

MINUTES OF THE HLRA MEETING ON 11/02/2019

Present: Grace (Chair), Danny, Josh, Judith, Lana, Yvonne, Roger (Acting Secretary)

Apologies: Alison, Deborah, Hertha, Kim, Jane, Robert, Shannon.

1. Gardening

Information has been sent out and posters put up for the Gardening Group's launch on Saturday 16th February.

Danny is working with the Sheltered Housing Manager, Bernadette, to start a group to garden on the terrace outside the Community Centre.

The Green Gym is coming on 21st February (10.45am - 2pm) to establish a new hedge below Langbourne Mansions.

2. Heating and Hot Water

A letter has been sent by Camden to residents: 'January update on the heating and hot water refurbishment', from Mick Layhe (Team Manager). It outlines the situation to date. Alex Maguire, who was previously consultant with TGA who delivered the options at the 2016 meeting, is now consulting on the new options with his own firm, FLOH Consulting. He is accessing various flats 'to reconfirm the different types of heating and hot water systems'. His report is due to the Council by end of January and 'engagement events (with residents) will likely begin in February/March'.

Camden Council's priority is to replace the temporary boiler on Makepeace that is costing £130,000 pa to rent. Last year their preferred option was to link our Estate with Whittington's boiler which has excess capacity. We had objections to this plan, not least the technical and cost problems being experienced on the Whittington Estate.

ACTION: Judith to write to Camden to ensure our HH Group meets with Camden's team *before* a general meeting is called of all residents. Also important to establish who is covered by the report; just those blocks currently receiving hot water/heating or the three blocks on Holly Lodge and the whole of Langbourne which is not connected.

3. Recycling

An email has been received from Chris Slater (CS), Estate Services Manager, with quotes for building the new bin area on Makepeace. However, it is not clear why we are given this information as it is Camden's responsibility to fund recycling and waste removal. There are also no plans given in the email so we unable to comment on the proposals.

ACTION: Yvonne to write to CS to clarify responsibility for funding and to ask for plans of the new bin area.

Grace to invite CS to our next meeting on 11th March.

Camden say they will send a letter soon to residents about recycling, including times when Veolia collect and the areas where large items can be left. We hope they will include more recycling capacity.

ACTION: Roger to put this information on our website.

4. Glyphosate

Deborah sent an email informing us that an all-party group on the council is preparing to put forward a motion to ban glyphosate throughout the borough and our support would be welcome. She also casts doubt on how disciplined the use of glyphosate is on the Estate. It was voted unanimously to call for a ban on glyphosate on the Estate.

ACTION: Roger to write to Adam Harrison, Cllr for the Environment, informing him of our decision.

5. Fire Safety

The Council is tendering to install hard-wired smoke alarms in communal areas. They say they will keep us informed.

There has been no decision yet on the fire escapes to the roofs and upgrading the gantries between blocks. Camden assure us that we will be consulted.

6. Thames Water

A DMC Emergency Meeting was promised by Camden on the issue of Thames Water taking over the water billing from the Council. However, only a general residents meeting was called on 30th January. This raised a lot of issues, not least of which is that Thames Water was not given a list of residents by the Council due to data protection concerns; instead they paid for a consultancy firm to draw one up. Although Thames Water say they will put residents on the lowest assessed rate, there are concerns about the accuracy of their data, especially for vulnerable residents.

7. Joint Holly Lodge Committee Meetings

Roger volunteered to take over our representation on the Joint HL Committee meetings from Grace.

ACTION: Grace to inform the Joint HL Committee of this change.

8. Camden's Website

An email has been received from David Fermer complaining about the difficulty informing Camden about general repairs. The website directs you to your Camden account which only gives five options: lift, door entry systems, estate lighting, tv aerials, heating and hot water. The 'Day to day repairs' given on the website (which has no link) is absent on your account yet many repairs fall under this heading. The only option then is to ring the Council which can be a frustrating experience!

ACTION: Josh to inform **Roger** of the Officer/Cllr responsible for the website. **Roger** to write to Officer/Cllr asking for website to be rectified.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm.

Next meeting is on 11th March in the Community Centre.