

## HLRA MEETING 17TH JUNE 2020

**Attendance:** Grace Livingstone (Chair), Lana Lewin (Treasurer), Alison David, Josh Cedar, Lorna Jane Russell, Judith Walker, Lisa Rose, Jane Atkinson, Jessica Pawlowski (Co-Secretary), Roger Elliott (Co-Secretary).

Mike Towers, Manager Community Centre, for first item.

**Apologies:** Yvonne Coney, Kim Sutherland.

**Minutes of the last meeting on 27th May were approved. No matters arising,**

### **Food Parcels**

The scheme is evolving with reduced uptake through our Reps. There are various reasons why this may be happening:

- The new £7 charge for parcels (after the first free every month),
- Residents going directly to HNCC,
- Older residents going to Age UK (though this scheme could be reduced or even ended soon),
- Accessing food parcels through other sources such as NHS Volunteers.

Grace reported that we have been given a second Community Investment Levy (CIL) grant of £2,500 for the food parcels through our Councillors. This will be given to HNCC. Although HNCC are concerned about the cost of the food parcels, we are probably covering costs for the Estate.

There is a cockroach problem in many blocks, so food parcels should not be left outside flats too long.

There will be a Zoom Party on 19th June to say thank you to all Volunteers, from flats and street. Mike has arranged it with party bags and a quiz with prizes donated from the Gatehouse, Citro and the Highgate Deli.

### **Fire Safety Works and Roof Exits**

Grace, Jessica and Roger held a Zoom meeting with John Brett, Director Resident Safety, and Susanne Afra, Head Capital Works on 10th June.

- Camden has grouped blocks according to their internal layouts and exits to the roof into 8 Archetypes. These require different Fire Safety works. Camden intends to consult residents according to these groupings. They agreed this would be inappropriate by Zoom, so consultation will probably be delayed until September.
- Block 321-339 HLM has been given a Notice of Deficiency (NoD) by London Fire Brigade (LFB). One deficiency is that the exit to the roof, intended for Camden officials,

is accessible to residents. LFB says it should be locked. John will give us a temporary solution to this when the sub-group meets again on 30th June.

- *As this NoD is very concerning, Grace will email John to re-iterate that Cabinet Member Merik Apac and our Councillors made a commitment that roof exits would not be locked before consultation with residents has taken place. In view of the risk that 321-339 might be locked, resulting in a precedent for locking all roofs, we must insist that the Councillors' commitment must be honoured.*
- *Three exits have already been locked without consultation in the three MM regeneration blocks: 29-39, 57-64, 85-92. Camden undertook to provide key for 29-39. This will be taken up with John at upcoming meeting.*
- *Everyone to check leases to see if they specify access to utilities in the loft or to the roof.*
- *There is also a problem with the alarms fitted to 57-64 and maybe 85-92. End of line smoke/fire alarms have been fitted inside flats; these are too sensitive and go off too easily. Such alarms should only be fitted into communal areas; Fire/CO alarms are suitable within flats. Will be taken up with John for these to be corrected. Also impress on him that up to date models must be fitted in upcoming Fire Safety Works (as specified), and not end of line ones!*
- *Grace will chase Camden to upload missing FRAs onto their website. We will encourage residents to check their own blocks ahead of the consultations.*

## **Pond**

Ricky has agreed to repair the pond at the end of summer. *Jane, Lana and the gardening group will look after clearing it and keeping the plants for re-planting.*

## **Gardening**

Jane reported that the gardening group is going well with no problem social distancing and the potato crop is thriving!

Alison complained that her flat is very dark because the trees at the back of HLM have grown so much. *Jane and Roger will join her on Saturday at 11.30am to look at the problem with a view to asking Camden to thin the trees.*

## **Hedgehogs**

Barbara Wheatley posted on the C-19 WA Group that Dr Chris Carbone from London Zoo is looking for volunteers to put motion sensitive cameras in their gardens to monitor hedgehogs, [hogwatch@zsl.org](mailto:hogwatch@zsl.org). This post resulted in reports of sightings around the flats; so cameras could be put in our gardens. Chris will share any pictures with us which could go on our website. Andrea has offered to create a Hedgehog Page.

## **Leylandii**

The HLE Committee will put in another application to fell the Leylandii on Langbourne Avenue. Barbara W will keep us informed so we can solicit views this time from those affected by the trees rather than the Estate in general. The previous application failed be-

cause there were so many objections and the planned replacement trees and landscaping after felling was not clear.

## **Bicycles**

This was an issue that exploded on the C-19 WA Group when Myrsini reported the second theft of her bike within a year. There are many reports of bike theft as cycling becomes more popular due to Covid-19.

- We requested information from Camden about looking into secure bicycle storage again. Brendan Mullens, Development Officer, replied that Camden intends to put 4 cycle hop hangers (6 bikes each) on Swains Lane (2 at end of Oakeshott; 2 end of Langbourne). They should be there by the end of summer.
- This is a start but nowhere near meets demand. *Roger to contact BM again to ask for a walkabout to identify places for hoops on the Estate and maybe a Cycle Hub by Langbourne Garages.*
- In 2018, BM suggested several places on the Estate which were rejected by HLE Committee because they would have reduced car parking. This could be challenged in future.
- Would Camden subsidise the charge for using a cycle hoop/hub if it were on the Estate rather than on Swains Lane?
- Lorna pointed out this is something our Councillors might well get behind and subsidise with CIL funds for. There is still £480K in the Highgate fund!

## **Bins**

Yvonne sent her apologies and informed us after the meeting in writing that Chris Slater is still waiting for planning permission for the bin shed on Makepeace. He has a new recycling bin and wants to know where to put it.

*Roger to contact Yvonne about a place for the new recycling bin.*

## **Agenda Items held over to next meeting as Yvonne and Isobel not present**

- Signage on bins
- Window cleaning in Communal Areas
- Dog Fouling.

**Next Meeting will be held by Zoom on Wednesday 15th July.**