

## **Blackhorse Action Group**

### **Residents Meeting 12 November 2007**

In attendance – from acting steering group – Michael Leigh, Irina Hoss, Nuria Rodriguez, Caroline Molloy

Apologies – Peter Harms, Helen O’Brien.

Guest speaker – Dave Morris, Secretary, Haringey Federation of Residents Associations

Also attending, about 50 residents from Blackhorse Road area.

1. Introduction – Michael ran through agenda, thanked the steering group and those who had written letters etc in the past. Explained the successes of the group over the last year ie school, phone mast, historic off license building. Outlined the site we were looking at ie BHL2
2. Community and environment issues – Nuria explained what the group were looking for in terms of sustainable development.
3. What we have done so far – Irina ran through the contacts between the group and the council.
4. The steering group took questions from the residents.
5. Are we just looking at BHL2? (answer – at this meeting, mostly we are, but want to link up to wider issues in the future)
6. Is the loop road still planned to run parallel with Hawarden (answer – yes)
7. Is the school definitely off the agenda (answer – yes. The site wasn’t appropriate for the school)
8. Is the plan linked to the High Street masterplan/vision (answer – the council seem to be treating it very separately).
9. What do people want on BHL2? – the meeting split into small groups and fed back the following ideas, to be passed to the consultation meeting with Green Issues, the developers’ agents:
  - 9.1. Community centre/village hall with large space, particularly facilities for youth, families and older people, ideally that bring these groups together, have educational and leisure activities, provide space for hire, be disabled friendly, and have a sustainable community. Nursery/crèche.
  - 9.2. Outdoor facilities to include green spaces, eco-centre/nature reserve/wildlife space, better access for cycles and people onto green space / waterways, sports facilities, swimming pool, playground.
  - 9.3. Indoor facilities to include cinema, theatre/performance space, arts exhibition space, buildings with studios/units to let for local craftspeople and artists. Toynbee Hall (which does this - set up 100 years ago) was given as an example
  - 9.4. Something that creates jobs, protects local shops and the music venue -

independent options eg coffee shops/cafes. Restaurant. Food growing area on site. No pound shops! No supermarkets - locally owned businesses. Community-owned cafe using locally grown food.

9.5. Better access to tubes and buses.

9.6. Emphasis on public space

9.7. There were mixed views about whether we could best influence the amount & quality of housing, or the associated community facilities that any s106 money could be spent on, but feeling that amenities should not be an afterthought to housing.

9.8. 50% family sized homes (ie 3-6 bedrooms), no higher than 2-3 storeys (as per development opposite), not dense, so that it is sensitive to local area and no-one feels overlooked. Not gated

9.8.1. Affordable, key workers' housing. Sustainable. Bike access/travel plan. Residents were very keen on energy efficiency and insulation, the 'green' stuff and the idea of it being integrated with existing community and being not urban but sub-urban - not high-rise).

9.8.2. Car free, or parking that is fully contained within the area not spilling out - people worried about the traffic on Hawarden Rd. Strong objections to this.

9.8.3. Green space, trees.

10. Why do we want a residents association?

10.1.1. Dave Morris spoke about all the things residents associations can do – from getting involved in street cleaning issues and planning to campaigning for better facilities, to having street parties. In Haringey about 70% of the borough has a residents association, about 150 RA's altogether. He said BAG was already doing well because local residents were taking action together about issues. But having a proper residents association was important because it means we will be taken more seriously, and also because the association would be properly accountable to the local residents. It would have greater moral authority when negotiating with outside bodies such as the council or developers. People could be as much or as little involved as they liked.)

11. Questions:

11.1. Is the proposed Association area too large? Answer from Dave: it wouldn't be a good idea to make it bigger, you tend to get the same amount of active members whatever the area covered so a smaller area – higher proportion of people being active. The constitution provided for 'street reps' which was good.

11.2. Could people have meetings and take decisions before the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM in February? Yes – the AGM is where officers are elected, constitution amended if necessary, etc – but there can be meetings called before that to take decisions, for

example on planning issues.

- 11.3. How could the group ensure greater participation by ethnic minorities? An important question and one that is addressed in the Aims of the constitution. Dave suggested language was sometimes an issue and if it was difficult to translate whole documents, you could at least put in a translated sentence offering to translate the rest if people asked/go round to see them. Also that some people don't like meetings and it's difficult for those with small children too, so need to think of other ways to get people involved.

Michael then outlined the key points of the constitution, particularly the provision for working groups and the attempt to make the constitution very open, and raised a number of amendments that were put forward. He also emphasised that further amendments could be Proposed at the AGM.

- 1 Additional amendments were put forward and voted on:
- 2 Should it be extended to Carisbrooke/Northcote Rd – no
- 3 Should there be a paragraph about allowing censure/sacking of officers at any general meeting – yes
- 4 Should the section on Special General Meetings be amended to include provision to call such meeting at short notice if required – yes

**Name of group** – various options were discussed and voted on – remaining Blackhorse Action Group (BAG) was more popular than Blackhorse Residents Association (BRA), Blackhorse Area Residents Association (BARA) was more popular than Blackhorse Road Area Action Group (BRAAG). However as there was no strong favourite it was agreed to leave the name as BAG until the AGM.

**Date of next meeting – AGM, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

The meeting ended at about 9.25pm.