

Smalley Road Estate - TRA Meeting– Wed 13 January 2016

Present: Lucy Serjeant, Mary Laughlin, Janice Desler, Olani Adesina (Hackney Homes), Ansuman Biswas, Tony Slater, Barry Faulkner

1. Apologies. Louisa Thomson (Local Councillor)

2. Points from last meeting

Parking

This is in the process of changing including parking bays having been painted and small signs stating the parking permits are required around the estate put in place of the large signs that have been removed. Olani showed the meeting a draft of a letter to be sent to residents detailing when parking restrictions are enforced for our comments.

We have noticed that illegal parking is still happening despite the new more visible signs and have asked if there could be more patrols by the wardens. It has also been noticed that motorists not resident on this estate appear to be using keys to the gates across some of the roads onto the estate in order to park. Possibly residents of other estates where the keys are the same so they probably have them legally although they should not be used on this estate?

Parking Zones - in respect of parking zones in the borough as a whole, the estate is now part of Zone E (EXT). But parking hours on the estate, are 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Visitors parking permits – now no expiry date. The date stamped on the bottom of the permit does not apply any more although of course the day & date of parking have to be scratched off and car registration number filled in as before.

Action: The draft letter will be looked at and commented on and we will get back to Olani on that.

3. Panel Meetings Report Back

Decent Homes – still waiting on documentation in respect of the major works carried out in 2015. The decent homes initiative has ended but now operates as the Hackney Investment Programme.

Gutter Cleaning – the Council now has equipment to enable cleaning of the gutters called Skyvac. It can be used from a Cherrypicker which means no scaffolding is needed. This should hopefully solve the problem of the sludgy moss that spills from the open gutters along the roofs.

Lights – there are still problems in accessing lights some places.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms – these are being replaced for council tenants. Properties belonging to private owners that are rented out have to be dealt with by their owners.

Lucy reported on a meeting she, Mary and Janice attended in November, to do with the future of council housing, housing stock and regeneration in the Borough. The Council had awarded a repairs contract to one of the three firms who tendered for the work but then the contract terms were still being hammered out, before any work could be undertaken. Hence planned repairs were running behind.

Estate Surgery – it was brought to Olani's notice that we have not now had a surgery for 5 months. Buki, who used to carry out these, has changed roles so is no longer doing this job. Amari left at the end of November took up her work. Our next surgery should be on the 3rd February so we need someone to hold this.

Drains – the drain in Cottage Walk is still overflowing. It is possible oil and flour is being put down there. This needs to be investigated by council workmen.

4. EIB/TRA/Tenants Levy Budget 2015

Items supplied/completed

Mary applied for the Tenants Levy fund and a grant of £ has been received. This covers printing/publicity, stationery, admin/postage, plants/gardening equipment, telephone & refreshments. It is thought that we should obtain a pay as you go phone so we can keep track of phone calls made rather than being part of privately owned phones. Some sleepers that are part of the flower beds need to be replaced together with another planting day. Bicycle sheds were considered rather than cycles chained to lamp posts etc. There is a private organisation (Bikeaway) that supplies these stands in streets but it is understood there is a rental charge for them.

Need to hear from Eray about the annual walk-about the estate, to list items for the 184 budget. This usually happens in March.

Items still requiring action.

Could more of the dustbin chamber doors outside the properties be replaced.

5. Website for Estate Project

Janice Desler reported on her training in setting up a Smalley Road Estate website. This is an initiative run by Council under the "MyHackney" website where there are links to estate websites, several of which are already up and running. When completed it will give details of meetings, events of interest to residents, useful information, and eventually an archive of past minutes of our meetings. More importantly this will be a means of contacting the committee by asking their question online and it will be received by us by email. At present there are still details to be filled in and when it is running there will be notices displayed on the estate notice boards and the window of the community flat. Janice did note however to all that this is not a replacement for the notice boards and the like as there are a large proportion of residents who do not have internet access.

Action. Once up and running, we should leaflet the estate, to let residents know that this has happened.

6. Knitting Group Update

Janice Desler gave a short talk about the knitting group she is running from the community flat once a month and reported that as it is not a particularly large group as it is from next month (4th February) this will become a Crafting Group so that other crafters can also attend. Notices will be put in the noticeboards and window of the community flat and there will be a leaflet distribution as well.

7. Film Update

Fiona Whitty was refused initial funding for the project and is on a waiting list for the reserve fund. This will delay any project considerably.

6. AOB

Fence at rear of community flat. The fence to the neighbouring garden is in poor condition and is damaging the fence to No.20. Will talk to Eray on the next walkabout to see if it can be repaired.

Rubbish Collection. The rubbish collection in the week after Christmas was apparently done on the Monday instead of Tuesday but it appears nobody was aware of this so not all the rubbish was put out ready for them. It was asked that the bin areas are kept cleaner by the cleaners to deter vermin and foxes as much as possible.

6. Date of next meeting - Wednesday 6 April 2016 at 7.30pm