

MINUTES OF THE TOTTENHAM HALE AND SEVEN SISTERS AREA FORUM AND COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 25 APRIL 2013

Present: Councillor Lorna Reith (Chair), Isidoros Diakides, Councillor Reg Rice, Councillor Bernice Vanier and Councillor Richard Watson.

In Attendance: Xanthe Barker, Principal Committee Officer, Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, Director of Public Health.

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
OBCB69.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Apologies from absence were received from the following:</p> <p>Councillor Dhiren Basu Councillor Joe Goldberg Councillor Claire Kober</p>	
OBCB70.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
OBCB71.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest made.</p>	
OBCB72.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
OBCB73.	<p>ACTIONS ARISING FROM AREA FORUM DISCUSSION</p> <p>The Committee discussed the themes arising from the Area Forum and the following points were made:</p> <p><u>Enjoying Growing Older in Tottenham – Workshop Session</u></p> <p>It was noted that Homes for Haringey (HfH) were looking at using the new Community TV Channels to promote their services and to communicate with residents. There was agreement that the Council should look at the opportunities that this might present in terms of promoting the Area Forums and more generally to ‘sign post’ a range of Council services.</p> <p>There was discussion with regard to other opportunities that technology and social media offered in terms of conveying information to local residents and</p>	

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there was agreement that these should be looked at more broadly in addition to the Community TV Channels.

Concerns had been expressed that there were not sufficient activities and groups for older people to participate in locally and there was agreement that it may be that these needed to be better sign posted. Similar concerns had been expressed with regard to the provision of youth services and it had been found that there were services on offer that people were simply unaware of.

During the workshop session it had been suggested that funeral directors could be used as a route via which information regarding the services on offer for older people should be looked at, particularly as bereavement was a known to be a point at which people could become more isolated. More broadly the dissemination of information via other forums used by elderly people, such as local shops and businesses, was discussed and there was agreement that the Town Centre Manager for Tottenham should be asked to look at how this might be achieved. It was also suggested that Sheltered Housing Schemes might be used to provide IT facilities to older people living in those schemes and to other elderly people living in the area.

General concerns had been expressed with regard to the impact that cuts in Council funding were having upon services for older people locally and it was noted that local residents associations had discussed this concern with one of the Area Forum's regular attendees. People had also questioned how the money being invested in Tottenham was being spent and there was a perception that this was being used to support Spurs and the club's continued future in Tottenham. There was agreement that a communications strategy to address this perception may be needed.

The Chair noted that the turn out for the meeting had been disappointing and that ways of publicising the Area Forum meetings and engaging with all residents, including older people, should be reviewed and the Cabinet Member for Communities noted that he intended to raise this at the next Area Chairs meeting.

RESOLVED:

That a report, updating the Committee on the points raised above, should be submitted to the next meeting.

OBCB74. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee discussed the updated provided with regard to the actions arising from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

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OBCB75.	<p>AREA PLAN UPDATE</p> <p>The Committee considered the Area Plan Update and there was agreement the document's usefulness was limited as it was not consistently updated by officers and because there were not the necessary resources in place to coordinate the updating of the document.</p> <p>There was agreement that the Ward Walk action plans may provide a more useful tool in reviewing issues raised by Members with respect to their Wards. The Cabinet Member for Communities noted that he intended to raise this at the next Area Chairs meeting and suggested that views should be sought from each Area Chair as to the effectiveness of the Area Plans.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. That the Area Plan Update be noted.ii. That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Communities would discuss the future of the Area Plans and their effectiveness at the next meeting of the Area Chairs.	Cabinet Member for Communities
OBCB76.	<p>ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>The Committee discussed the format of future meetings and how this might be improved moving into the new Municipal Year.</p> <p>It was noted that the Area Forum (and other Area Forum meetings) during this cycle had been poorly attended and there was agreement that alternative meeting formats should be considered. The Cabinet Member for Communities noted that he intended to raise this at the next Area Chair's meeting.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that delegating a budget to each Area Forum and allowing the Chairs of the Forums to determine how these could be most effectively spent, in order to improve engagement in their areas, might be more effective than the current arrangements. This may mean that the frequency of meetings would vary or that the Forum and Committee parts of the meeting might be separated.</p> <p>There was agreement that splitting the Forum and Committee parts of the meeting should be discussed by the Area Chairs. The Committee was advised that as a formally constituted Committee of the Council the Area Committee agenda and minutes were subject to the Access to Information rules (i.e. an agenda for the meeting would need to be published and circulated five working days ahead of the meeting and that the meeting would be open to the public).</p>	

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	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That it be noted that the Cabinet Member for Communities would discuss the future arrangements for Area Forums and Area Committees and how these might be altered, with a view to making them more effective, at the next meeting of the Area Chairs.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Communities</p>
<p>OBCB77.</p>	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>The date of future meetings, listed below, were noted:</p> <p>3 June 2013 7 October 2013 9 January 2014 20 March 2014</p>	<p>All to note</p>

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

COUNCILLOR LORNA REITH

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Chair