

**MINUTES OF THE MUSWELL HILL, ALEXANDRA, FORTIS GREEN AND HIGHGATE
AREA FORUM AND COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 29 MARCH 2012**

Councillors Allison, Beacham, Davies, Engert (Chair), Erskine, Hare, Jenks, Newton,
Scott, Solomon and Williams

Apologies Councillor Bloch

MH34. AREA FORUM AGENDA ITEMS

SEE MH41 BELOW

MH35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bloch.

NOTED

MH36. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil Items

MH37. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations.

NOTED

**MH38. QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS : TO CONSIDER ANY QUESTIONS,
DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4,
SECTION B29 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

Nil

MH39. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2012 be approved and signed by
the Chair as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Matters arising

The Chair advised that:

- i. In respect of Minute Item MH23 – as a result of the content of the minute a letter had been sent to the Planning Service and that Mr Dorfman had been in attendance this evening to address the issues in relation to the Localism Act and Cross-boundary issues and a range of other planning related issues including enforcement and Local Implementation Plans.

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- ii. Minute MH27. – the Chair advised that as yet she had not received any response from Councillor Canver to her letter sent after the meeting on 12 January in relation to a number of issues pertaining to the Fortnightly non-recyclable refuse collection. Members expressed their concerns at the lack of response from the Cabinet member and felt that this was unacceptable. The Committee unanimously expressed its dismay at the lack response and asked that this be recorded. The Chair had already written to the Chief Executive to raise this matter, but undertook to write to him again expressing the Committee’s unanimous dismay and concerns at the lack of response.

NOTED

ACTION – Cllr Engert

- iii. Minute MH27 – the Chair advised that full responses to points had been received from Joan Hancox – Head of Area Management – which had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.
- iv. Minute MH31 – Councillor Newton referred to the protocol allowing the Committee to put forward ideas for by-laws and in this respect suggested that the Committee consider the matter of ‘Crossovers’ as there seemed to be considerable abuse of the use of these. One of the main issues of concern was the practice of cars reversing out of a front garden parking area and across the pedestrian footway and the danger of motorists being unaware of pedestrians’ particularly small children who could be hidden from view.

Following advice from Joan Hancox – Head of Neighbourhood Services in relation to the guidance issued to residents on completion of a crossover the Committee welcomed the proposal that vehicles should have to exit forwards from the parking area to cross the footway. They also commented on the actual space allowed for crossovers in the front of houses and whether this was actually being flouted by the car size, and the subsequent overhang of the vehicle onto the pavement.

Members also commented that the safest method was the vehicle entering a crossover in reverse. There were some concerns expressed at the seemingly significant lack of enforcement over unpermitted crossovers, particularly in conservation areas.

Ms Hancox advised that crossovers were monitored by the Neighbourhood Action Teams and also by planning enforcement across the Borough and there were very clear regulations as to the depth of the parking space (4.8 metres) as well the siting of crossovers in conservation areas and what was permitted in terms of garden walls being demolished. The guidance was drawn up in 2007 and officers had monitored the effects of this in the Borough. However, it should be stressed that former records were not perfect, and a Scrutiny review had been conducted which recommended tighter controls and actions to reduce the number allowed. Ms Hancox advised that the idea of a by-law could be examined further.

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The Chair then summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

That an application be made to the Council to propose a by-law in respect of crossovers and that vehicles should have to exit forwards from hardstandings.

MH40. DRAFT AREA PLAN – UPDATE AND SIGN OFF

The Chair advised that as there had not been any comments expressed during the Forum part of the proceedings the Plan as circulated was agreed.

The Chair asked that the plan now be placed on the web, and in response to comments from Councillor Solomon advised that the plan had been given considerable exposure in the area and had been the subject of a number of focus meetings/consultations since late summer 2011 to now. It was also requested that a simple plain English front sheet listing the headlines of the plan be drafted by officers to be included on the web once agreed.

In terms of progress and monitoring of the plan the Chair felt that it would be appropriate for it to be updated and added to after each meeting, and that it should not remain as a static document but an ongoing process.

RESOLVED

- i. That the final draft area plan be endorsed;
- ii. That a simple plain English front sheet be drafted by officers;
- iii. Once the front sheet has been agreed, that the plan be placed on the Web, and that the plan be updated/progressed in the coming months following consideration and comment at each future meeting.

**ACTION : DIRECTORATE OF PALCE AND SUSTAINABILITY –
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES – C KOWALSKA / Z SWANSON**

**MH41. TO DISCUSS ITEMS (I) TO (IV) IN THE FORUM SECTION AND ANY ISSUES
RAISED**

- i. Enforcement

In noting the comments and update given in the Forum part of the meeting the Committee commented that whilst there was a perspective that enforcement was improving the processes adopted by the Council to tackle enforcement issues were not perhaps as high a priority as they should be.

NOTED

- ii. Planning & Localism

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Councillor Williams expressed concerns, shared by the Committee that the matter of the Localism Act and its far reaching effects on planning and other related issues such as cross-boundary Neighbourhood Forum development was not being facilitated by the Council, borne out by the lack of concern and support at the Full Council meeting on 26 March 2012.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to officers in addressing the issues during the forum part of the proceedings and work being progressed.

Following a brief discussion Councillor Williams MOVED, and it was seconded by Councillor Jenks and it was:

RESOLVED

That this Committee regrets the impression given at the Council of 26 March 2012 that the Council was not supportive of residents' attempts to use the new powers in the Localism Act to establish Neighbourhood Forums in Haringey and calls upon the Council to engage positively with residents to facilitate these plans and aspirations.

iii. Local Implementation Plans (LIPs)

The Committee, in welcoming the update in the Forum part of the meeting in respect of LIPs, commented on the need to have some level of co-ordination in terms of ideas for improvements in Wards.

The Chair asked that Ward Councillors liaise with residents/groups as to effective suggestions for improvements within each ward area and that further discussion takes place in this respect.

NOTED

MH42. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

i. Fortnightly Refuse Collection

The Committee collectively expressed concerns at the roll out of the fortnightly refuse collection, in particular:

- Lack of cohesive information forthcoming from Veolia in terms of collection and generally difficulties in making complaints through the call-centre and lack of action despite reassurances that complaints would be followed through and responded to.
- Concerns at HMOs collections with considerable bin overflow (an example given was at Queens Avenue having around 15 bins lined up and overflowing)

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- Misinformation regarding continuing or ceasing of use of green recycling boxes and inconsistency of approach across the Area in terms of some collectors emptying whereas other refusing to.
- Numerous concerns regarding bin sizes and subsequent requests for smaller bins not being supplied.

The Chair asked, and Councillor Jenks agreed to co-ordinate complaints received from residents to Members and that they be compiled into a list, to be submitted following the Easter period to officers.

RESOLVED

That all complaints received from residents in respect of the fortnightly refuse collection be forwarded to Councillor Jenks to compile a composite list to be submitted to officers, during the week commencing 9 April 2012.

ACTION Chair/Cllr Jenks

There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 21.05hrs.

Cllr Engert

Chair