

Ealing Fields Residents Association

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2024, 7.30pm at the Log Cabin Children's Centre, 259 Northfield Avenue

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

Present: Roger Jarman (RJ) (Chair), Cheryl Burke (CB), Jane Cocking (JC), Andrew Dick (AD), Wendy Hallam (WH), Diane Kerr (DK), Raj Kapoor (RK), Keith Marriage (KM), Holly Perry (HP); Cllrs Paul Driscoll (PD) and Ian Kingston (IK)

Apologies: David Ashforth (DA), Carol Atkinson (CA), Mike Eastgate (ME), Clive Herring (CH), Helen Johnson (HJ), and Cllr Kim Nagpal (KN)

2 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as drafted. All **Matters Arising** appeared on the main agenda. It was agreed that a formal 'thank you' would be submitted on EFRA's behalf to Jay Patel for his years of auditing the EFRA accounts (**action – KM**).

3 Planning and licensing matters

(a) Blondin Park Licensing Application – The Chair thanked RK for the evidence he gathered and his submission to LBE on behalf of EFRA raising concerns about the application. Around 70 objections were submitted in total. LBE's licensing panel took legal advice that the application should be approved and on that basis the licence was granted. The Chair was not aware that anyone had appealed the decision. EFRA would monitor the position on an ongoing basis, and any concerns being reported immediately to LBE.

(b) Proposals for development of land behind Overdale Road - The development would comprise 41 properties in total made up of 27 mews-style houses (2/3 bedrooms) and 14 smaller flats in a block. A meeting with residents had been held in early September with residents and councillors in attendance. There had been broad support, subject to some concerns about the western side of the development being potentially overlooked. Questions had also been raised about the potential for flooding, and also around access, and limited parking (4 spaces reserved for disabled badge holders, and 4 spaces for others – priority to be given to those families with small children). The application was due to be submitted to LBE in late September. EFRA would formally submit a response, which would broadly align with comments from residents. The developers' good engagement with residents was noted. (**action: RJ/Councillors**)

(c) Proposed Northfield Conservation Area (CA) – LBE had a dedicated member of staff (a Conservation Officer) working on conservation area issues across the borough, though a vacancy had been carried for some time. Recruitment had taken place in the last week or so, and the individual would take up their post soon. Timescales for next steps were currently unknown. (**action: Councillors**)

(d) Other planning issues – Orion Park – the owners were preparing to go back out to tender for a new contractor. There was no further update.

4 Transport and parking

(a) Review of road improvements at the Plough Junction – this was now underway, following a delay. One incident had been reported to date, on the cobbled section of road outside The Plough, involving a cyclist. **(action: Councillors)**

(b) Traffic count / speed monitoring on Northfield Avenue (AGM item) – a data collection exercise west of Northfield Avenue had taken place, but not of Northfield Avenue itself. This was connected with monitoring the traffic cutting through from Boston Manor Road. LBE was lobbying Government regarding the Council's powers to enforce speed limits in the borough.

5 Environment

(a) Floodlights at Northfields Depot – London Transport had indicated that they would be commissioning bespoke hoods for the lights; however there had been no further news for some time. The matter would be raised with the London Assembly member **(action: PD)**.

(b) Flower beds at Plough Junction – LBE had done some pruning of the bushes on the southern end of Plough Junction. WH would follow up with a request for members to help with clearing leaf fall later in the autumn **(action: WH)**. EFRA would also do some comms via street reps/members setting out arrangements for community leaf clearing **(action: WH/RJ)**.

(c) Summer events at J2 Boston Manor Park and Gunnersbury Park – It was agreed that both events had been well stewarded, and there had been very few, if any, complaints.

(d) Alleyways in the vicinity of Chandos Avenue – DK and IK had not yet met to discuss the issues but reports of issues being submitted were being followed up quickly.

(e) Tree management (AGM item) – PD reported that an LBE meeting would be held shortly with the new contractors to discuss tree pruning in the Northfields area. The work should have started about 6 weeks ago but was delayed. The works were on a three-year cycle, with one-third of trees scheduled to be pruned each year. However, the methodology seemed to have changed, as certain trees were being targeted. The new policy would be clarified and communicated to residents **(action: PD)**. Three dead saplings were reported on Chandos Avenue.

6 Ward / Community Forum

This would be co-hosted with Councillors. A date would be sought for late 2024 or early 2025 and the Chair would write to the Log Cabin regarding availability (post meeting note – Forum to take place at 7.30pm in the Log Cabin, 13 November).

7 Brentford Festival @ Blondin Park

This had gone very well and some new sign ups had been secured. EFRA had thanked Linda Massey for the loan of the table, chairs and marquee.

8 Northfields Library

The summer activities programme had been a success.

9 Community safety

It was noted that RK was the new chair of the Ward Panel on community safety, etc. He was congratulated on his appointment. Attendance at the last meeting had not been high, but there would be further publicity ahead of the next meeting. WH had offered to take the note of the meeting and this would be circulated in due course. The next meeting would take place in the Blondin Pavillion in the third week of November.

10 AOB

There was no other business.

11 Date of next Committee meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 13th November (post meeting note – this would now be the date of the Forum, and a date for the next EFRA meeting would be arranged).

12 Treasurer's report

HP reported that the current bank balance was £2,960, with a number of subs still due (with CH). The current membership totalled 560, and 48% had paid up to 2025.

13 Membership matters / newsletter / e-newsletter / website

(a) Website development update – a meeting had been held at CH's allotment. Hosting might need to be separated out from the co-hosting arrangement with the History group. CB was looking at the brief for updating the EFRA website, including the addition of a 'donate' button. Links to the Councillors' details might be a helpful addition, together with links to the LBE planning pages. CH would send an email to the membership to test that this worked.

(b) London Forum AGM – this would be held on 17 October and WH would be attending, potentially with RK.