



NORWOOD FORUM

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Saturday 13 July 2019 (1:00pm)
The Old Library, 14-16 Knight's Hill, West Norwood, SE27 0HY

Committee Members (2018-19) present: Noshir Patel (Chair), Gloria Orosungunleka (Vice-Chair), Sunil de Sayrah (Treasurer), Ana Capone, Anne Crane, Kim Hart, Su McLaughlin and Philip Virgo

Also present: Helen Hayes MP; Councillor Jackie Meldrum; Sarah Coyte (Lambeth Council)
32 Norwood Forum members
Tim Stephens (Admin.)

1. Welcome from the Chair

Noshir Patel (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Colin Fenn; and Councillors Fred Cowell, Peter Ely and Jane Pickard.

Apologies for lateness were received from Su McLaughlin.

The agenda was reordered to accommodate those attending.

2. Minutes of last AGM (16 June 2018)

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 16 June 2018 were agreed by those present as a true record, with no matters arising.

3. Helen Hayes MP: address

Helen Hayes addressed the meeting, reflecting that there were two key issues that came to mind when thinking of West Norwood:

- The support in the local community for people in need of help
- The honesty of scrutiny of decisions made by the different statutory and other stakeholders and the importance of ensuring the community's voice is heard.

There were four key local issues in particular she was currently working on:

- Thames Water: raising issues before the Norwood Road water mains replacement works began; she would continue to investigate concerns raised with her. There were concerns on the quality of other remedial work with leaks reoccurring, pressure problems due to the hilly local terrain, and a concern that the Chief Executive had recently been fired because of a focus on customer engagement rather than a reduction of costs

- The potential closure of the Royal Mail sorting office at Windsor Grove: the sorting office remained on the critical list and the closure of the East Dulwich sorting office had led to mayhem in that area
- Closure of Barclays Bank: despite vigorous campaigning West Norwood now had no bank branch for local businesses and people; this was unacceptable for a town centre the size of West Norwood, and government legislation was required to prevent similar closures elsewhere
- Planning applications: ensuring there was good consultation and local engagement led by the council on applications for the key sites. She would make her own representations where necessary to seek high design, amenity and sustainability standards with truly affordable housing. There was high housing need, so new homes of required standard should be supported. She was working in Parliament to achieve improvements to the planning process.

Helen Hayes then responded to questions covering:

- The lack of youth clubs and other support available for young people: she highlighted the severe impact of cuts to local government and other public services, and work to mitigate through reallocation of resources and work with the voluntary sector
- Violence, including knife crime: Parliament was addressing the causes of crime, and national work was being led by Sarah Jones MP (Croydon Central)
- West Norwood Library and loitering by young people: she would discuss with library staff to establish the extent of any problem and explore ways of resolution
- West Norwood Library and computer provision for old people
- The height of new buildings: council policy specified the degree of protection
- Protection for open spaces: strict protection controls were in place for public parks and open spaces.

The Chair thanked Helen Hayes for attending and updating the local community on such a wide range of important issues.

4. Chair's report (item 7)

Noshir Patel presented his written report, covering:

- Grants given to local groups
- The involvement of Norwood Forum members in working with a wide number of local groups
- The continual need to seek to be more inclusive and work to reach hard to reach communities.
- The success of the regular e-newsletter
- The contributions by Norwood Forum to reducing the impact of challenges facing Norwood
- The delays on the removal of the Tulse Hill gyratory due to TfL funding difficulties as a result of delays on Crossrail. Design and modelling work had now restarted
- He thanked Sunil de Sayrah for all his work (including the newsletter), and the administrator. He had enjoyed great support from past and current Committee members and much had been achieved. The Committee would welcome new members who could bring fresh ideas.

There was a discussion about the possibility of attracting young people to join the Committee and the support young people needed from volunteers to play their role in society.

The work of South London Cares in bringing together older people and volunteers was also highlighted.

5. Treasurer's Report (item 8)

Sunil de Sayrah (Treasurer) presented the accounts for 2018-19 (written summary tabled at meeting). Income totalled £5,000 (Lambeth Funding Network (LFN) grant), expenditure £4190, with carried forward reserves of £8,641.

In response to questions, he advised that a high proportion of the cash at bank was held on behalf of Streetworks and also local groups who did not hold a bank account.

The accounts were agreed.

6. Election of Norwood Forum Officers and Committee (item 9)

The Chair stood down and handed over the election process to Sarah Coyte. The tabled paper set out the Committee membership for 2018-19 and the nominations received for 2019-20. As no positions were contested, a formal election ballot was not required and the 2019-20 Committee would be:

Chair:	Sunil de Sayrah
Vice-Chair:	Kim Hart
Treasurer:	Noshir Patel
Secretary:	Vacant
Ordinary Committee members:	Ana Capone
	Anne Crane
	Colin Fenn
	Su McLaughlin
	Gloria Orosungunleka
	Philip Virgo

Sarah Coyte gave her thanks to those serving on the Committee, and welcomed the stability of the Committee. All this work was carried out on a voluntary basis, and should not be underestimated.

Sunil de Sayrah proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair Noshir Patel for another successful year, his leadership since 2012, and his continuing involvement on the committee. This was agreed unanimously and with acclamation.

7. Thames Water: Norwood Road replacement water mains works: progress update

Representatives from Thames Water in attendance: Ian Welch (Project Manager) Graeme Oddy (Senior Traffic Manager) and Mo Arshid (Site Manager) gave a presentation on the ongoing Norwood Road water mains replacement works, covering:

- The local enquiry point at the Lancaster Avenue site office
- The reasons for replacing the existing 1890 cast iron pipes, including recent flooding at Lupin Close and multiple bursts
- Slip lining the existing pipework was not possible as this would reduce supply to an unacceptable degree
- The 840m length of new replacement 600mm pipe work ran from Tulse Hill to Robson Road, with a monitoring unit also at Knights Hill. Three chambers with two connectors would be provided
- Phases 1 and 2 had been completed, with some challenges being encountered. In particular an engineering solution had been developed to avoid an existing gas pipe; this has led to a couple of weeks delay but every attempt was being made to catch up in other areas
- There had been a further burst pipe at Tulse Hill, and the necessary repair had been undertaken by the gang on site rather than await the usual Thames Water emergency repairs team
- Phase 2.1 would commence on Monday 15 July: Station Rise to Elmcourt Road, with the northbound Tulse Hill gyratory bus lane reopening

In response to questions, from those present and received by email, it was explained:

- Water mains pipes on Knights Hill: were not in such bad condition, but local pressure monitoring would be in place during and after the works were completed
- Temporary traffic lights and management arrangements: were under the control of TfL
- Bus stop arrangements: regular meetings were held with both TfL buses and highways representatives. The need to improve the information provided on bus stop notice boards was raised, and this would be referred to TfL the following week. The shut bus stop opposite the Old Fire Station would be opened the following week. Installing a temporary bus stop at Ira Court had been explored, but would have reduced car parking
- The costs of the work; the scheme was part of £14-15m programme of water mains replacement works and the Norwood Road works would cost circa £6-7m
- Mains monitoring would pick up issues as they arose
- Concern over the length of the compensation payments process and suggestion that interim payments be put in place. Payments had in fact already been made and further information would be provided
- Specific information on repair works where leaks had reoccurred would be welcomed so that the quality of repair works could be considered
- Extended working hours were being worked, having regard also to the need to ameliorate noise nuisance for local people.

The Chair thanked the Thames Water representatives for attending to provide such an illuminating progress report on the works.

8. A Year of Culture (item 4)

Kim Hart, Committee member, outlined:

- The ongoing work to promote local events of all kinds under the banner of a year of culture - #norwoodfun
- The events page on the Norwood Forum website: <https://norwoodforum.org/events>. The variety of local events could be illustrated by three events happening that weekend. Contributions were always welcome and should be sent to: info@norwoodforum.org
- The objective of Norwood Forum to highlight all groups and their events and signpost as necessary
- The Window Wanderland event with the theme of Wild Nature, to be held Friday 29 November to Sunday 8 December 2019 to tie in with West Norwood Feast and Station to Station Winter Lights dates.

9. Community Safety Partnership and violence reduction (item 5)

Philip Virgo, Committee member, presented his written report:

- Norwood could be characterised as a safe and prosperous area with low crime rates, but sporadic episodes of extreme violence. There were pockets of isolation, deprivation and abuse (Gipsy Hill is one of the most deprived wards in the borough). There was a problem of social isolation across Norwood, and a rising population “churn” across the borough
- The strategy is to bring together those local groups willing to engage, within the frameworks planned by Lambeth Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and Police for community engagement and co-operation
- The essential first step was to create a contact database covering existing groups and activities. Contact information and volunteers to assist were sought
- Secondly, to work with Patient Participation Groups at GP Practices to develop a violence reduction “clinic” and out-reach service
- Thirdly, to work with the London Grid for Learning, the Rathbone Society and others to develop on-line safety education/awareness and victim support

Offers of support and information could be obtained by e-mailing: csp@norwoodforum.org.

During the subsequent discussion, the work of Norwood Forum in connecting the community via the newsletter and website, holding public meetings, attending other meetings, membership of other groups, and attending meetings of local groups was highlighted.

10. Community group presentations (item 6)

Each community group in receipt of a community grant of £400 gave a presentation on their work and how the money would be spent:

Norwood Pensioners Group (Jill Dudman): NPG grew out of a luncheon club established in the early 2000's. Meetings were held every Tuesday and classes were held in Tai Chi, dance exercise and flower arranging. Paid professional tutors were employed, and with the room hire costs there was considerable pressure on their finances. A charge of £5 was levied per class, with a membership fee of £5. Other activities included the Xmas meal, which was funded by Norwood Forum and provided by Sunil and Jill de Sayrah.

The grant would be used to run two coach outings (Worthing and a mystery ride to the Kent countryside) – a charge of £10 was to be levied. A new Pilates chair class was to start in September. NPG would welcome more publicity to raise awareness and increase membership.

Rathbone Society Youth Project (Jake Holder): last year's grant was used to cover the costs of a visit to central London landmarks (including IMAX, Tower Bridge, Shard and London Eye) for a group of young people. This year a group of young people would visit Go Ape at Battersea Park.

Southside Rehabilitation Association (Stephanie Correia): SRA provided employment training for people with serious mental health problems by running three social enterprises - printing, catering and cleaning. The grant would be put towards the cost of one computer.

11. Close of meeting

The issue of cycling on the pavement was raised by a member of the public and Councillor Jackie Meldrum outlined the issues involved.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions, and especially for the sandwiches provided by Pintadera, and Sweet Carolina Kitchen & Bar for the donated cake.

The meeting closed at 2:45pm.

Chair
Norwood Forum
June 2020