

Harrow Agenda 21
Minutes of the Executive Meeting
Committee Room 6, Harrow Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2UZ
11 May 2011, 19:00

Name	Ref	Role	Present
Mick Oliver	MO	Chair	Yes
Himesh Chavda	HC	Secretary, minute taker	Yes
Cllr Phil O'Dell	POD	Deputy Leader, Harrow Council LBH Councillor, Wealdstone Ward	Yes
Marion Garner-Patel	MGP	Kingsfield Estate Residents Action Group; Chair, Planning Action Group	Yes
Pam Gershon	PG	Treasurer	Yes
Cllr Sachin Shah	SS	LBH Councillor, Queensbury Ward	Yes
Marilyn Raymond	MR	Chair, Education Group	Yes
Pam Gershon	PG	Treasurer	Yes
Mick Campbell	MC	South Harrow & Roxeth Residents' Association	Yes
Mary John	MJ		Apologies
Cllr Ramji Chauhan	RC	LBH Councillor, Harrow Weald Ward	Apologies
Cllr Bill Phillips	BP	LBH Councillor, Greenhill Ward	Apologies
Don Liversedge	DL	Harrow Humanist Society	Apologies
Shivakuru Selvathurai	SS		Apologies

1. Welcome and Apologies

MO gave the apologies listed above and welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Agenda Review

The agenda was reviewed and agreed.

3. Approval of the Minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2011

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

4. Chair's Report

4.1 Chair's report was discussed – see report below.

4.2 There is a gap in the Consumer Group that needs to be filled, as Laura Gill has now left.

4.3 There was some concern regarding the level of commitment to HA21's activities. Only 17 members attended the meeting on April 12th. How do we get people to participate? Sarah Kersey was to try to get more volunteers.

4.4 POD mentioned the possibility of recruiting a volunteer manager from the Council's HR area. It would be important to recruit a professional with experience in managing people to help manage our volunteers.

Action Point: MO to speak to Sarah Kersey at Volunteer Action Harrow to move this forward.

4.5 The grants application for this year was considered and showed that HA21 was not successful at the first stage of consideration.

4.6 POD explained the grants process: The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) gives a recommendation to the Council's cabinet, who decides the allocation of funding.

- The Cabinet's decision can, however, be "called-in" by Councillors or residents if they disagree. The decision to grant funding cannot be actioned until a "Call-in Committee Meeting" is held.
- 4.7 Following the Cabinet's initial decision this time, there was a call-in as regards the next round of funding. The call-in was made by around 500 residents acting through 5 different charities who were not awarded funding. The call-in was made on the basis of a fault/disagreement as to the application process that GAP carried out. The Call-In Committee has referred the decision to the Cabinet for reconsideration and, as a result, there is to be a special Cabinet meeting held next Tuesday.
 - 4.8 If the decision is to continue on the same basis, the applicants can appeal. Applicants can appeal on the grounds that the information submitted to the GAP was either (i) incorrect or (ii) omitted, and that had a material effect on the decision.
 - 4.9 If an applicant appeals, they get a letter stating that an appeal process is in place and it contains the score received during the grant application evaluation.
 - 4.10 There is a percentage of the grant that is usually held back and awarded to applicant's whose appeals are successful.
 - 4.11 PG queried whether or not appealing would have an impact on next year's funding. POD responded that it wouldn't. In any case, he would try to speak to GAP to find out why the bid failed this year.
 - 4.12 HC asked whether the grants are decided on the same basis as last year? (In which case, we would have been successful again.) POD explained that last year there was an excess of funding, which meant that all applicants received funding and, in addition, some funding was paid out to unsuccessful applicants. This year there is a high number of applicants, who may have received higher scores than HA21. We might have received the same scores as last year, but this year it wasn't high enough in comparison to other applicants.
 - 4.13 The Early Day Motions 1101 (waste recycling: end user register) and 644 (energy generation and energy saving) were then discussed. Responses to MO's letter were received from Bob Blackman (Harrow East – Conservative) and Gareth Thomas (Harrow West – Labour), as referred to in the Chari's report below.
 - 4.14 POD suggested that any issues with the responses can be pursued directly with the MP during their surgery. MO queried whether we could set up a meeting with our own MPs acting through our wider capacity as HA21 rather than as constituents?
 - 4.15 SS stated that there was no harm in trying. The best way to engage MPs to listen or get them involved is to say that "*all these people are involved in [action/purpose] and that they are all about to vote*". In addition, we can get them to speak at the AGM.
 - 4.16 MO highlighted that we need to get a speaker for the AGM. MGP raised the possibility of getting someone from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). If we got an MP, we could challenge or debate their policies.
 - 4.17 MO considered asking Sarah Dickinson, Waste Minimisation Co-ordinator at West London Waste Authority to speak at the AGM.
 - 4.18 POD stated that we needed to start asking people now for their availability.

Action Point: MO to check availability of a number of people, including MPs and Sarah Dickinson. MGP to pursue DECC contact as her daughter works there.

- 4.19 MO stated that we received a grant of £1,000 from the Tudor Trust. The reason for the grant was that they want to assist community organisations that help people in the margins of society.
- 4.20 MO's letter to trustees dated 3 May 2011 was then discussed. The letter set out some options as to strategies that HA21 could consider to develop financial and practical support. Some of the options were discussed as set out below.
- 4.21 *Co-operation with other bodies.* Green Harrow has not responded to any contact from MO. Is it worth pursuing? Undecided as yet. Green Harrow are part of Harrow's strategic partnership, where they debate issues with the partnership, but don't do anything active for the cause.
- 4.22 SS stated that there is merit in co-operating with other organisations that have our values. We're more "active" than Greener Harrow and so should join active groups and focus on projects that might motivate us. MO considered putting all thoughts of merging with Greener Harrow on hold for now.
- 4.23 *Subscriptions.* POD stated that we should not rule out subscriptions to HA21. One problem with this approach is that some people will put money to HA21 and not participate any further. However, others may feel more inclined to participate if they have put money into the organisation.
- 4.24 MO confirmed that he had listed "subscriptions to HA21" an alternative method of funding HA21 in the relevant question in the grant application.

Action Point: PG to consider appropriate level of subscriptions.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 PG stated that the current balance was £6,043.87. The balance does not include the Tudor Trust grant.
- 5.2 PG has some information for the Annual Report to give to MO on Monday.

6. Action Group Reports

- 6.1 Need reports from Action Group leaders for the Annual Report.

Action Point: MO to give MGP examples of previous drafts of group reports to assist with the Planning Group input.

Waste Management and Recycling Report

- 6.2 The Waste Management and Recycling Report were discussed – see report below.
- 6.3 Harrow Council is receiving a grant to fund 1,000 recycling bins to serve 8,000 flats.

Consumer Group

- 6.4 No current report. MO to provide a report, if any, on Consumer Group activities going forward on a temporary basis.

Education Group

- 6.5 The Education Group Report was discussed – see report below.
- 6.6 Publicising of the Anne Swaine award (a £500 award given to schools running environmental projects) was discussed. MO stated that MR will publish it in the Education newsletter. Susan Anderson tries to have various activities in different parts of the borough, so can bring it to the attention of various schools.

- 6.7 POD stated that many schools run environmental projects but are not aware of the award. They should, however, be aware of it as they receive copies of In Contact and the Education newsletter. However, we are not sure where the Education newsletter goes, who gets it and what the schools do with it.
- 6.8 It was discussed that we could write to school governors to make them aware of the award.

Action Point: MO and MC to speak to MR to discuss the various ideas of publicising the Anne Swaine award.

Planning Group

- 6.9 The Planning Group report was discussed – see report below. *[Note: Susan Anderson pointed out by email that HMRC (previously Inland Revenue) is still in Harrow but is now based in Aspect Gate, 166 College Road.]*
- 6.10 MGP referred to the consultant's report on Harrow's Intensification Area. MGP stated that they've listened to people on various issues: e.g. lack of cultural events, no music or arts schools etc.
- 6.11 MO stated that some of these issues came up at the Greener Harrow meeting. There is an Area Action Plan (AAP) out for comment until July. Green Harrow also discussed the possibility of converting empty offices into hotels – what will happen to them after the Olympics?
- 6.12 MGP stated that we are yet to respond the AAP.

Action Point: Other HA21 members to feedback to MGP on the consultation. MGP to put an article into In Contact.

- 6.13 Update re St George's Field. MGP stated that the ombudsman has justified the residents' point there has been some maladministration/drafting error regarding the greenfield site. E.g. the tennis courts were in fact on the green field.
- 6.14 MGP stated that it will cost about £2,000 to fight for the town green status. The enquiry/appeal is taking place at the Civic Centre.

7. Minutes of Meeting on 2 March 2011

7.1 Matters Arising:

<u>Action Point reference from previous meeting</u>	<u>Update</u>
Minute 6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC will provide the "What Happens to Waste" DVDs to schools. He has already provided them to U3A (The University of the Third Age).
Minute 6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HA21 still require a new secretary for the Waste Group. None of the previous secretary's friends were interested.
Minute 6.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MO circulated the "Recycling in Harrow" briefing note. If we need to circulate this note for publicising the methods of recycling in flats, we can update this briefing note into a more intelligible form.

Minute 6.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR has publicised the Spring Event. • Harrow School are looking for some use for their farm, but no further news as to it being used as a community farm.
Minute 7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to Minute 5.5 of meeting on 12 January 2011 – Action Point: need to ask MR if she has spoken to John Tucker.
Minute 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC stated that Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS) have now closed. However, Volunteer Action Harrow (VAH) appears to be set up and is staffed by former HAVS' staff. They are in the same premises as HAVS. VAH website is: http://www.voluntaryactionharrow.org.uk/wp. • Action Point: MO to circulate list of VAH training.

8. AOB

- 8.1 **Action Point: MGP to prepare an article for In Contact re permeable front gardens. MC to review MGP's article.**
- 8.2 MO made available a book that members can borrow: Confessions of an Eco Sinner by Fred Pearce. HA21 own this book.
- 8.3 MO also confirmed that HA21 are joining Recoup. Joining fee is £200 plus VAT. HA21 also get to use a "bottle mascot" for events.

9. The meeting closed at 8.51pm

10. Next meeting is on Wednesday 22 June 2011 at 7pm, Committee Room 6.

Harrow Agenda 21 Executive Committee Meeting

Chair's Report

11th May 2011

Progress since last EC meeting

- Laura Gil unable to continue as Chair of Consumer Group.
- "Where are we now?" meeting held April 12th to review progress since Facilitation meeting in March 2010, and to invite members to participate in HA21's activities.
- Application for grant for 2011-2 considered by Grants Advisory Panel on 30.3.11 and not successful at first stage. Implications considered in letter to trustees.
- Responses received from Bob Blackman on EDM 1101 (prefer to wait for announcement on waste policy in June) and from Gareth Thomas on EDM 644 (prefers to use his access to minister through his shadow position for energy).
- Grant for £1000 received from Tudor Trust.

Plan to attend Greener Harrow meeting on May 11th a.m.

Work to be done before the next EC meeting

Prepare for AGM – find outside speaker?

- June "In Contact" to be prepared and circulated. Organisation members invited to contribute copy on the green activities they are involved in.
- Resourcing Consumer Group.

Issues

- Future without grant from Harrow Council.

MSO May 7, 2011

Harrow Agenda 21 Executive Committee Meeting

Waste Management & Recycling Group Report

11th May 2011

Progress since last EC meeting

- “What happens to Waste” being received enthusiastically.
- Harrow receiving grant to establish recycling collection from flats.
- Chair attended opening of Biffa’s plastic separation plant/mrf – able to separate different plastic polymers from a mixed plastic stream – technology which allows reuse of plastic materials in their original application.
- Chair attended Recoup’s “Recycling on the Go” conference and investigated membership.
- Response received from Bob Blackman on EDM 1101 (prefer to wait for announcement on waste policy in June).
- Sharzad Amoli unable to attend June Westminster waste conference but Mick Campbell able to replace her.

Work to be done before the next EC meeting

- Take part in Under One Sky and Canons Park Open Day.
- Prepare waste features for June “In Contact”.
- Continue to create scrapbook of waste cuttings.

Issues

- Secretary for group.

MSO May 7, 2011

Harrow Agenda 21 Executive Committee Meeting

Report from Chair, Education Group

11th May 2011

Progress since last EC meeting

- **Summer '11 Newsletter:** In process of layout. Unable to finalise until date set for Summer Walk over Roxbourne Rough with Steve Bolsover. Sarah Dickinson of West London Waste has given an article
- **Spring Event:** Thursday 24th March at Veolia Environment Centre, Clay Lane, Bushey We made small raised beds and bird box or mini beast hotel – all to take away. HA21 to paid out £200 to cover charges and the majority of materials used. Two schools that made larger beds were happy to pay for their own materials. Six schools took up places, in the event this was an ideal number as quite a bit of support was essential and all thanks to Mick O and Mick C for providing this.
- **Anne Swain Award:** Present year needs more publicizing as no take up yet, June deadline.
- **The Earth Project:** The Shaw Trust will be running the Project; I believe this is progressing but slowly.
- **Alexandra School:** Are keeping us posted, they are having great success with their Nest box & web camera we provided. This year the students are watching the growth of 10 chicks via the TV screen in the school hallway, a great improvement as last year many fledglings died.

Work to be done before the next EC meeting

Arrange another Committee meeting to plan the way forward

Still to visit Aylward School as they wish to develop their overgrown nature area and develop its potential for Key Stages 1 & 2.

Produce newsletter – mid May `11

Contact with Cllr. Keith Ferry re the proposed Community Farm for an update.

Issues

None

My apologies as unable to attend

Marilyn Raymond

Report of Planning for Agenda 21 May 2011

There is now on the internet the report of the Consultation of the Intensification Area of Central Harrow to Wealdstone.

One problem shows up and that is that Harrow and Wealdstone have suffered from no clear plan and that it suffers from piecemeal development. It is a mess. There are isolated exceptions such as Headstone Drive shopping area near the Trinity Church and the St Anne's precinct but there are high criticisms of street scenes elsewhere. There are poor pedestrian ways and the access to The Hill from the shopping area is poor i.e. up the Station steps one side and down the other and NO lift!

Quote " A history of failed planning applications for key sites and a perceived lack of clarity and commitment from the council may have damaged future negotiations with developers "

Another "Lack of investment could threaten Harrow's metropolitan Centre status and lead to a spiral of decline"

I personally go shopping elsewhere and so do my daughters. When we planned S Anne's Centre we suggested a focal point, a town square indoors with seats. The band stand went – and the seats! Debenhams has gone down hill and when I last went in I wondered why I had bothered. So no quality shopping is left in Harrow.

Parking is a continual problem – and expensive- it is cheaper in Watford and easier to park there are seats in the Harlequin and better shops. I seriously think that Harrow has missed the boat.

Facilities for the young are poor - we lost a bowling alley to awful flats.

The Kodak site could offer an attractive pedestrian way to Moat Farm via the Kodak site. To Wealdstone Station. Many asked for a square in Kodak to be named Eastman Square with a water feature; there is an artesian well on site: pie in the sky- like the one in St. Anne's?!

So how do we strengthen the image of Harrow and Wealdstone?

Harrow needs better quality shops. There should be a walk way to the Hill. The Station Road link to Wealdstone is congested with traffic problems near Tesco. Good buildings should be kept and others not. Transport was criticised there must be better links between Harrow and Wealdstone Centres and their stations. The stations were criticised for their poor entrances and environs with no designated routes to anywhere. Too many barriers inhibit walkers, railings, traffic and street furniture.

Wealdstone only meets local shopping needs and like Harrow needs better shops to attract people from outside.

Housing: to accommodate 3,500 new homes we will have to build high developments; at all the meetings I attended there was opposition to "hiding the Hill". Housing must be innovative and attractive. There is a strong residential market.

“There is a need for an improved green infrastructure across the area by making green links between existing high quality open spaces”.

The office market has lagged behind Uxbridge, Watford and Ealing. How long have those offices been near empty on Roxborough bridge replacing a the Roxborough Arms? Public sector intervention is the answer. Tho’ we have lost an Inland Revenue office and The Land Registry. Local small business development should be encouraged. Residential and population growth should create demand for public services such as education and health.

Station road linking the 2 area needs improving to make it more attractive, public realm improvements are needed, better, wider pavements, junction simplification and cycle ways. This can only be done if parking and congestion along Station Road can be reduced. There are concerns that increasing traffic along Harrow View to ease congestion in Station Road was not possible; it is a residential road and has not the capacity to deal with extra traffic.

Industrial development, mainly in Wealdstone, is needed to provide employment. A number of key sites are required to bring regeneration.

Harrow definitely needs urban renewal. It needs more local jobs- industry and office. This is all going to cost Mega bucks. High rise flats in Harrow in its centre will not be popular. It all a challenge and one thing is certain, if nothing is done Harrow will degenerate further.

St George’s Field

The Appeal/Enquiry begins next week at 10 a.m. Tuesday 17th and 18th May. All support will be welcomed to cheer and boo speakers. The field should be part of the green grid system. The EU is worried about the loss of wild life in European Cities. This field is need by all the living things in the borough, birds, beats plants, insects and humans. We hope that the Inspector agrees.

Marion Garner-Patel