

**NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM
ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

Name of Forum: Oxhey Neighbourhood Forum

Membership: Councillors Shirena Counter, Iain Sharpe, Peter Taylor

Activities during 2013/14

Meetings

Date of Meeting 1: August 28 2013

Publicity	Emails to interested residents plus post on OVEG Facebook page
Number of people in attendance (excluding invitees below)	Approx 20
Other invitees <i>e.g. Council officers, Mayor. Police, HCC etc.</i>	Jane Custance, Head of Regeneration & Development and Simon Hoskin, Senior Planning Officer.
Topics covered	Discussion with the Bat Protection & Allotment Group about the demolition of a garage by the owner despite the possibility that bats were using it to roost and the Planning Department's response.

Details of any costs associated with the meeting <i>e.g. venue hire , sound equipment etc.</i>	None. Meeting held in LJs coffee shop who did not want payment.
Comments	This was a potentially difficult meeting with residents feeling that the Council had not responded to their concerns quickly enough. However, it involved a constructive discussion and resulted in agreement to use ward funding for an ecology survey and also for bird and bat boxes.

Date of Meeting 2: February 6 2014

Publicity	Posters
Number of people in attendance (excluding invitees below)	6
Other invitees <i>e.g. Council officers, Mayor. Police, HCC etc.</i>	Representatives from London Midland
Topics covered	Presentation on the proposed train blockades between London Euston and Hemel Hempstead.
Details of any costs associated with the meeting <i>e.g venue hire , sound equipment etc.</i>	Venue Hire £70 Printing and distribution costs - nil
Comments	This meeting was very poorly attended, probably because London Midland had just announced that the blockades proposed would be changed to weekend only. This meant it had become a non-issue

Date of Meeting 3: March 18 2014

Publicity	Emails to interested residents living in Aldenham Close
Number of people in attendance (excluding invitees below)	15 - 20
Other invitees <i>e.g. Council officers, Mayor. Police, HCC etc.</i>	Representatives from the social landlord
Topics covered	Discussion about difficulties residents are having with maintenance and repairs
Details of any costs associated with the meeting <i>e.g venue hire , sound equipment etc.</i>	None. Meeting held in LJs coffee shop who did not want payment.
Comments	This meeting enabled residents to raise their issues as tenants with the landlord (WCHT) and to facilitate an action plan for improvement

Date of Meeting 4: March 25 2014

Publicity	Posters & emails
Number of people in attendance (excluding invitees below)	Approx 50
Other invitees <i>e.g. Council officers, Mayor. Police, HCC etc.</i>	This was a joint meeting organised with the Oxhey Village Environment Group (OVEG). Justin Webber from the Conservation/planning team attended to give a presentation
Topics covered	The recent designation of Oxhey Village as a conservation area and the practical implications for residents. Myths and facts about a conservation area.
Details of any costs associated with the meeting <i>e.g venue hire , sound equipment etc.</i>	N/A
Comments	This meeting was well attended as Oxhey Village had recently been designated as a conservation area and residents had lots of queries.

Projects

Project	Costs	Comments
Banner for Friends of Attenborough Fields	£100	Contribution towards a banner to publicise the work of this local organisation which manages a large area of open space between Oxhey and Bushey on behalf of the local community.
Contribution towards new second-hand tractor for Friends of Attenborough Fields	£700	Donation to help Friends of Attenborough Fields purchase a second-hand tractor to help with their ongoing conservation work.
Provision of bird-boxes and bat boxes at Oxhey Grange allotments	£500	This was in response to requests from local residents who were concerned to protect local wildlife.
Provision of bird-boxes and bat boxes at Oxhey Park	£176	This was in response to requests from Friends of Oxhey Park, and provided an additional benefit to the park alongside the wider improvement programme carried out by Watford Borough Council.
Contribution to the renovation of kitchen at Bushey and Oxhey Methodist Church	£343.99	This was a contribution towards a wider renovation project. The hall is an important community facility, used by a variety of local groups and organisations in Oxhey Village and beyond. Our donation was specifically to assist with the kitchen renovation.
Donation to Signpost, Watford	£600	This organisation exists to provide free and confidential counselling to young people in Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere. Their work provides important benefits to the local community and this was a contribution towards their work in Oxhey Ward, which comprises 10% of their client population (slightly higher than average).

Signed. Councillor 1...Shirena Counter
 Councillor 2 Iain Sharpe...
 Councillor 3...Peter Taylor.....

Date...30th June 2014.....