

**Building a Better Harrow Residents Panel: Meeting 1, 22 September 2015**

Attendance

*Councillors:* David Perry, Keith Ferry

*Officers:* Paul Nichols, Tobias Goevert, Daniel Lester, Leanne Parkinson

*Panel members:* Raj Kumar (facilitator); Chris Spruce; Mehdi Juma; Kiran Chotalia; Meera Chotalia; Vishaal Shah; Neil Patel; Richard Metcalfe; Daniel Thurlow; Louise Baxter; Manjul Shah; Yagoda Subotic

*Apologies:* Peter Jackson

Presentations

Introductions and short opening speeches from David Perry, Keith Ferry and Raj Kumar.

A quick update on the Heart of Harrow proposals for Wealdstone and Harrow Town Centre.

A 30-minute presentation by Paul Nichols on all Building a Better Harrow Regeneration sites.

A brief introduction to the Regeneration Strategy and the Area Action Plan.

Snap Question

“Alongside homes and a school, what else would you like to see on the Town Centre sites to Build a Better Harrow?”

All answers centred around entertainment and leisure facilities.

Best quote: “Harrow is dead in the evenings”.

- An area where families and children can relax (not necessarily pubs)
- A place where children can play safely and the community can come out
- Evening and night life – bars or night clubs
- A place where people can enjoy their evenings
- An entertainment zone – a place for young people. Like a Youth Centre but in a modern way. Perhaps something educational – a film or music production facility, somewhere where you can play sport that’s cooler than the Leisure Centre.
- Entertainment opportunities don’t just bring employment, they drive social cohesion. It’s one way diversity can be protected and celebrated, and a way to encourage people to stay here and mix as they always have done in Harrow.
- We need to find ways to attract more retail

Answered questions posed by the Panel

- How will a new Civic Centre change the way services are delivered?

DP: Local government and budgets are changing. The current building is expensive to run. We have an internal task and finish group for staff to tell us about services and a new Civic Centre but it is up to the community and up to you to tell us what the Civic Centre should be.

KF: We have moved to mobile and flexible ways of working but there are IT constraints in the current Civic Centre. We need to think about how will people work in 2030

#### Questions posed by the Panel

- What process will there be to look at necessary changes to the roads, as the impact of new residents and increased numbers of cars?
- It's 10 years now since anyone found a way to effectively build for leisure in Harrow. Why is this? Is Harrow's diversity the problem or the way to find the answer?
- How will all the sites be connected together? By a kind of design or a concept? Or not at all?
- How do you make sure diversity is reflected in the regeneration strategy, moving forward, so not just about buildings?
- How do we make sure that the future of technology is built into our plans, not just bricks and mortar?

#### Requests for future meetings

- Officers and Members to be present until the end of future meetings.
- Contact information, photographs and the start of an online group
- Online versions of the Regeneration Strategy and Area Action Plan
- Opportunity to discuss great Regen ideas seen elsewhere
- 2 weeks' notice of topics and specific areas to be covered

#### Big Question for Next Meeting

*"We want to build a better Harrow, and make sure everything we plan and create is high quality. But "better" and "high quality" can mean a lot of different things. What do you think of, and what do you want for Harrow, when we make our developments and our areas "better" and "high quality"?"*

**Date of the next meeting: 7pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November, Civic Centre 1**