

Building a Better Harrow Residents Panel: Meeting 16, 11 September 2018

Attendance

Officers: N/A

Panel members: Raj Kumar (facilitator / chair), Joanna Bowyer, Mihir Benison, Vishaal Shah, Louise Baxter, Manjul Shah, Consolata Ndungu, Kiran Chotalia, Magali Peyrefitte, Strawberry Subotic

Apologies: Graham Kaunders

Items

1. Welcome & Introductions - Raj Kumar

2. Planning and Regeneration Team Changes – Raj Kumar

- A number of staff changes have taken place and Paul Nichols, Divisional Director has now left the Council after four years service. Planning and Regeneration will now fall under the Community Directorate, which is lead by Paul Walker.
 - Jan Rowley – Interim Director of Regeneration – leading on delivery of the regeneration programme.
 - Beverley Kuchar – Head of Planning – covering development management, planning policy and building control. She is supported by Jim King and David Hughes and their teams.
 - Mark Billington – Leading on Cultural Portfolio (Libraries, Sport and Leisure, Harrow Arts Centre and Headstone Museum) and the Council’s Cultural Strategy.
- Lyon Square - £450,000 capital funding secured from the GLA Good Growth Fund to be matched by private sector funding. The scheme is to provide for a new public square, play space and seating as well as a pop up restaurant. CarverHaggard have been appointed as architects and are to be invited to the November Panel meeting.
- Open House Weekend (22 and 23 September) - includes a number of sites around Harrow. Also includes two walking tours which Panel members were encouraged to attend:
 - Harrow Regeneration Walk – departing from Lowlands at 12pm on 22 September.
 - Wealdstone Regeneration Walk – departing from the Civic Centre at 12pm and 2pm on 22 September.
- Our Wealdstone Square Party was held on 8 September. Noted that this was not a Council event, but was well attended and a real positive for the area.

3. Residents Panel Role and Contribution - Raj Kumar and Panel

- Agreed that the Panel members can offer a range of valuable skills and should all engage and attend forthcoming consultation events, as well as contribute at meetings in order to use these skills and knowledge to inform and shape proposals.
- Meeting agendas should be circulated two weeks before a meeting, which will allow Panel members to review and to request any additional information or details.
- All Panel members should review the notes of the previous meeting on the Building a Better Harrow website in advance of a meeting and highlight where agreed actions have not been carried out.

Questions:

- Could presentations/details of schemes that are to be discussed be circulated to the Panel in advance of the meeting to allow time for these to be considered and for the Panel to make informed comments at the meeting?
- It would be useful for the Panel to see detail of schemes being considered through value engineering processes in future to ensure that the quality sought is not diminished.
- Request for reviews of on-going projects to consider milestones and how targets are being met, although it was noted that this was not the role of the Panel and there were other scrutiny processes within the Council for this purpose.

4. Format of Future Meetings

- Suggestions were made to enhance the effectiveness of meetings:
 - Give greater focus to one scheme at each meeting to allow it to be reviewed and considered in more detail.
 - Panel to look at the impact of the regeneration proposals on communities and the wider neighbourhood – consideration for the connections and linkages between schemes and how these can and should work.
 - An opportunity for the Council and their architects to test out ideas for engagement events before going to the wider public, allowing these to be refined.
 - Proposal that at least once a year the Panel considers the big picture and how schemes fit together cumulatively to contribute to meeting the Council targets and objectives. This could take the form of ‘issue based’ sessions (around e.g. affordable housing, employment, cultural offer, transport) and within this format each scheme and its role in meeting objectives should be considered.
- Agreed that the November 2018 meeting should cover:
 - An update against the Regeneration Strategy to consider progress made and any changes.
 - A programme to be agreed for the next 12 months and longer term objectives for the next five years.
 - CarverHaggard architects to be invited to talk about the Lyon Square scheme.
- The January 2019 meeting should focus on affordable housing, with a Registered Provider, developer (Origin Housing and Harrow Churches HA for example), the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing to be invited. It was also suggested that the GLA be invited to show them the importance of the Panel and its role, and/or that a representative from another Council be invited (e.g. Jo Negrini from LB Croydon) to share good practice and learning lessons from what they are doing.

5. Any Other Business

- It was suggested that new Panel members are recruited.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- Tuesday 13 November, 19:00, Civic Centre.