

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM LOCAL AGENDA 21 FORUM

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2 December 1998

1. People Present

Councillor Gerald Johnson

Michael Dunning

60 Chancellors Road, W6 9RS

David Scott

5 St. James Street W6 9RW

David Razavi

27 Claybrook Road W6 8LN

Orkyde Razavi

27 Claybrook Road W6 8LN

Laura Blazquez

31 Claxton Grove W6 8HD

Mary Corral

Pamela Charlick

36 Cambridge Gardens W10 5UD

Natasha Nicholson

36 Cambridge Gardens W10 5UD

Louanne Tranchell

52 Dewhurst Road W14 0ES

Caroline Randall

Groundwork West London

Anthony Knight

West London Green Business Club

Pavilion House, Pavilion Parade, Wood Lane, W12 0HQ

Sue Ingham

Ieuan Prys-Davies

Gerry Coogan

Anthony Lambert

Gabby Rowberry

2. Minutes of Previous AGM

These were agreed. There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Reports

This was introduced by the Chair, who referred to the challenges both to the world and to Local Agenda 21 Forums in spreading their messages.

The Chair's Annual Report was accepted.

Report of Transport Sub-Group

Anthony Lambert reported on the work of the Transport Sub-Group. They too were working in an unfavourable situation. The Prime Minister was too worried about the rural middle-class vote to tackle car use seriously.. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had ducked the issue of company cars. The Council had decided to reopen Hammersmith Bridge.

The White City Development - Revised Proposals

Revised proposals for the White City development were on show at the Shepherd's Bush Village Hall. He noted that there were no changes to the number of car-parking spaces. This could mean an additional 14,000 car movements every ????. He queried how this could be squared with the requirements of the Road Traffic Reduction Act. He noted that a new station was proposed on the West London Line, but this depended on Railtrack agreeing that it was feasible. The possible new station on the Hammersmith & City to link with Central Line and West London Line would also be welcome. He noted that Chelsfield were aware of, and supported the "intermediate mode" scheme along Uxbridge Road, although their PR team had not been when the LA21 Forum met them. However he was concerned that there was no bus lane along Wood Lane, and no guarantee that a delivery-to-home service would be provided. He considered this was essential.

The Report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report

The Chair explained that this could not be formally presented because it was still subject to audit.. It was discussed, and the prudent house-keeping commended.

The Report was noted

4. Election of Officers and Committee

[Louanne Tranchell took the chair during the election of the Chair for 1998-99]

Officers

Chair;	David Wardrop
Hon., Secretary	Sue Ingham
Treasurer	Arnondo Chakrabati

Executive Committee

Young people: Caroline Randall (Groundwork)

Business Tony Knight (West London Green Business Club)

Employees Oliver Donoghue (H.& F. Trades Council)

Faiths Orkyde Razabi

Health Person nominated by W. London Health Promotion Agency

Ethnic groups Gerry Coogan (H.& F.C.R.E)

Owner-occupiers No appointment made

Disabilities H.& F. Action for Disabilities

Tenants' Person from H.& F, Fed.of Tenants' & Residents' Assocs.

Transport Anthony Lambert

Women Person nominated by the Women's Communication Centre

Council Councillor Gerald Johnson

Public at large Gabby Rowberry, Dido Berkeley, Lester Holloway

5. Social Exclusion, Poverty and Environmental Action

The Chair welcomed Chris Church to talk about recent research on this topic he had undertaken for the Community Development Foundation.

Chris Church noted that much Local Agenda 21 work was good at rounding-up the usual white middle-class suspects, but the poor and ethnic minorities are not taking part. He also noted that the government did not take the environment seriously in its Social Exclusion and New Deal projects, using the excuse that "poor people don't care about the environment", conveniently ignoring the fact well demonstrated in many surveys that they do care, because they have the poorest environment. Agenda 21 recognises that poverty, working conditions, ill-health, damp housing and tropical rainforests are inter-connected. He cited as an illustration Chapter 29 of Agenda 21 which dealt with the role of workers and trade unions.

Policies needed to be equally wide in their objectives and methods, dealing with social, economic and environmental issues. Thus regeneration policies should be not just about regenerating areas, but rebuilding communities. Poverty was frequently the root of economic, social and environmental problems, e.g. the proportion of income spent, and fossil fuel used in heating homes.

Environmental activists had to be ready to work with people with other agendas, where these could complement their own work., even if these were not their own choice of priority. The combined benefits from mutual working would exceed what either could achieve separately. Environmental projects should be able to demonstrate support from the local community. Therefore community participation must be part of all environmental work, but this would not happen without prior planning. He outlined a few key ground rules:-

1. Listen to reactions to your proposal. Many projects fail because support was assumed, rather than checking first people would take part
2. Support and help them with their proposal first. One sympathetic official can make a great deal of difference, Then you have a person more willing to support your agenda .
3. Successful projects should be able to demonstrate that the community also rates them as a success
4. Participation must be planned in advance, and implement its equal opportunity policy. It is not good enough just to say its "open to all"
5. Budgets for participation must allow for projects to be written up, and their results communicated to participants. This also avoids overlapping consultations.

6. Questions and Discussion

Chris Church admitted that where he lived (Hackney) the LA21 Forum had achieved a number of projects, but had little effect in changing policies. He noted that the Forum had set up the Hackney Agenda 21 Trust, to raise money which would not be subject to Council control.

He speculated about the future of Local Agenda 21, when community planning gets underway. It could undercut LA21, because community planning was not seen as a strange international idea in the way LA21 was perceived. He stressed the need for LA21 to develop participation by minority groups, to assist representative Councillors. LA21 should aim to reach the people Councillors rarely see e.g. teenage Bangladeshis. The Community Development Foundation Report "An Environment for Everyone " contained many examples of successful case-studies.

N.B. A copy of this Report is available for borrowing from the Chair. Copies of the 4-page summary can also be obtained on request.