

Minutes, Holly Lodge Residents Association, Monday 20th November

Present: Grace Livingstone, Kim Sutherland, Andrea Westall, Dermot Alexander, Grainne Ennis (for first part), Alison David, Alan Matthews, Sally Davies.

Heating and hot water

Grainne had received an email from Derek Wells at Camden inviting the TRA to a meeting over proposed plans for the heating/hot water upgrade. The proposal had already been discussed with councillors. GE is arranging this meeting and has asked for a copy of the proposals before we meet with Camden. After this clarification meeting a public open event will be held to discuss the proposals with all residents.

Fire safety

Pellings have already begun their assessment of the blocks for fire safety requirements. Grace is waiting to hear about advice to residents about what to do in the case of fire from Camden. If she does not hear soon, will contact the Fire Brigade.

Action: Grace will ring Paul Levy and also contact the Fire Brigade about a walk about for them to better understand where residents might be in the case of fire.

Camden's Fire Safety Panel – It seems as though no one has responded from either the Estate or the Committee to be a member.

Action: Grace expressed interest in doing so. Andrea will forward related correspondence.

Community Centre

Andrea met with Barbara Smith, Chair of the Community Centre, to discuss the transfer of the lease from the Community Centre to the TRA. This proposal has arisen as the result of Camden Council wishing to transform most community centres in the borough into resident hands (TRA halls). This would mean that there would be no rent to pay on the hall, and no bills except for rates and public liability insurance. The suggestion to the Committee from the meeting with Barbara was that the CC continues to manage the hall and that we sign a Memorandum of Understanding to that effect. In order to ensure that this process works well and that there is adequate oversight and link between the two committees, it was proposed that:

- a) There should be a minimum of three residents who are members of both committees
- b) That the MoU is clear that the CC is to be run with activities which benefit the whole community and not just older residents
- c) At least two joint committee meetings are held twice a year for the purposes of discussing activities and financial viability for the CC.

Overall, the suggestion is that the TRA will hold the lease and devolve responsibility to Community Centre through an MoU. The committee suggested several areas of both the lease and MoU draft documents that would be important to clarify including:

- a) What happens if either one or the other of the Committees ceases to function or be viable.
- b) We need the exact wording from our Constitution to appropriately word the documents
- c) Financial obligations for both committees need to be clarified

The minutes of the CC will also need to be made publicly available. These could either go up on the CC website or in the interim be on the TRA website. Highgate Newtown is being renovated and a few classes will temporarily come to HL Community Centre.

Action: Andrea to liaise with Hugh Boatswain at Camden and Barbara Smith over a meeting to clarify the documents and their implications. Grace Livingston to also attend if able. The resulting draft documents will then be circulated to committee members for discussion.

Action: Andrea will also speak to Roger Elliott about the possibility of him being an additional liaison between the two committees.

Christmas party

Shannon is lead organiser. The date has not been confirmed yet but will be one of 9/16/17 December. The suggestion was to have plate painting for all ages and then a party as last year with games and entertainment.

Action: Shannon to double check if there is funding available.

Garden

Sally Davies told the Committee that Camden have agreed to stop using drive-on lawn mowers on paths which is due to Deb's persistence on the issue and wider TRA communications. This is something to celebrate! Deb is waiting for a response from Camden re tarmac paths which are in bad state of repair. There was a recent walkabout with Victoria from Camden who asked for a list of 5 priorities that have been sent to her.

It was agreed that it is important that garden decisions are transparent - all residents should be properly consulted about any future large-scale garden plans e.g. by having an open meeting/drop in description boards, to which all residents are invited.

There was a suggestion for an open meeting with Camden to establish rules regarding use of the garden and areas directly outside people's flats. At present this issue is very unclear and the main Camden representative for the gardens did not herself know.

Action: We need to get further clarification from Camden on this issue.

It was also noted that it is important that people do not feel singled out for any transgressions of garden regulations, particularly since these are unclear. The TRA should be careful to manage these situations appropriately and attempt firstly to speak with the people responsible.

Block Reps/ Committee Capacity

There was a decision to change the name of suggested Block Representatives to Block Links to make clear that this is not about representing the views of all residents of a block. It is rather about being the link person for the TRA with respect to information (eg how many fire escapes, do they have a noticeboard, or delivering leaflets). They could also come to TRA meetings if they wished. We just need more hands on deck to help with committee and wider TRA activities.

Questionnaire to residents

Andrea noted that the reasons for sending one out are to communicate with residents about what they want to see the TRA doing, increase our email list and hence ability to easily contact people. There should also be questions relating to whether or not people would be willing to help out with running eg a workshop/club, skills sharing, events. It was also important that the questionnaire covered activities for all ages.

Hugh Boatswain, who is the TRA Liaison Officer for Camden can send this questionnaire out to all flats.

Action: Andrea will ask if they can include an SAE (ie will Camden fund this) or else they can be returned to the Community Centre as long as marked appropriately.

An incentive prize for filling in the questionnaire was suggested eg either chocolates or perhaps asking Kalendar if they would donate/subside a meal for two?

AOB

There had been correspondence with Camden about the availability of notice boards in all blocks and a statement that this would be looked into and notice boards put up in blocks which did not have them.

The current A5 which is being used to promote TRA contact details has been printed with ink that appears to be fading.

Action: Andrea will get A5 notices done with better (or at least Canon compatible archival) ink and which are laminated for more permanence!

Alan is still trying to contact Hugh Boatswain about any additional funding that we may be eligible for.

Alison – told everyone that a Kentish Town 'locally grown' box scheme had a weekly delivery at the 'Star' pub in Chester Rd. She had asked if it might be possible to have a delivery on the Estate but apparently not.

Action: Andrea to put information on the website/perhaps under a 'local food' page.

Action: Kim will contact Tamatha about the situation with the Polytunnel which was set up to enable residents to do their own growing.

We need to increase the number of active members of the board and could encourage this through emails/questionnaire.

Next meeting: 15th January, 2018