

## **Building a Better Harrow Residents Panel: Meeting 13, 9 January 2018**

### **Attendance**

*Officers:* Paul Nichols, Daniel Lester, Leanne Cooper

*Panel members:* Raj Kumar (facilitator / chair), Joanna Bowyer, Mihir Benodekar, Vishaal Shah, Consolata Ndungu, Kiran Chotalia, Graham Kaunders, Louise Baxter, Danielle Witter

*Apologies:* Tobias Goevert, Manjul Shah, Yagoda Subotic

### **Presentations**

Welcome & Introductions - Raj Kumar

Teambuilding exercises – Raj Kumar

Our Vision for Harrow 2028 – Panel Members

#### Group 1

- Everything we want Harrow to be in 2028 is 70% there already it's just that people don't know about it. We wanted to reflect what is good about Harrow and what we can build on.
- Harrow a big place and green area.
- One of the most diverse boroughs in the UK
- In terms of transport infrastructure we are close to three airports, easy connections by train to the north and south. The challenge is the infrastructure within the borough, it is easy to go north-south but more difficult to go east-west.
- We need to use the diversity and being well-connected as a reason for people to come to Harrow
- We need the Live-Work-Play element, not just somewhere where people live.

#### Group 2

- We focused on the fact that working from home, home delivery etc is where we are headed so what is going to make people leave their homes?
- What elements will bring communities together and enhance the two centres of Harrow and Wealdstone? That might be restaurants and creating a unique ambience that you can't recreate at home.
- Gaming – come together in a centre for digital or board games.
- Harrow to retain its town feel and perhaps Wealdstone a village feel with independent shops.

### Group 3

- Stronger sense of place
- More places like Picazzo Arts, Wealdstone
- Restaurants, places to go locally, street markets
- More of a sense of overarching community, community stability
- Better management of the public realm and green spaces being maximised
- More live music venues or a live music venue
- More affordable housing and better healthcare locally – also national issues
- More electric cars and bikes, better bike provision in lanes and parking
- More radial routes through the suburbs
- Activities for young people to do to take pride in their area
- Need to address the ageing population
- Strengthen the local economy and make sure we keep the streets feeling safe so people feel safe to walk around
- Small tweaks to build on what we have got already

### Raj:

- I think people in this room (Panel members) can do more. I'm trying that, I'm passionate about music and looking at venues and we have identified six local bands. I'm busy like everyone else but you can push things to happen.
- Challenge back to the Panel is that it is easy to look at the Council all the time but what can you/we do? You have networks and contacts, corporate sponsors and I think we can do more.

### Panel Contributions:

- We can promote some of the places we frequent on social media
- Late night summer market in Harrow Town Centre – an opportunity to co-ordinate with live music
- Going local with suppliers
- Grassroots on social media to advocate what is good about Harrow. Perhaps an Instagram account for the group
- Spreading the word

- Volunteering

#### Our Team Approach for 2018 and Key Priorities for 2018/19 - Panel Members

- Attend events and find out where they are
  - Need to be well located and have engaging hosts
- Want to know more about arts and cultural events
- Utilise Crowdfunding
- Explore other funding options
- Promote good things about Harrow, not just moan
- Can we take more control over social media
- Tracking the impact we are having. Set a clear target for the year ahead
- Panel Whatsapp group for news and dates of events
- Getting feedback from the Design Review Panel
- Panel to take more ownership of meetings

#### AOB

- **Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 13 March**