires a fair amount of time and effort.

We have just planted bulbs in the beds at the Palace Gates Triangle and have refreshed the hanging baskets with winter planting. Next Saturday we will be planting bulbs and spreading compost on the beds at the mini-roundabout.

4.PGRA Campaigns

a) Safer Streets

Richard Riddle: At the last meeting of the Alexandra Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) a presentation was given by police officers from Haringey Safer Transport Team about the new Community Roadwatch Scheme, which is being launched by TfL, in conjunction with London Boroughs and the Metropolitan Police.

The key elements of the scheme are:

- A team monitoring speeding traffic using a radar speed gun will comprise a PC, PCSO and 3 members of the local community. The latter will record the speed of vehicles, the time of the check, record registration plate numbers and any other relevant details
- All will wear yellow reflective jackets
- Warning letters will be sent to the drivers who are speeding
- No fixed penalty notices will be issued as it is an advisory service only
- Speed guns are expected to be available by January 2016. Two have been requested for Haringey

Indijana: Expressed concern that only two speed guns would be allocated for the whole borough of Haringey and suggested that we might be able to buy additional speed guns.

There was some doubt as to whether each gun cost as little as £100 or over £1000, as Richard had discovered in research carried out earlier this year.

Richard: To review a broad range of traffic-related matters of concern to our community a 'Walk and Talk' session took place in the summer with Cllr Stuart McNamara, the Haringey Cabinet Member responsible for the Environment. The PGRA was represented by members of the Traffic Calming group which was formed following the 2014 AGM. Cllr Liz McShane also joined the session.

Kevin: Once our aims are agreed we will sit down with Stuart McNamara to discuss how this will be progressed. Liz McShane will liaise with Cllr McNamara to set up a formal meeting to follow up on the points raised by the PGRA group during the Walk and Talk session.

PGRA members are encouraged to collect photographic evidence of traffic violations and issues, such as HGV's and road rage.

b) Pinkham Way

Tony: Spoke on this issue in the absence of Susie Holden, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Pinkham Way Alliance (PWA) has fought tirelessly since 2011 to prevent a large MBT (Mechanical Biological Treatment) plant being built at Pinkham Way on the North Circular Rd, only a short distance away from our neighbourhood.

In 2013 the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) announced that it was abandoning its plans for the site.

However, earlier this year Haringey Council caved into pressure and steamrolled Pinkham Way into the draft North London Waste Plan (NLWP) as a 'potential employment site'. The PWA opposed this proposal strongly on the basis that that alternative uses for the site have not been considered and also that the draft plan gives insufficient weight to the nature conservation and open space value of the site.

This draft Plan was subject to a public consultation in August/ September 2015. The result of the consultation has not yet been announced.

Please sign up to the PWA website to be kept informed of further developments on the continuing struggle, including fund-raising campaigns to support the costs of the substantial professional planning and legal advice, which the PWA continues to incur.

www.pinkhamwayalliance.org

5. Regeneration programme for Alexandra Palace

Kevin: Presented an outline of the regeneration programme.

- Work on Alexandra Palace regeneration split into 2 parts
 - Enabling works (December 2015-May 2016)
 - Main works (June 2016 – Winter 2017)
 - Projected opening Spring 2018

- In parallel to the physical building works due to take place as part of the HLF there is also a longer term vision to improve the park

- Learning & Community events have increased along with commercial events and functions.

For more information refer to the website below or contact Emma Dagnes, the newly appointed Managing Director

www.alexandrapalace.com/about-us/regeneration
emma.dagnes@alexandrapalace.com (managing director)

The Palace is proposing to allow 'Go-Ape', a commercial enterprise operating zip-wire adventure activity venues, to install an operation in the 'Upper Field' area of the Park above the Deer Enclosure. The proposal is subject to a Public Consultation, which runs until November 23rd. Details are available on the Haringey Council Panning Portal website

- Impact on our community

Leila Allen: As a resident of Bedford Road for nine years, she and her neighbours have been subjected to increasing and intolerable disturbance from noise and anti-social behaviour caused by departing revellers following evening and late-night events held at Alexandra Palace. The number of such events has increased considerably over the last few years and is planned to increase further as the regeneration plans for the Palace are progressed.

She has been pressing Simon Fell, the Alexandra Palace Events Manager, to take robust and appropriate action to address the issues.

The measures so far instituted by the Palace, namely the installation of 'Keep quiet ; this is a residential area' signs and the provision of additional marshals to guide the crowds along the railway side of Bedford Rd towards the station, have not proved sufficiently effective.

Leila and her neighbours had a meeting 2 weeks ago with Simon Fell, Emma Dagnes, Daliah Barrett (Haringey Licensing Dept) and Cllr Liz Mcshane. Simon Fell and Emma Dagnes advised that more will be done over the next few weeks to try to address the problem. These 'new' measures will be monitored by both parties over the next month and reported back at a follow up meeting in early January 2016

If any PGRA members can offer further assistance or advice, including suggestions as to legal measures which could be taken, they are urged to contact Leila.

6. Police and Crime Report

Kevin : We live in a 'relatively' crime free neighbourhood Ward. Latest crime statistics from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) are:

- 16 Burglaries in last 3 months, particularly from rear of property during working day / school hours
- 8 thefts of cars / mopeds
- 15 thefts from vehicles, mainly builders' vans

At the last SNT meeting a presentation was given on MetTrace, a burglary reduction initiative being introduced in partnership with a commercial enterprise called SmartWater. Details are:

- Homes with high risk of burglary have been or will be issued with free SmartWater kits
- Kits cost £25 from Neighbourhood Watch or cost £70 to £100 if bought privately
- Residents can mark and list anything of personal value detrimental

- Each item will have a small dot that reflects UV light and is hard to remove
- Each drop has a unique code per house
- Police will check with UV torches all second hand shops for marked items
- Dramatic drop in burglaries
- Aim to mark 85% of a 600 home area - 3 year plan
- A PC will teach each household about the kits as well as informing about scams. A registration form will be signed by the household.

Indijana: Stressed that there is an urgent issue with the prospect of a reduction of 1000 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) in the Metropolitan Police from early next year.

7. Consultation on proposed Crossrail 2 stations at Alexandra Palace, Turnpike Lane or Wood Green

Tony: Crossrail 2 is a proposed new railway line, serving south-west to north-east London through Central London. It will provide additional capacity for travel into central London and will also relieve overcrowding on the Piccadilly and Victoria lines in North and North East London. Construction could start in the early 2020's with completion in 2030.

A Public Consultation started on October 27th and closes on January 8th 2016. It concerns two possible alignments between New Southgate and Seven Sisters, the current safeguarded route which would serve stations at Alexandra Palace and Turnpike Lane and an alternative providing a station at Wood Green only. The consultation also concerns proposals relating to station locations and entrances and the construction sites required to build and operate the tunnelled section of the scheme.

Detailed information concerning the proposals and the consultation process can be found on the website:

www.crossrail2.co.uk

Members are encouraged to take part in the consultation, as the results may have significant effects on our area.

Amongst a series of many detailed information pages on the website, the following relate to our particular area:

Crossrail 2 factsheets and leaflets:

-Leaflet to promote consultation - Between New Southgate and Seven Sisters

-Factsheet S2: Seven Sisters to New Southgate Route Options

Details of a series of local 'drop-in' events, where Crossrail 2 personnel will be available to answer questions and provide hardcopies of leaflets, are shown on the website.

Two events are taking place at Alexandra Palace station as follows:

Monday 7 December 12pm to 8pm
Thursday 17 December 12pm to 8pm

-Exhibition of proposals for regeneration of Wood Green

A series of Exhibition events are taking place this month at Wood Green library to show the proposals for Wood Green's Future Regeneration. You will be encouraged to provide your comments and suggestions at these events.

Public Drop –in Events at Wood Green Library:

- Tuesday November 17th 3pm to 7pm
- Wednesday November 18th 10am to 2pm
- Thursday November 19th 4pm to 8pm
- Friday November 20th 12pm to 5pm
- Saturday November 21st 11am to 4pm

You can also take part through the on-line survey at:

www.haringey.gov.uk/regeneration/wood-green

8. Open Discussion and Future Ideas

- a) Online Forum for the Alexandra Park neighbourhood.

Indijana: The 'Alexandra Park Neighbours' Online Forum was launched a year ago. It enables people in our area and extending throughout Alexandra Ward to discuss local issues, ask for advice, recommend tradespeople, organise events and support local campaigns. Member are encouraged to sign up.
<http://alexandraparkneighbours.org.uk/>

- b) New Network Rail fence along Dagmar Road

Debby Carr: Complained strongly that the new wire fence installed by Network Rail to replace the rotting timber fence was causing great distress to her and her neighbours. The open wire mesh permits full visibility of the passing trains, including lights from stationary trains, litter and vermin on the railway embankment. Also the open structure of the wire fence results in much greater noise from the trains to pass through compared to the previous solid timber fence.

Graham Warne: Advised that the best way to raise awareness of the problem and seek resolution was to email the CEO of Network Rail direct.

Cllr James Patterson: Agreed to champion the campaign by Dagmar Rd residents to obtain urgent resolution of the problem.

- c) Proposal for planters and hanging baskets at Alexandra Palace station

Michael Solomon Williams: Suggested that the PGRA might become involved in the installation and ongoing maintenance of planters and hanging baskets on the platforms at Alexandra Palace station. The Sunshine Garden Centre has advised that they might be prepared to provide sponsorship.

It was pointed out by **Hilary** that the Gardening Group is already over-stretched and does not have the physical resources or time to maintain additional beds /baskets.

Michael will speak to the Station Manager responsible for Alexandra Palace station to see how this idea might be progressed.

- d) Public Consultation on the possible extension of the Alexandra Palace CPZ

Tony: Was recently advised by Haringey Officers that the feedback from the consultation was expected to be provided by the end of November.

- e) Autumn Craft Fair

Annette Commissar: This Saturday the Autumn Craft Fair is taking place at the Alexandra Park library. Please do come along!

9. Election of Officers

The following Officers were re- elected:

Kevin Stanfield – Chair

Tony Hopkins – Secretary

Walter Macharg – Treasurer

The PGRA General Committee consists of the 3 Officers above plus the following members:

Alex King

David Rennie

Molly Doran

Grant Gahagan

Jackie Baker

10. Any Other Business

Kevin: Thanked Chris Devonport for allowing the PGRA to use Hobarts premises for the meeting and also for his generous contributions towards the work of the PGRA.

List of attendees

Kevin Stanfield

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David Rennie

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Indijana Harper

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