



FOX LANE & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.foxlane.net

FLDRA OPEN MEETING on Wednesday 11 September at 7.45pm in the Main Hall, URC.

Present		
Lia Dover (LD) Vice Chair	John Phillips (JP)	Richard Thompson (RT)
Sue Younger(SY) Secretary	John Macrory (JMac) Treasurer	Julia Mountain (JM)

Apologies		
Laraine Feldman (LF)	Richard Mapleston (RM) Chair	Cllr Derek Levy
	Cllr Ian Barnes	

Agenda		Action
Welcome from Vice Chair (LD)	<p>LD welcomed everyone (approx.75 people) to the Open meeting which was taking place in the Main Hall so we could accommodate a large audience and would be focussing on the regeneration of our High street, ie.Palmers Green Town Centre. We were pleased to welcome our local councillors (Dinah Barry and Maria Alexandrou from Winchmore Hill, Daniel Anderson and Anne Brown from Southgate Green and Charith Gunawardena from Southgate) and acknowledged that the Deputy Leader and Winchmore Hill councillor, Ian Barnes, had sent his apologies because he had to attend a Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>Our speakers from Enfield Council's regeneration team would start by giving a presentation followed by a Q&A session when the audience would have the opportunity to raise their ideas about PG Town Centre. At the end of the meeting there would be an update on FLDRA priority issues.</p> <p>There would not be our usual break in the meeting but soft drinks were available at the back of the hall at any time.</p>	
Speakers from Enfield Council 1.Andrew Catchside, Palmers Green Town Centre Regeneration Team. 2.Dale Thompson, Head of Economic Development	<p>LD introduced the team from the Council.</p> <p>1.Andrew Catchside - PG Town Centre Team</p> <p>He started by going through a follow-up to the presentation given by the Council Leader, Nesil Caliskan, to the local community about the regeneration of PG Town Centre in the disused Starbucks Coffee Shop, Green Lanes, in July.</p> <p>Andrew stated that in July there were 17 empty shops in PG Town Centre but now the number had already increased to 21. The team had had a meeting with the traders on 5 September and they were hoping to produce a Vision and Action Plan in October taking account of the views of the local community. This community led vision would consist of short, medium and long term plans.The team can be contacted at towncentres@enfield.gov.uk.</p> <p>2. Dale Thompson - Head of Economic Development</p>	

Dale explained that his post was new for this Council (the post had been cut 2 years ago) because the new Leader had prioritised the redevelopment of Town Centres in Enfield. He had only been in post for 6 weeks but knew Palmers Green as he had worked at Dumayne House (when it was part of Enfield's Education and Employment Service) in Fox lane. He said that the regeneration programme would go ahead in partnership with the community and, although there was not a lot of money available, he thought that any problems could be addressed in a creative way. Other groups involved in the programme would be the police, TFL and the GLA as well as other departments in the Council. It would take some time to produce the Action Plan but it was hoped it would be presented to the community for comment in October.

**LD
RM**

Q&A session

This was a lengthy session covering the following issues:

- Funding – Dale said that Enfield could bid for GLA funding- part of the mayor's bid to improve town centres in London as well as Government funding for High Streets. Also corporate businesses could be approached for sponsorship such as for planting trees, flower beds etc.
- How to attract businesses to the High Street? – first had to establish ownership of the properties and see if can create pop-up shops (like Stitch) that would create a 'buzz' and attract new customers into the area. More flexible planning to bring new uses for the High Street such as sports facilities.
- Large housing developments in the area – make sure Section 106 and CIL money from these developments are used locally to improve the High Street. The Council has no control over the business rates charged.
- Set up a prospectus for new businesses – approach suitable new businesses and help them with negotiation with landlords over rent. Aim to promote a new range of shops etc. that community wants rather than more businesses such as nail bars, betting shops and charity shops which were very plentiful on the Green Lanes.
- Businesses need to attract young people into the area – make sure young people included in feedback.
- Look at successful town centres like Muswell Hill (and less affluent areas) and see what can be learned from them that could be used in Palmers Green.
- Funding for new technology – need to have Wi-Fi and 5G to encourage the use of digital technology. Promotion of businesses on social media.
- Creation of community hub with new spaces for 'creatives' and appropriate facilities– use of Broomfield House and other large, vacant spaces in Palmers Green.
- Why does it take so long to get things done? Dale explained that the Council always had to follow 'due diligence' which took a long time. Anything dealing with roads and pavements was very complicated because of all the services under the pavement (telephone, electricity, gas, water etc.) and the various transport groups also needed to be consulted.

Dale commented that Palmers Green was at a reasonable level (not in

	<p>serious trouble like some High streets) but it needed new shops and good marketing to make it more successful. It would be achieved through small incremental growth rather than a dramatic full scale change.</p> <p>LD thanked the speakers for their contributions and for the length of time they had spent with us.</p>	
Update on other FLdra priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary school places – RT reported that there was good news about Bowes- Southgate Green School where it had been agreed that funding would be allocated for a reception class for the academic year 2020/2021. Negotiations were continuing with Broomfield School and Enfield Learning Trust to create a permanent site for the primary school. 2. Quieter Neighbourhoods – SY reported that Richard Eason, from Cycle Enfield had not replied to our request for an update on the Fox Lane QN area. However, Cllr Ian Barnes had written to say that he expected “A Waltham Forest style Low Traffic Neighbourhood” to take effect soon in the area subject to public engagement. The Cycle Enfield/QN website gives some information about LTNs but no details or dates have been given. 3. Broomfield Park - 2 upcoming events: Sunday 29th September–Apple Day in the Orchard from 1.00-4.00pm Monday 11 November – Annual Remembrance Service in the Remembrance Garden from 10.30am. 	<p>RT</p> <p>SY</p> <p>SY</p>
Notice about Barry Mathiason	<p>Andy Barker (ex-Chair of FLdra) gave the sad news that Barry, the ex-Vice Chair of FLdra, had died after a short illness. He had been a very hardworking member of the committee and with his wife, Tina, who had been our treasurer, had supported FLdra over many years. Our condolences to Tina for her loss.</p>	
Membership	<p>JM thanked everyone who had renewed their FLdra membership following the recent subscription reminder. Paying by standing order every January is the preferred method of payment as it is simplest for your volunteer committee.</p> <p>LD thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded them that our next meeting would be the Christmas Quiz on Wednesday, 11 December at 7.45pm.</p>	JM