

PALACE GATES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**Annual General Meeting: 7pm
Thursday November 3rd 2016
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 Thursday December 8th. Proceeds from the collection are donated to Crisis at Christmas.
- Summer Fete. A great success, now in its sixth year. Money raised at the Fete contributes towards the PGRA's annual expenditure.



- 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.

Annabel Gregory:

- The Food Co-operative has now been running successfully for about 6 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.

2. PGRA Accounts

Kevin: Presented the Financial Report for October 2015 to October 2016.

Accounts:

BALANCE AT OCTOBER 2015	£2242
Revenue in Financial Year:	
- Members' Subscriptions	£240
- Fete Net Proceeds	£640

- Carol Singing Collection	£155
- Haringey Grant (Gardening)	£418
TOTAL REVENUE	£1453
Expenditure in Financial Year:	
- Christmas Lights	£23
- AGM / Carol Singing Expenses	£76
- Donation to Charity	£155
- Plants/Gardening	£615
- Donation to Friends of Ally Pally station	£200
- Web hosting cost	£61
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1130
BALANCE AT OCTOBER 2016	£2565

PGRA subscriptions for 2016 /2017:

Kevin: The annual subscription of £5 is now due for the year October 2016/2017. A number of members have already paid the 2016/2017 subscription in advance. A mail will be sent to all members, who are due to make payments for 2016 /2017.

It should be noted that Haringey Council require that registered Residents' Associations maintain a list of paid-up members.

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

Barclays Bank
Palace Gates Residents Association
Sort code 20 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

Maintenance of the beds at the Palace Gates Triangle and at the Crescent Rise mini-roundabout:

Molly Doran: 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.

During this year's dry summer we managed to obtain a regular water supply from a neighbour right next to the large beds at the Crescent Rise mini-roundabout. These beds are now becoming well established.

We have recently been cutting back shrubs at the beds on the Triangle and spreading compost. We are grateful to Dave at the hardware shop for supplying compost at very reasonable cost.

We have just installed new hanging baskets with winter planting on the Triangle and will be planting bulbs in the beds this Saturday. In December we will be planting a large number of bulbs in the beds at the mini-roundabout.

Plans for next year include the installation of some more signs, indicating that the beds are funded and maintained by the PGRA. Also we are planning a 'Big Dig 'day in March, when we will construct a rockery in one of the smaller beds at the mini-roundabout.



This will be well publicised and will be an opportunity to encourage more volunteers to join in and continue to give their time at the monthly Saturday morning sessions.

- Installation of bench on the Palace Gates Triangle:

Kevin: We applied to Haringey under the Ward Budget scheme for a circular bench with arms at regular intervals to be placed around the large ash tree in the centre of the Triangle. Following some delays in the application process Haringey advised that the proposed circular bench does not conform to their standard streetscape guidance.

We have now applied for a standard bench, with arms, to be placed behind the notice board on the Triangle, facing towards the tree and the bus stop. We understand that we have approval in principle. However, Haringey have now advised that it will necessary to gain agreement from stakeholders in the vicinity of the Triangle, as installation of benches can be a divisive issue, since they are believed to attract anti-social behaviour.

Indijana Harper cautioned that it was quite possible that local residents and businesses might not be in favour of the proposed design and location of the bench.

4.PGRA Campaigns

a) Safer Streets

Kevin: The new Community Roadwatch scheme, has been finally launched by TfL, in conjunction with London Boroughs and the Metropolitan Police, and went live in our local streets in August.

The key elements of the scheme are:

- A team monitoring speeding traffic using a radar speed gun consists of a PCSO from the Haringey Safer Transport Team and at least 2 members of the local community. The latter operate the speed gun and record the speed of vehicles, the time of the check, record registration plate numbers and any other relevant details
- All participants wear yellow reflective jackets
- Warning letters are sent to drivers who are speeding
- No fixed penalty notices are issued.

Two speed checks have been conducted so far in Alexandra ward. The most recent check took place in Palace Gates Rd in September. 28 vehicles were recorded as driving over 26mph.



The next Community Roadwatch check will take place at 1200 on Dec 7th in Durnsford Rd at the junction with Albert Rd. Members of the local community are encouraged to attend.

b) Pinkham Way

Tony Hopkins: 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, in 2015 Haringey Council included Pinkham Way into the draft North London Waste Plan (NLWP) as a 'potential employment site'. The PWA opposed this strongly on the basis that that alternative uses for the site had not been considered and also that the draft plan gave insufficient weight to the nature conservation and open space value of the site.

In August this year a Public Hearing was held to consider Haringey's Site Allocations, attended by an independent Inspector. The Inspector rejected Haringey's proposed inclusion of Pinkham Way within the Site Allocation programme, as it did nothing to implement Haringey's employment strategy.

The Haringey planning officer present at the meeting agreed that the inclusion of Pinkham Way in the Site Allocations programme was redundant.

However, the North London Waste Authority again stated that it definitely needs the land after all, though it is not clear for what purpose. So the battle continues.

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. Police and Crime Report

Tony: Every 3 months representatives of the PGRA, usually Kevin, Tony and Richard Riddle, attend the meeting of the Alexandra Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team panel together with members of the local Police and local Councillors. These meetings are an information-sharing forum, where the public have the opportunity to hear about local policing issues, express their concerns and agree priorities for police action in the local area.

For the last several years the PGRA has stressed that traffic speeding in our area must be addressed. This is now being tackled by the Community Roadwatch scheme.

We are pleased to hear that we live in a 'relatively' crime free neighbourhood ward. Latest crime statistics from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for the last 3 months are:

- 26 Burglaries. One particular person has now been arrested for 8 of these burglaries.
- 14 Thefts of vehicles, mainly mopeds.
- 12 Thefts from vehicles, mainly builders' vans
- 10 Drug possession offences, mostly carried out in the layby's along Alexandra Palace Way.

There has recently been a spate of bogus callers, preying mainly on older residents, pretending to be utility company representatives.

They operate in pairs, one person distracting the resident, while the other commits a burglary.

The Police urge residents to call 101 to report anything suspicious.

Cathy Daniels: Mentioned that she and other neighbours have been experiencing aggressive doorstep calls from street traders, selling fish. It was agreed that this problem should be raised at the next SNT meeting.

6. Alexandra Park Neighbours On-Line Forum

Alex King: The Alexandra Park Neighbours Online Forum was launched two years ago. It enables people in our area and extending throughout Alexandra Ward to discuss local issues, ask for advice, recommend tradespeople, post events and support local campaigns.

It is funded by revenue from local advertisers. PGRA members are encouraged to sign up.

<http://alexandraparkneighbours.org.uk/>

7. Planned increase in the Events programme for Alexandra Park – impact on our community

Kevin: Attended a recent meeting of the Alexandra Park and Palace Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee, as the PGRA representative.

Alexandra Palace is required to become more self-sufficient and has applied for a licence to put on more Events in the Park.

The events would be a mixture of free and ticketed events, taking place in different areas of the park, such as The Grove and Newlands Fields. Typical events could be plays, exhibitions, film, dance, music etc.

The Palace is seeking licence permission to increase Category A events (music focus) by 16 days a year and Category B events (music not the prime focus) by 18 days a year.

Stakeholders, including the Friends of Alexandra Park, voiced their concerns at the meeting over the sharp increase in the number of proposed events. Concerns included noise levels, accessibility, road closures and parking.

Jackie Baker: Expressed concern that, since the events would take place outside in the Park, the majority of them would be compressed into the summer months.

Cathy: Diversions of the W3 bus route cause considerable inconvenience to local residents.

Indijana: Felt that we need to allow the Palace to be financially successful to avoid the prospect of it being taken over by developers, as had seemed likely some years ago.

Stephen Middleton: Advised that 'Go-Ape', would be going live with a zip-wire venue in the Park in spring 2017, first with the Junior Course in the wooded area of the Upper Field next to the boating lake, followed by the Senior Course in the group of large cherry plum trees at the back of the former Deer Enclosure, where the land rises toward the Upper Field.

8. Open Discussion and Future Ideas

a) Friends of Ally Pally Station:

Tony: Spoke on behalf of Michael Solomon Williams, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Friends of Ally Pally Station was set up by Michael in early summer to fill the station platforms with plants and flowers. The Opening Day was held on June 4th, when large numbers of local residents came to the station to donate plants and flowers. Many, who could not come, joined the Friends for £5 so that plants could be bought on their behalf.

Supporters include Great Northern Rail, the Sunshine Garden Centre, the PGRA, Hobarts, Our Cottage and Dave's hardware shop.

The results have been very successful and the station platforms have been full of colour though the summer.

A Gardening Party was held in early October to weed the pots and planters and to plant spring bulbs and winter plants. The next Gardening Party will be held at 3pm on Sunday November 27th.

More information can be found on the website: www.friendsofallypallystation.co.uk

The Friends have also been designated an official 'Rail User Group', which mean that they can provide a significant voice in discussions with Great Northern about all aspects of the station, including the condition of the footbridge and the recent introduction of ticket barriers in the station building.

The introduction of the ticket barriers and the closure of the connecting gates between the public footbridge and the station platforms is a matter of great concern to local residents living on the Bedford Road side of the station.

Michael advised that he was attending a meeting earlier this week with Great Northern Rail together with our local councillors to press for alternative options. The results of the meeting are not yet known.

Indijana: Urged PGRA members to sign the petitions set up by the Liberal Democrats and by Catherine West MP. Details can be found on the Alexandra Park Neighbours website.

b) Further Consultation on proposed Crossrail 2 stations at Alexandra Palace, Turnpike Lane or Wood Green:

Tony: Following the Consultation, which took place in autumn 2015, advice has been given to those who took part in that Consultation that a further Consultation will be held in autumn this year, following the completion of work carried out by the Crossrail2 team on some of the complex challenges raised in the earlier Consultation.

It appears that for our area (which is included in the section of the route, known as the New Southgate branch) the two principal issues are:

- The loss of green space and mature trees in Avenue Gardens, where the main construction site will be placed for the proposed station at Alexandra Palace.
- The choice between the Wood Green route option and the Turnpike Lane/Alexandra Palace route option. The majority of respondents to the earlier Consultation favoured the Turnpike Lane/Alexandra Palace route option. Further design work is being carried out, so that a preferred option can be agreed.

PGRA members are encouraged to take part in this forthcoming consultation, as the results may have significant effects on our area. Dates for this consultation have not yet been announced. Further information will be available on the website:

www.crossrail2.co.uk

- c) Withdrawal of the published extension of the Alexandra Palace CPZ:

David Rennie: Expressed concern at the sudden withdrawal in June 2016 of the published extension, which had been advised by Haringey to affected residents in March 2016. Haringey's decision in March 2016 had resulted from a detailed consultation in June 2015.

A public meeting was arranged by Haringey council and local Councillors in August this year to discuss this matter. It was attended by approx. 25 local residents. Concern was expressed at the lack of transparency over the reasons for the sudden withdrawal of the extension to the existing CPZ.

A number of local residents asked Haringey Council to carry out further investigation into possible solutions to alleviate the significant

parking stress, which had resulted from displacement parking from the existing CPZ.

Haringey agreed to carry out 'parking beat surveys' to gauge the parking conditions in the affected streets at different times of day, which would enable them to develop some proposed solutions. Haringey also agreed to arrange a further public meeting in the second half of October to present their proposals.

Tony: There has not been any information yet about this planned public meeting, which was due in late October. Our local councillors will be meeting Cllr Peray Ahmet, the Haringey Cabinet Member for the Environment, which includes parking, next week to discuss the latest situation on this matter.

Kevin: The PGRA does not adopt a position on the existing CPZ scheme or its extension. We do, however, seek to ensure that the process and decision-making is carried out effectively and legitimately.



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 for his generous contributions towards the work of the PGRA.

List of attendees**Kevin Stanfield**

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