

Building a Better Harrow Residents Regeneration Panel

Meeting 22, 12 November 2019 at Whitefriars Studios, Winsor & Newton Building

Attendance

Officers: Leanne Cooper, Tim Bryan, Shehzad Ahmed and Alka Maharjan

Councillors Keith Ferry and Sue Anderson

Panel members: Raj Kumar (facilitator / chair), Nafeesa Chalisa, Kiran Chotalia, Mihir Benison, Louise Baxter, Tanvi Vyas, Magali Peyrefitte and Vishaal Shah.

Guests: Rachel Dimind, Lois Goswell, Rosalyn Sober, Asha Mohamed and Andrew Morsely.

Panel apologies: Manjul Shah and Consolata Ndungu.

Items

Matters Arising

- Mayor's Infrastructure Young Professionals Panel (Mihir Benison):
As highlighted at previous panel meetings, the MIYPP are looking at London's future infrastructure needs around key themes of people, planet and place and LBH is a case study. The MIYPP were recently given a tour of Harrow sites by officers from the Council to inform this and are now working on collating a body of research to present to the new Mayor of London after the elections in May 2020.
- Wealdstone and South Harrow Actions Groups (Rachel Dimind – My Yard, and Raj Kumar):
Community Action South Harrow Group is very well attended and is growing. A number of Panel members have also attended the Wealdstone Action Group and it seems that changes are slowly happening and people are also coming together.

New Chapter – Tim Bryan, Head of Service, Culture and Leisure

- The Culture and Leisure Service covers the library service, Harrow Arts Centre, Headstone Manor Museum, Harrow Music Service, Leisure Centres and Sports Development.
- Harrow Arts Centre is going from strength to strength in terms of usage and income, and there has been good progress on making savings. Capital works are currently ongoing to improve the existing spaces and capacity.
- Harrow Leisure Centre usage has increased year on year since 2013 when the contract started and provides a significant income to the Council. The Centre offers an extensive range of activities, including targeted groups and activities.
- Greenhill Library is part of the Harrow Square/College Road development. Fit out and shell works are ongoing and it is due to open in Spring 2020. The facility will include a library pavilion and garden space and the intention that it will be a flexible

community hub including meeting, study, activity and exhibition spaces. There will be a launch event in the spring.

- At Bannister Sports Centre, the project to provide improved football pitches including a full size 3G pitch with floodlighting is ongoing. Planning permission was given in July and conditions are nearly signed off to allow works to start. It will be a community facility, and there are requirements for a programme to increase participation.

Questions

- Are opening hours for Greenhill library known? *These will reflect the hours of the existing library.*
- Is the Charles Gardner Memorial Fund already liaising with the Council? *Yes, there has already been feedback to share experience from the Bannister Sports Centre project including funding opportunities.*
- There is only one bus to Bannister Sports Centre which is not regular, and on Sundays parking is an issue. Will there be additional parking provided? *There is a planning application due to go to Committee in December for an overflow car park. This will not be in use all the time but will be available for the bigger events. The Council are also working with Parkfield to look at sharing spaces where possible, and are aware that parking will need to be managed while works are taking place.*
- Will the 3G pitch be affordable to community groups? *Yes, this is a requirement of funding. However, there will be a framework of pricing that will reflect factors such as prices elsewhere.*

Action: Panel and guests requested to promote the library as a resource for the community.

Action: Attendees wanting to be involved in the Cultural Forum or Greenhill library launch to contact Tim Bryan to be added to the invite/attendee list.

Arc House – Asha Mohamed, NOMAD

- NOMAD (Nations of Migration Awakening the Diaspora) are a youth-led organisation who have been working with (not for) young people in Harrow for 12/13 years. Past support from organisations outside of LBH such as the BFI and South Bank Centre but goal has been to have somewhere local to create a program curated by young people but open to all.
- Due to launch in Arc House in February and will be sending out invites.
- The idea is that the space will be a taste of the South Bank Centre. It will be open during the day for people to come in and have coffee, see some art etc and will provide a shared space for different groups.

Questions

- Will there still be links with the South Bank centre? *Yes, they are very supportive and have been assisting with the proposals for Arc House, and links will be retained going forward.*
- What ages do NOMAD work with? *Currently typically ages 15-25, and part of the charity that activities remain free for young people. NOMAD would hope to work with other youth-based organisations locally and be able to share space with these.*

Whitefriars Studios – Rosalyn Sober

- The Studios are a great asset. It is good to see them being used for the meeting, and more community usage would be positive.
- In June, there was an art competition open to all 6th Form aged people in the borough with a show at the gallery. Many entries were submitted, and now there are better links with art teachers so looking to make more of it for next year when the show will be earlier to better reflect the school calendar.
- Rosalyn is seeking funding for approximately £2K to support the initiative. The RRP are keen to ensure this art competition receives the widest publicity and promotion with Harrow schools.

Town Centre Projects – Shehzad Ahmed

- Part of the Economic Development team's brief is to improve town centres and the Council has a good track record in securing funding from the GLA to do this including Whitefriars Studios, Wealdstone Square, Greenhill Place and Harrow Arts Centre.
- Works are ongoing to Wealdstone Square aiming to create an active space and are due to finish end of January 2020 with a launch program in March. Assistance of the Panel/attendees in the launch and use of the space by the community is requested.
- Greenhill Place will provide for a new public square including a kiosk for display of art, five food kiosks, space for 16 market stalls and space for seating, events and play. Works are due to start in early 2020 and there will be a launch in Spring. Assistance of the Panel/attendees in the launch and use of the space by the community, as well as utilising the art exhibition space is requested.
- Harrow Arts Centre has funding for a masterplan (now completed), to bring redundant buildings back into use, and for new buildings and public realm in order to increase capacity. The Panel will be consulted on designs, and Panel/attendees are asked to raise awareness of the new facilities.
- Murals project: An Expression of Interest pack is due to be launched seeking artists to produce murals/street art in Wealdstone, South Harrow and Rayners Lane with priority given to artists working in partnership with local groups/schools. Subject to budget, the project will be rolled out to other areas. Panel/attendees are requested to raise awareness of the opportunity and submit Expressions of Interest.

Questions

- There are many local artists who are not currently engaged formally in any groups etc and it would be good to connect with these people as historically this has not happened in LBH. Murals project should come from local people rather than outside areas.
- How will use of the new squares for events be managed to ensure no conflicts?
The Council will not be delivering events but will be bringing different stakeholders together. Comment on need for management of this noted.

Food, People and Poverty – Rachel Dimind, My Yard

- My Yard are a registered charity based in Grange Farm and rescue food that would otherwise go to waste. Aiming to eliminate food poverty and bring people together, but the food can go to anyone to help this. This helps to improve connections and community and from this have gone into e.g. art and music.
- Want everyone to feel part of culture and community and benefit from opportunities, including those who otherwise ‘fall through the cracks’.
- My Yard happy to provide catering for events etc. and have groups involved in dance/music etc.

Action: Panel/attendees requested to follow My Yard on Instagram – myyard.org.uk

Action: Contact Rachel regarding any catering/events or if able to volunteer as a mentor or provide contacts to do so.

Gardner Activity Centre Project – Andrew Morsely, Charles Gardner Memorial Fund

- Charles Gardner was carrying out innovative youth work approximately 100 years ago, and his legacy includes land in South Harrow which the trustees are reviewing how it can be better used to provide a multi-purpose activity centre enabling young people to enjoy recreation and see their communities transformed.
- Lack of green/recreation space nearby so site offers great potential. The Memorial Fund have been building relationships and have a number of existing partners including youthwork partners.
- Project is aiming to increase the number of young people in South Harrow engaging in outdoor activity, to open up an underused urban green space as a more effective base for youthwork organisations and to transform issues around knife crime, mental health and social inequality.
- Some initial feasibility work has been done and the next focus is on increasing usage by young people followed by provision of improved sports facilities and a potential future phase around technology enabled youth provision.
- Exact facilities are not yet known and will be informed by engagement in the area. Funding is also to be sought.

Questions

- Will you also be consulting the local community? *Yes, but want to flesh out ideas for the site first to be able to go with emerging proposals for the site.*

Action: Provide contacts to Andrew, especially for any groups in South Harrow for the Trust to link in to and inform the project. Raj will circulate relevant details to Andrew, especially Nomad and MyYard. Magali and Raj are keen to promote innovative consultation methods and happy to be involved.

TfL Station Sites Consultations

- Stanmore Station: 13 Nov 5pm-8pm, 16 Nov 10am-2pm Aylward Primary School, Pangbourne Drive, Stanmore, HA7 4RE <https://stanmore.commonplace.is>
- Rayners Lane Station: 20 and 21 November, 5pm-8pm Regent Independent College (RIC), 167 Imperial Dr, Harrow HA2 7HD <https://raynerslane.commonplace.is>
- Canons Park Station: 25 and 26 November, 5pm-8pm Church Hall, at St Lawrence Little Stanmore, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware, HA8 6QS <https://canonspark.commonplace.is>

Date of Next Meeting

- **Wednesday 29 January 2020** and 10 March (to be confirmed).

AOB

- Harrow Town Centre Christmas party taking place on 30 November.
- Harrow BID are holding a Christmas party for Firm Foundation clients and staff on 16 December. Please contact Lou with any volunteers/help/donations of food.
- Panel Christmas gathering on 6 December.
- Daniel Lester has now left LBH, but the Panel gave thanks for his work over the years.