

**MINUTES OF THE MUSWELL HILL, ALEXANDRA, FORTIS GREEN AND HIGHGATE
AREA FORUM AND COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2012**

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

Apologies Councillors Bloch and Solomon

*denotes attendance

MH43. AREA FORUM AGENDA ITEMS

See MH49 below

MH44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bloch, and Solomon.

NOTED

MH45. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

NOTED

MH46. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Hare, Scott and Williams declared non prejudicial interest as members of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board.

Councillors Beacham, Erskine and Jenks declared non prejudicial interest as members of the Alexandra Park and Palace Statutory Advisory Committee.

**MH47. QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS : TO CONSIDER ANY QUESTIONS,
DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 4,
SECTION B29 OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

The Chair advised that she had received a letter from a local resident in respect of bicycle riding on pavements, particularly in the Highgate Area (a copy of which was circulated to the Committee (and a copy will be interleaved with the minutes)).

The Chair asked if there was any possible locus for the Council's enforcement service taking action, and also if Councillor Hare had any particular views as an ardent cyclist.

Councillor Hare commented that generally there tended not to be a considerable amount of cycling on street pavements and generally if it were then it was children and young teens as opposed to adults.

The Chair asked that officers investigate and advise if there was any action that could be taken against such infringements and whether it was an offence under the highway code to do this.

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The Chair also passed the letter from the resident to Joan Hancox - Head of Neighbourhood Services to respond accordingly as a member's enquiry, and Ms Hancox advised that the issue would be looked into.

The Chair then summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

That in respect of the resident enquiry in respect of the concerns at bicycle riding on pavements particularly in the Highgate area, officers be requested to investigate and advise if there was any possible enforcement action that could be taken against such infringements;

ACTION : Place and Sustainability (enforcement) to advise

MH48. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Matters arising

The Chair advised that:

- a. **In respect of Minute Item MH39** – (Minute MH31 of 12/01/12)– by-laws for 'Crossovers' the Chair advised that a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive following the meeting on 29 March 2012, and that it had been acknowledged and forwarded to both Legal Services and Neighbourhood Services for consideration. Councillor Newton advised that as yet there had not been a response.

Joan Hancox – Head of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the Council had just received a response to the enquiry made to the Department for Transport (DfT) following receipt of the referral. The advice from the DfT was that it was not feasible for such a by-law for this purpose. Ms Hancox added that this could be a Highway Code matter.

In thanking Ms Hancox, the Chair felt that this now needed to be taken up as a Council wide issue/discussion.

Councillor Scott felt a possible course of action could be writing to the local MP to request them to lobby the Department for Transport to reconsider and look at this issue.

In welcoming Councillor Scott's proposal the Chair felt that both local MPs be approached in terms of lobbying. The Chair summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

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- i. that in respect of the matter of 'By-law proposal for Crossovers' following the response received from the Department for Transport advising that a by-law was not feasible in this respect, it be agreed that on behalf of Committee members the Chair would write to both local MPs requesting that they lobby the Department for Transport in respect of bringing into effect such a by-law;
- ii. That a letter be sent to Councillor Newton confirming the advice received from the Department for Transport.

ACTION

On (i) The Chair on behalf of the Committee write to the local MPs
On (ii) Place and Sustainability - Neighbourhood Action Team – T Chapman write to Cllr Newton detailing the DfT response.

b. Muswell Hill Bus Stop

Councillor Jenks raised the issue referred to in the Forum part of the meeting relating to the Bus stop positioning at Muswell Hill and that in terms of the pilot scheme London Transport had confirmed that there would be no trial carried out until after the Olympics were finished. In terms of the question of which buses would use the new stand Councillor Jenks asked if it would be either a repositioning for the Bus W7 or Bus 144, and that Ward Councillors would need to be asked about this.

Ms Hancox advised that in terms of the number of buses she had been advised that the suggestion was for only one bus and that based on frequency this would be the 144.

Councillor Newton commented that residents had felt that the bus W7 which served Hornsey Central Health Centre should be the priority route to relocate to enable all residents including the elderly and mobility impaired to be able to access NHS services by public transport from an accessible bus stop.

The Chair advised that the consultation would need to take account of the already expressed views and that Ward Councillors needed to be asked as to their views as well.

Ms Hancox responded that she would ensure that officers would take soundings from Ward Councillors as regards which bus would be moved to the bus stop for the trial period.

In response to clarification, Ms Hancox advised that the proposed location would only be able to have one bus stopping there.

The Chair summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

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That in respect of the proposed location of the new bus route at Muswell Hill, officers be requested to take soundings from local Ward Councillors in respect of the local view of which was the most suitable bus service to stop at the location.

**ACTION – PLACE AND SUSTAINABILITY – HIGHWAYS
INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP – D.GAYLE**

c. MH39 (relating to MH27 – 12/01/12)

The Chair advised that further to writing to the Chief Executive in respect of the lack of response from the Cabinet member there still had been no response from the Cabinet Member. The issue of Cabinet member responses had been raised at the Governance Review Working Group and as part of the revised protocols agreed (point 8.4) at Full Council on 21 May 2012 the Cabinet would in future be required to respond to a matter referred to it from an Area Committee within 21 days.

d. MH40 - Area Plan – Cover sheet

The Chair advised that in respect of the cover sheet for the Area Plan there had been some minor grammatical amendments put forward that she would forward to officers.

The changes were – at the paragraph commencing ‘The plans are intended.....’ after the word ‘partners’ the words ‘in planning’ be changed to ‘to plan’ and after ‘budget’ delete the words ‘to spend delivering’ and insert ‘with which to deliver’

e. MH41 (ii) Planning and Localism

The Chair reminded members that she had written to the Chief Executive and circulated his reply on the on-going concerns and lack of Council support or information forthcoming regarding the establishment of Neighbourhood Forums.

Councillor Williams advised that as there would be some formal recognition process on the part of the Council of the existence of Neighbourhood Forums, and that the process of recognition was currently being confirmed the overall process was in an infant stage.

f. MH41 (iii) LIPs

The Chair referred to the issue of LIPs and following on from the meeting in March, following discussions with Committee members, it was evident that there were and had been a substantially large number of long standing requests for highways, parking and transport improvements/ schemes that members had wanted to be seen progressed going back as far as 2004 which had never been done.

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The Chair referred to the TABLED lists which had been compiled over the past weeks which detailed the long standing issues, and that these would be appended to the Area Plan, and that the Head of Neighbourhood Services (Ms Hancox) be requested to take the details away and to ask that officers look at furthering as many schemes as possible.

In response to member clarification the Chair commented that whilst there may be various funding streams that may be available it was not for the Committee to identify these, but for officers to advise what the funding streams were available and which schemes could be progressed – the compiled list was now a composite one which had now been placed as an official document to be appended to the area plan.

Following clarification from Ms Hancox on where the schemes referred to would be funded from, the Chair asked that the Committee's requests be co-ordinated by the Area Champion on the Committee's behalf and that a follow-up report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee/Forum on 13 September 2012.

With regard to clarification from Councillor Scott regarding some new proposals for funding, the Chair asked that members commence a new list of schemes forthwith as the already compiled list may attract funding now in the current LIP and new schemes the following year.

Councillor Beacham suggested that the traffic lights issue at Colney Hatch Lane would be better reworded as there were a number of issues needing to be addressed at this.

The Chair then summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

New wording would be provided for the traffic lights issue in Colney Hatch Lane.

When the above was amended the TABLED lists which had been compiled over the past weeks which detailed long standing requests for highways, parking and transport improvements/ schemes that members had wanted to be seen progressed going back as far as 2004, be appended to the Area Plan, and that the Area Champion be requested to write Director of Place and Sustainability requesting that the lists be evaluated and officers respond to the Committee regarding which schemes it may be possible to fund, and where from.

ACTION – AREA CHAMPION – MUN THONG PHUNG TO WRITE TO THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE AND SUSTAINABILITY – AND THAT A FOLLOW UP /UPDATED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CTTEE ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2012.

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**MH49. TO DISCUSS ITEMS (I) TO (V) IN THE FORUM SECTION AND ANY ISSUES
RAISED**

(i) Local School Places – particularly at Reception

- a. Councillor Newton commented that arising from the issues raised during the Forum part of the meeting the matter of nursery places needed to be further reported on and in particular the issue of affordability.

The Chair commented that an agenda item for the next forum meeting on 13 September 2012 would be 'Affordable Nursery Places'.

NOTED

Action: Clerk to advise Children's Service of item – to be discussed at agenda planning meeting.

- b. Noted the discussions that had centred on secondary school places, and the Chair, in response to Highgate Ward Councillors particular concerns of allocations from their Ward, asked that as the item was being discussed at the forthcoming Cabinet on 10 July 2012 Members be requested to attend to seek clarification, and also raise the issue with Jenny Duxbury.

ACTION: ward councillors to raise issue

(ii) Parking Concerns

The Chair advised that the review of Pay and Display was being discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 July 2012.

Councillor Allison expressed concerns with regard to the matter of LB Camden commencing a consultation/review of parking charges in Highgate – and the particular issue of charging in Highgate High Street where the boundary ran and the likely confusion that may result with people not properly observing different charging tariffs and signage along opposite sides of the High Street. As it was the case that Camden would be seeking Haringey's views officers needed to be particularly aware of this likely problem.

The Chair summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

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That in respect of LB Camden commencing a consultation/review of parking charges in Highgate, and the likely confusion that may result in particular charging in Highgate High Street where the Borough boundary ran, and possible difficulties with people not properly observing different charging tariffs and signage along opposite sides of the High Street, officers be requested to be mindful of the consultation and likely consequences of rises in tariffs.

(iii) Local Police Reorganisation

The Chair, in welcoming the discussions during this item during the Forum part of the proceedings, commented that the four team composition and cover /deployment of officers was evidently issue.

Councillor Newton particularly raised the concerns of local residents in Muswell Hill at the late night activities and the fact that there were no longer any dedicated patrolling in the vicinity of Muswell Hill Broadway, but rather deployment as and when needed.

The Chair in summary felt that the matter should be raised through the Borough Commander.

RESOLVED

That the particular concerns of local residents in Muswell Hill at late night activities and the fact that there were no longer any dedicated police patrolling in the vicinity of Muswell Hill Broadway, but rather deployment as and when needed, be raised in a letter to the Borough Commander.

**ACTION; COUNCILLOR NEWTON TO WRITE TO THE BOROUGH
COMMANDER**

(iv) The Future of Alexandra Palace

The Chair commented that the presentation given by Duncan Wilson - Chief Executive - Alexandra Palace was well received by the Forum, and responses to points of clarification were clear and precise.

Councillor Hare commented that he welcomed the particular unprompted comments in relation to the TV Studios and the need for some level of national recognition of them as the historic birth place of television.

NOTED

(v) Refuse & Waste collection update

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The Committee had a wide ranging discussion in relation to the issues raised during the Forum part of the meeting.

The main points of concern and summary were:

- The need to explore the solutions adopted by LB Camden and Veolia in respect of waste collections in HMOs which had been viewed as very successful, as well the solutions adopted by them in areas of particular difficulty;
- That the difficulties encountered across the Forum/Committee area were and had been created by the LB Haringey and that they needed to be clearly held to account for the difficulties and frustrations of residents, and to act swiftly in identifying the solutions;
- that in particular areas there did need to be individual solutions to problems, and that the Highgate area was particularly affected;
- the possibility of writing to the Secretary of State (Mr Pickles) in respect of obtaining available funding for weekly refuse collections for pockets with particularly difficulties e.g. The Miltons;
- the matter of street scenes hugely affected by bins being visible on streets which many had viewed as unsightly, unhygienic due to overflowing, with pathways and gardens were now blighted by their presence and this was seen as a particular concern in Conservation Areas and solutions needed to be found;
- it was felt that it was unacceptable to have bins on footways and that this posed a hazard for pedestrians particularly those who were blind or partially sighted or had mobility problems

In summary, the Chair felt that the discussion had been extremely useful in identifying the main elements of concerns regarding the waste management contract.

The Chair then **MOVED** and it was:

RESOLVED

That a Councillor from each Ward area of the Committee write to the Director of Place and Sustainability highlighting the particular Ward concerns in relation to the Waste Management Contract and seeking an individual ward meeting with officers from Place and Sustainability, representatives from Veolia Waste Management, and to discuss the provision of individual solutions for particular areas.

ACTION: ward councillors to agree one Councillor per Ward to prepare a letter to the Director of Place and Sustainability.

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**MH50. POSSIBILITIES OF DEVOLVED FUNDING TO AREA COMMITTEES/FORUM -
GUIDANCE**

The Area Champion – Mun Thong Phung advised that the Asst Director Planning and Regeneration – Mr Dorfman was currently in the process of drafting a paper for the next Area Committee cycle in this respect.

The Chair advised that in accordance with points 7.1 and 7.2 of the Area Committee Protocols the Committee had responsibilities relating to spending in their area and accordingly the Chair MOVED and it was:

RESOLVED

That officers be requested to prepare a report for the next meeting of the Area Committee on 13 September 2012 detailing its specific areas of responsibility in relation to spending in their area in accordance with Points 7.1 and 7.2 of the Area Committee Protocol.

ACTION

Chair /Area Champion

MH51. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

- i. The Chair advised that she would be meeting with Zoe Robertson – Community Engagement to discuss the Area plan and a range of feedback issues from services in relation to priorities.

In response to requests from Members, the Chair asked that the Area Plan be circulated to all Members with any comments to be forwarded to her prior to 1 August 2012.

ACTION: Community Engagement to forward the area plan to Members via the Democratic Services Manager.

- ii. The Chair advised that she would be meeting with officers from Community Engagement to review the email database held by Single Frontline Service in terms of official groups and recipients of agendas.

NOTED

- iii. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the next Area Forum Committee on 13 September 2012 would take place at The British

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Legion Meeting Rooms at Muswell Hill (the room booking was confirmed immediately after the meeting).

The meeting ended at 21.50hrs

Cllr Engert

Chair