

Special GUA meeting 6th February 2018 on the network's future

The meeting was facilitated by Paul Bragman, Community and Economic Regeneration Consultants Ltd, who has worked with housing associations, local authorities, community and voluntary organisations in the UK, South America and Africa. He provides community and economic development services as an effective way to tackle inequality, achieve social justice and deliver tangible change to local communities.

1. Introductions and rules for the meeting

It was agreed that in term of the meeting would be that – everyone's' views would be considered valid, everyone would be respected, phones would be put on vibrate and there would be an avoidance of technical jargon.

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and to say that the GUA or the area meant to them. Comments made were as follows:

- The main benefit of GUA is the networking it facilitates amongst groups across the three boroughs.
- It's a catalyst for getting community and residents groups together.
- It provides help with technical planning advice.
- The area is diverse (which is positive) there is a lot of pollution from some of the recycling industry (negative).
- It's a useful group – but some local residents feel neglected and that 'outsiders' views are taking priority.
- Its an effective network for groups trying to influence strategic planning and to put forward a community voice for the area
- Its like the David and Goliath (GUA and the OPDC)
- GUA is the voice of the community.
- Resident involvement is crucial.
- It's about brining different community groups in to work together.
- Neighbourhood Forums have developed in the local area, which is good.
- The GUA is relevant as a forum to meet people from different boroughs.
- Recognise how important the GUA is as independent of the OPDC.
- Glad we are here as we represent and engage the Harlesden community a lot.
- It's a place where a wide range of groups come together to talk and discuss issues.
- Campaigning in a positive manner.
- An energetic place where you can talk about places, the importance of industry, what is looming and how we can influence this.

2. Discussion on current activities

The following were identified by meeting attendees. Each attendee were then asked to put (up to three) stickers against activities that they felt were most important

- Engaging in and responding to consultations on developing planning policy (OPODC Local Plan) – (12)
- Bringing together community and resident groups from the three boroughs (10)
- Responding to planning applications. (9)

- Community consultation around planning policy (8)
- Informing and increasing local awareness of plans for the area (5).
- Engaging with the OPDC (4)
- Having discussion with the planners (1)
- Engaging in the review of the OPDC (1)
- Information and sharing on – Car Giant, HS2 and over ground stations, Neighbourhood Planning,

3. Future focus

The following were identified as priorities, principally through discussion on existing activities and what attendees felt were most important.

- Responding to further Local Plan consultations, the Examination in Public and the OPDC's masterplan.
- Bringing together community and resident groups across the three boroughs
- Responding to planning applications within and immediately surrounding the OPDC area.
- Community engagement – with diverse communities and local politicians around the development – through communication.
- Influencing – the OPDC, the three boroughs, HS2 and TFL and informing through existing expertise, building GUA knowledge base tools.

4. GUA priorities (what, when, how and who) see tables attached.

5. How we organise ourselves

- Build on and co-ordinate existing networking
- Fund-raise for a part-time co-ordinator / coms person (Tim and Henry)
- Develop sub-groups for each priority.

Attendees of the meeting agreed that there should be a further GUA meeting in about a month to work further on the five priority / future work tables and moving forward.