

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HLRA COMMITTEE HELD
ON 12TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT THE HOLLY LODGE COMMUNITY
CENTRE, 4PM**

PRESENT: Andrea (Chair), Alison, Danny, Deborah, Hertha, Jane, Josh, Judith, Lana, Roger (Acting Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Andy, Bernadette, Dermot, Grace, Jay, Kim, Shannon, Yvonne.

TREE CONSULTATION

Deborah reported that she went on a two hour walkabout with Camden's Tree Plantation officer, Riccardo, together with Dermot and Jane. Following this and a poster campaign throughout the Estate with an email consultation, the following were proposed to be planted:

- A small flowering Cornus Mas Cherry behind 277-294 HLM
- A silver birch at the bottom of the gardens between MPM and HLM, on the HLM side
- A silver birch to the right of the phone box on Oakeshott Avenue
- A sweet chestnut near the top of the gardens between HLM and MM
- A small Japanese cherry behind 200-220 MM
- Two multistem willows below the pond.

In response to some residents' concerns about light and fears of subsidence, it was decided not to plant a second birch by the phone box on Oakeshott Avenue, but to find another place for this tree in next year's planting. Camden had been informed about concerns about another tree but sent back reassurance that this would have no light implications and was not sited close to the building. Dermot had objected to the two willows but was happy to accept the democratic decision for these to be planted but his observation that

the gardens were originally laid out with contrasting areas of close planting and open space is noted.

A vote was taken on these plantings which passed unanimously.

Deb reported that Camden has a new Tree Officer for Planned Maintenance, George Bayford. The HLRA gardens reps walked about with him in early November.

Danny urged the Garden Committee not to neglect the terrace garden outside the Community Centre next spring. This is an opportunity to involve children in gardening.

Andrea reported that Chris Slater had confirmed that Glyphosate was still in temporary ban on the Estate though there is no clear Borough wide policy as yet.

SWISH

Alison reported on the first Clothes Swap event held on Saturday 10th November in the Community Centre. Attendance was a little low but all those who came had an excellent time; lots of cakes were donated and much appreciated with the tea and coffee. It gave the Centre a convivial, welcoming feeling which is what we were aiming for. In future, we should advertise beyond the Estate, such as in local coffee shops. Also, Sunday afternoons might be better than Saturday mornings when people are often busy.

Including children's clothes and toys would bring in more families.

The left-over clothes all went to the charity MIND.

We thought that there should be a recycling bin on the Estate for clothes.

Also, there is a demand for greater sewing skills, a sewing teacher and the use of a sewing machine. Maybe a sewing club could be established, or incorporated as a trial within the next clothes swap. There was consideration of holding another clothes swap after the Christmas break.

Action: Alison to think about this before the next meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 15th December, probably between 1-5pm. Those interested in running this will organise a meeting beforehand.

Action: Shannon, Lana and interested others to organize a planning meeting

COMMUNITY CENTRE

Hertha and Roger reported that:

- Barbara Smith has secured £6,850 from Camden's Community Investment Fund to buy equipment for the Centre. Besides replacing tables, chairs and a few other items, the bulk of this money will be spent on establishing a Film Club. A meeting of the Community Centre Committee will be held on Monday 19th November when it is expected that the funding will be approved and the Film Club will begin in December. There was a high demand for this in the HLRA consultation carried out over summer and the prospects are exciting.
- A sub-committee has met (Barbara, Lana and Roger) to work on an application for major funding from the National Lottery 'Reaching Communities Fund' to pay for a part-time Manager for the Club, probably three days a week, including Saturdays to help with the Youth Club. This application has been sent off but it will take several months to be processed. If we are successful, this will enormously enlarge what we can do with the Centre, particularly in terms of out-reach and opening times.
- Josh pointed out that we might be able to get funds for a Manager through the District Management Committee. Danny added to this 'Community Action Camden'. **Action: Josh to investigate both options.**

- The Monday Lunch is very popular with about 30 people attending and the Friday Lunch, which started at the end of September, attracts about a dozen. We will talk about the relationship between Highgate New Town Community Centre and Holly Lodge at the upcoming meeting as the Friday Lunch was supposed to be run entirely by Highgate New Town but is wholly dependent on the good will of Holly Lodge volunteers, some of whom are now doing two days of lunches a week.
- The Community Centre's free Christmas Dinner will be held on Monday 17th December, for 50+ people with drinks, crackers, a gift, a raffle and carol singing with Brookfield Primary school.

DISTRICT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Josh reported that following our strong presentation at the DMC meeting in the summer, Camden immediately got onto the problem of the roof on the Langbourne Mansion block. A meeting has been held with Camden and the contractors; all the residents have been kept informed. The work will be entirely internal, reinforcing the roof-beams. However, we still need to insist on all roofs being inspected on the Estate and a routine of inspections and maintenance being established more widely instead of waiting on emergency repairs which are always more expensive and inconvenient

Action: Josh, Andrea and Grace to continue to push for this wider inspection and repair process

BINS AND RECYCLING

Andrea and Yvonne have been round the Estate with Chris Slater, the Estates Manager, to look at bins and recycling. We are still waiting to hear from Camden about the appointment of a contractor to convert part of the raised bed by the Makepeace bins into a proper, covered bin store. There were suggestions that perhaps this should also house bulky items. At present there

is an area for bulky items on Oakeshott and by the garages below Langbourne but nothing officially on Makepeace. Robert pointed out that Camden should provide a clear statement of what to do with bulky items to prevent fly tipping. During the walkabout with Chris Slater, it was also suggested that small food waste bins seem to be more effective than large ones. Also food waste bins need to be clearly marked as such. At present this is not the case.

There is a link on our website on how to get free bio-degradable bags from Veolia. However, the bags are too small for the caddies that Camden provides! Veolia will be informed.

Action: Andrea and Yvonne to follow up with Camden

HEATING AND HOT WATER

We are still waiting for Camden's proposals on options for heating and hot water on the Estate. Judith will send them a list of flats they can visit so that the contracted company can find out about the variety of different situations that currently exist, from flats with both communal heating and hot water to flats with neither, to flats with hot water but no heating.

The Whittington Estate is having major problems with its new system and complaints about charges, so we continue to be concerned about sharing their facilities!

Action: Judith to contact Camden with the names of people willing to offer sample flats, including the refurbished blocks on Oakeshott.

BIKES

Camden is moving very slowly on the issue of bike sheds and still thinking in terms of an old design which is not thought to be safe enough.

Action: Jay will go back to the Council with our research following the Estate-wide consultation that revealed a huge demand for secure lock-

ups as well as try to progress the successful ask for a Cycle Hoop on Swains Lane with Councillor Sian Berry who is keen to promote cycling.

SECURITY ON THE ESTATE

The workshop being arranged by consultants on this issue, to which we were sending six members, has been cancelled. The vast majority of the sixty people invited declared themselves pro the security measures and so a discussion that fairly reflected opinion on the Estate was not deemed possible.

AOB

Andrea pointed out we are currently dealing with three main issues on the Estate which all have implications for space: Bins and Recycling, Bike Storage, Heating and Hot Water. A major problem is that Camden deals with and therefore sees these issues separately, not holistically. A member of the Waterlow Park Committee, has volunteered to help create an Estate Plan with residents, Camden officials and Councillors.

All exterior lights on the Estate should be inspected to prevent dark areas developing which are intimidating and potentially dangerous. The lights are out on the path from Oakeshott to Makepeace.

Robert also pointed out that we need to balance security - bright lights, open spaces, gated areas - with the verdant character of the Estate that we value so highly. Hertha said that the area alongside her block that leads through to the garden between Makepeace and Holly lodge is so dirty and dark that she and others avoid it, especially at night. Cleaning drains, painting walls and planting could transform this and other forbidding areas.

Action: Andrea to follow up with Chris Slater on the missing path lights.

The meeting ended at 6pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th December at 7pm.