



Ealing Fields Residents' Association
Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting
held on 12th June 2024 at 7.30pm at the Log Cabin, 259 Northfield Avenue

1 Welcome, introduction and apologies

The Chair, Roger Jarman, welcomed the 50 or so residents present, noting that 2024 marked EFRA's 50th anniversary. Apologies had been received from street reps Jane Judge and Mr and Mrs Oldham. Apologies had also been received from Councillors Ian Kingston and Kim Nagpal. The Chair thanked members for their support, subscriptions and donations, without which EFRA could not continue to represent the local community in dealings with the Council, the police and other local agencies. EFRA was pleased to welcome Councillor Paul Driscoll¹ to the meeting. Unfortunately, no representatives from the Metropolitan Police were available to attend.

2 Community Safety – report from the Chair of EFRA on behalf of the Met Police

Four officers were dedicated to Northfield ward: PSgt James Lenton, PC Alex Welsh, PC Bartlomiej Bogusz and PCSO Penelope Acquah, and the ward priorities were: tackling violence and drug-related incidents in the South Ealing Road area; tackling the theft of motor vehicles linked to Clitherow Avenue; and combatting incidents related to parks and open spaces in the Blondin Park area. In terms of crime statistics, figures for April (and May) 2024 were provided as follows: 8 burglaries (1 in May); 13 ASB reports (3 in May); 17 vehicle related crimes (8 in May); 10 other thefts (7 in May), and 16 reports of violence (not including domestic-related incidents) (8 common assaults in May, as well as 3 public order offences). Two incidents of criminal damage were also reported in May. Figures for the month to date in June were provided, and these were all low: it was noted that Northfields continued to have the lowest rate of crime in the whole of the London Borough of Ealing (LBE). A number of 'good news stories' were noted including the arrest of a female for five thefts of parcels across Northfields as well as the discovery and destruction of a cannabis 'factory' in a rental property.

The officers were available to provide crime prevention advice and a bike-marking event would be confirmed in the coming weeks. Regular drop-in sessions were held at Northfields Library and officers would attend the Blondin festival in September. The next Ward panel meeting would be held soon, and a new Ward panel chair and members were being sought (interested residents to email: northfield@met.policeuk)

3 Updates from Local Groups

Blondin Park Consortium – presentation by Linda Massey (LM) – this was a community led group, and £450,000 had been raised to fund the building of the pavilion and installation of cats eyes and lighting. The plan was to raise funds to install some way-finder signs to help direct people who use the park. Any residents interested in assisting with fundraising should contact LM. The pavilion was used extensively by a wide variety of groups and there was an inexpensive café for all to enjoy as well. The pavilion would operate as a bar for the Blondin Festival in September. A resident asked if some gravel could be put down to help with the

¹ Owing to the General Election on 4 July 2024 and the restricted period of 'purdah' leading up to it, the Councillors had been invited but would not be in a position to respond to points raised in Open Forum. They could however discuss matters individually with residents.

muddy paths in Blondin Park, and LM responded that she would raise this with the LBE. LM concluded her report by explaining that there was an intention to transform the inner sports area into an all-weather play area. More funds were needed for this with a target to raise £1m. Plans were being worked on and would be put out to consultation in due course.

Northfields Library – presentation by Angela Bell (AB) - the library was going from strength to strength, and AB thanked all the trustees and volunteers who helped to keep the library running. There were now 78 volunteers working on a shift basis. Daily attendance had risen from around 10-15 just post Covid to around 40-45 now. Sessions such as ‘rhyme time’ proved popular with parents, who were able to socialise at the end of the sessions, and a young volunteer with autism who provided drop-in sessions on tech issues, helping users with laptop and mobile phone problems. Users were able to come in to use the library’s printing and photocopying facilities, and also to study or do homework. There was also a repair café, regular CV workshops, an NCT group, book clubs, art classes and other sessions teaching life skills. Evening events were also now a common feature including talks given by local authors. In summary, it was so much more than a library and more like a community hub.

Local History Group –Helen Johnson and Andrew Dick discussed the work of the Local History Group. The main output of the group had been the book *Little Ealing: A Walk Through History*. This was originally published in 2002 and had sold 2,000 copies. The profits had been used to write another book on the history of John Quincy Adams (a future President of the USA) who had spent time living in the area. An update of *Little Ealing: A Walk Through History* had been published in March 2024. A new project was now under consideration.

4 Minutes of the 2023 AGM and matters arising not on the agenda

The minutes of the last AGM held on 14th June 2023 were approved. In terms of matters arising, it was noted that the problem of the dumping of hire bikes might be improved with the move to one provider (Lime). The cabling for electric vehicles crossing pavements might be improved with the use of lampposts or bollards as charging points – ‘cable gullies’ were being trialled by other local authorities.

5a Chair's report

The Chair summarised EFRA's activities over the last year, which were covered in more detail in the newsletter. Key updates provided were as follows:

Conservation Area (CA) – the statutory consultation exercise had closed at the end of January 2024, and EFRA were represented an event in November 2023 held to discuss the proposals. EFRA had taken a neutral stance in its response to the consultation, but had been critical of the consultation process e.g. there had been no way of indicating whether respondees were from within the area of the proposed CA or outside it. The outcome of the consultation was expected later in the summer. The next stage would be a further consultation on ‘permitted development rights’ although if there was insufficient support, the CA proposal would be dropped.

Orion Park – this was a much needed 95-unit development of ‘affordable housing’; however the contractor had recently withdrawn from the project for ‘business reasons’. The housing association that owns the site (Sovereign Network Group) was now looking for a new contractor. In terms of the smaller development proposed at AJ Spares, EFRA had raised objections on various grounds. There had been no further news associated with proposed development at the rear of Overdale Road.

Step free access for Northfields Station – Northfields was not on TfL’s current list of ten stations to be made step free – it was noted that North Acton station and Northolt station

were. The new London Assembly Member for Ealing and Hillingdon, Bassam Mahfouz, was on the transport committee, and may be able to assist. Once the new MP for Ealing Southall had been elected, the matter would also be raised with them.

5b Membership report

Clive Herring (CH) presented the membership report, noting that the numbers had increased slightly to 650 members out of a possible 2,000 households, so around one-third, which represented a good proportion of households in the area. Street reps had assisted with the collection of subs and donations. There were two notably large donations of £50 and £100 from two residents which was most appreciated. CH reminded everyone that in terms of data protection, just one list was maintained by the Membership Secretary – a stripped-down version of the list was provided for distribution of the newsletters. The Chair thanked Clive for his work in the role in the last year, and also thanked the street reps for their assistance with distributing the newsletter. A request for volunteers was made – there was always a need for more street reps.

6 Treasurer's report and Accounts

Holly Perry (HP) presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ending April 2024 which remained subject to audit. The bank account had now been operational with Lloyds Bank for around a year and was working well. Overall, the financial position was stable with the year-end position being a positive balance of £2,512.78 (2022/23: £2,758.92). HP thanked EFRA member Keith Marriage for his assistance with a detailed handover of the Treasurer responsibilities during the course of the year.

7 Election of Officers

The following Committee Members offered to serve for a further year, and all were proposed and elected. Committee Members would be appointed to their roles and responsibilities at the first Committee meeting following the AGM:

Roger Jarman, *Chair* (Dorset Road), Wendy Hallam *Vice Chair* (Hollies Road), Clive Herring, *Membership Secretary* (Bramley Road), Andrew Dick (Little Ealing Lane), Helen Johnson (Wellington Road), David Ashforth (Bramley Road), Jane Cocking (Convent Gardens), Carol Atkinson (Jefferson Close), Raj Kapoor (Weymouth Avenue), Keith Marriage (Chandos Avenue), Ed Ballard (Julien Road), Mike Eastgate (Radbourne Avenue), Diane Kerr (Chandos Avenue) and Holly Perry (Chandos Avenue). There were five vacancies at present. Jill Burton offered to serve as a Street Rep. This was accepted and Jill was thanked for volunteering to take on the role.

8 Committee Member report - transport and parking

Raj Kapoor reported on EFRA's campaign for traffic calming measures around schools in the area, including the successful installation of the roundabout and a new zebra crossing at The Plough junction, which had been in operation for around a year. In terms of the work on 'School Streets', the change in headteacher might give some impetus to creating a 'School Street' for Little Ealing School. There were around 30 or so 'School Streets' in LBE so far, and it was confirmed that a consultation with residents in the area who would be impacted would take place before any changes were made.

9 Open forum

(a) **EFRA website** – www.efra.org.uk - there was a question about whether EFRA could make more of its online presence, including a way to donate via the website. Cheryl Burke (a local resident) offered to assist and was invited to the next EFRA meeting for a further discussion with the Committee – the matter would be made a priority for EFRA in the coming year (**action**).

(b) Traffic count on Northfields – concern was raised that there were ongoing breaches of the 20-mph speed restriction. There had been one serious accident recently, and it was clear that there was an issue with enforcement. EFRA would take up the matter again with LBE **(action)**.

(c) Trees – residents raised a wide range of concerns about the size of trees in the Northfields area. Roots were growing into lawns in some cases, cracks were appearing in walls, and in other cases there was risk of big branches falling. Some trees were disproportionate in size relative to the size of houses, and some were also leaning at an angle. Residents of Little Ealing Lane reported that some trees had been dealt with, but others had not. It was clarified that pruning and pollarding was on a three-year cycle and that the contractor had recently changed: a survey of trees had taken place, and there was a plan for pruning and pollarding in the coming weeks. Residents could raise issues individually with Cllr Driscoll. The process for reporting dead saplings seemed to be working better.

(d) Leaf fall – green bags would be provided to residents as usual this year for self-collection of leaves, and LBE would then collect filled bags once these were reported.

(e) Changes to collection of domestic garden waste – the adjustment to collecting for only 9 months of the year (Mar to Dec) rather than 12 months was unpopular, particularly given residents were expected to pay the same amount for the reduced service. Cllr Driscoll explained that the changes meant that green waste collection would now pay for itself, rather than being subsidised through the General Fund.

(f) Gardens opposite The Plough – The Chair thanked the members of EFRA, street reps and residents who helped to maintain the gardens throughout the year.

(g) Lammas Park works by Thames Water – Significant work – a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) – was now underway in the park, which were intended to prevent surface flooding in areas in the South Ealing (Junction Road and beyond, in particular) as well as in Elers Road and other nearby roads. The work was being undertaken jointly with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and LBE. A major part of the works was expected to be complete by the autumn, with landscaping, natural play areas and tree-planting to be complete by March 2025.

(h) Overnight works on the Piccadilly line – Some residents complained that no proper notice was being given for works undertaken recently. It was understood to be related to the laying of replacement sleepers for the new Piccadilly line rolling stock coming on stream in 2025. This was a matter for TfL, so the advice was to raise with the London Assembly member.

(i) Broken pavements – a resident of Bramley Road raised concerns about the state of pavements on the street, which caused her issues given her mobility problems. The matter would be raised directly with Cllr Driscoll.

The Chair thanked residents for their questions and also Cllr Driscoll for being available to hear concerns expressed by those attending the AGM.

9 Close. Meeting closed at 9pm.