

Ealing Fields Residents Association

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2024, 7.30pm at the Log Cabin Children's Centre, 259 Northfield Avenue

1 Welcome and apologies for absence

Present: Roger Jarman (RJ) (Chair), Carol Atkinson (CA), Ed Ballard (EB), Cheryl Burke (CB) (item 2), Duncan Cameron (DC) (item 2), Andrew Dick (AD), Mike Eastgate (ME), Clive Herring (CH), Diane Kerr (DK), Raj Kapoor (RK), Holly Perry (HP), Charmian Ali (CA), Cllrs Paul Driscoll (PD) and Ian Kingston (IK) (from item 3)

Apologies: David Ashforth (DA), Jane Cocking (JC), Wendy Hallam (WH), Helen Johnson (HJ), Keith Marriage (KM), and Cllr Kim Nagpal (KN)

2 Discussion on EFRA's website with local residents present – CB and DC

The Chair welcomed CB and DC to the meeting. CB had raised points at the AGM regarding the need to refresh the content of EFRA's website, including providing updated information, newsletters and minutes of meetings. EB provided background information on how he had inherited the running of the site from his predecessor and how it was being run currently. Mailchimp was used for sending emails, but the contacts were now approx. 2 years out of date. Newsletters were being sent out approx. 3 times a year. CB's thoughts on improvements were welcomed and initial thoughts were that a more user-friendly platform needed to be sought, and that improved accessibility of the site needed to be prioritised. The addition of a donation button would also be beneficial for raising funds. Finding a way of making the website more responsive to issues would be good, e.g. adding information such as the date of the EFRA AGM, and forthcoming meetings. It was suggested that WordPress would be a better platform to adopt.

The Committee agreed to co-opt CB as a member to assist with updating the website. The priority would be to use WordPress to build a new website from scratch. There would be information on EFRA's role and remit, emphasising that it was politically neutral. It was confirmed that EFRA owned the domain name, and that this could be transferred to the new site. EB, CB and DC would keep in touch and progress the work as agreed (**action RJ to coordinate**).

3 Approval of minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2024 and matters arising

Ahead of this item, the Chair welcomed IK and PD, and congratulated PD on becoming a Cabinet Member on LBE. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as drafted, subject to one amendment (addition of 'not' in relation to the meeting between DK and IK re the Chandos Avenue alleyways matter). All **Matters Arising** appeared on the main agenda.

4 Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 12th June 2024 and matters arising

These were approved as drafted. All **Matters Arising** appeared on the main agenda, with the exception of the issues raised regarding tree maintenance, which would be brought forward for discussion at the next meeting (**action RJ**).

5 Allocation of Committee portfolios

It was agreed that RJ would continue as Chair, HP as Secretary and Treasurer, HJ as member with the Environment portfolio, CB as an ex officio member leading on IT, RK as member with the Transport and Parking portfolio, WH as Deputy Chair and CH as Membership Secretary.

6 Planning and licensing matters

(a) Blondin Park Licensing Application – EFRA had been approached by a group of residents to take a position on opposing the application. The objections appeared well argued. PD clarified that there was no flexibility in relation to the window of time for the licence to apply given the size of the event in question (the Blondin Festival, with over 499 people in attendance). So a full licence was needed, which apparently meant a licence to sell alcohol 10am to midnight, 7 days a week. It was noted that Linda Massey (LM) was not likely to take advantage of the licence provisions; however there was no way of legislating for the actions of any successor. PD clarified that licencing was an active process, which could be revoked at any time subject to objections.

On balance, members agreed that continued commercialisation of LBE parks was a concern. There were potential issues around public safety and public nuisance. Putting conditions on the licence might be an option, and a statement from LM providing reassurance might assist. It was agreed that RK would work up a draft response on behalf of EFRA, and circulate for comment before the deadline for comments (**action RK**).

(b) Proposals for development of land behind Overdale Road - The event in Northfields Library hosted by the developers had been well attended and there had been a good level of engagement. The development comprised 41 properties in total made up of 27 mews-style houses (2/3 bedrooms) and 14 smaller flats in a block on the western side of the development (shared ownership/affordable housing). There would also be play areas and outdoor space, as well as a single access route (possibly) via a gate and very 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 planning application would probably be submitted to the Council in September. On balance, EFRA agreed that the development plans appeared positive. The development would deal with an area that was currently an eyesore, and was not inappropriately dense. It was agreed that EFRA could therefore support the development in principle, although there were details regarding the plans that needed to be addressed. RJ agreed to draft EFRA's response to the planning application for circulation and comment (**action RJ**).

(c) Proposed Northfield Conservation Area (CA) – The consultation responses were being reviewed, and the position remained that an outcome should be known later in the summer. Responses were understood to be mixed, and there were some delays associated with LBE's recruitment of a Conservation Officer.

(d) 264 Northfield Avenue – conversion of coffee shop to restaurant

Item held over to the next meeting.

(e) Other planning issues – there were no other planning developments to raise.

7 Transport and parking

(a) Review of road improvements at the Plough Junction

(b) Traffic count / speed monitoring on Northfield Avenue (AGM item)

Both items held over to the next meeting.

8 Environment

- (a) Floodlights at Northfields Depot**
- (b) Flower beds at Plough Junction**
- (c) Summer events at J2 Boston Manor Park and Gunnersbury Park**
- (d) Alleyways in the vicinity of Chandos Avenue**

All items held over to the next meeting.

9 Brentford Festival at Blondin Park

A stall would be sought for EFRA use, to be shared with the Little Ealing History Group. A £30 contribution was agreed. A rota would be required for the stand, and AD, WH, CH offered to assist. RJ would ask for volunteers to staff the stall on the day. Committee members would also be needed to set up the stall and break it down (**action RJ**).

10 Northfields Library

Item held over to the next meeting.

11 Community safety

Item held over to the next meeting.

12 AOB

There was no other business.

13 Date of next Committee meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 18th September at 7:30pm.

14 Treasurer's report

HP had circulated the signed and audited accounts for the year ended 30 April 2024 and these were noted. The new auditor was Caroline Busby, a local resident (though outside the EFRA area) with an impressive CV, and who was happy to conduct the audit pro bono. The closing bank balance held at Lloyds had been £2,512.78 at year end, slightly down from the position at 30 April 2023 (£2,758.92).

15 Membership matters

Update from CH noted: A further £79 received in subs, £85.50 in donations made up of £129.50 in cash and £35 in cheques. We have 658 members, 219 of whom have paid up for 2024/25, including 23 new members. 108 are paid up to 2023/24 and 109 who last paid sometime before May 2019 (officially 'lapsed'). None of this included money in the pipeline.