HILGROVE NEWS



June 2017

HILGROVE ESTATE RESIDENTS'ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Friday 30th June 2017

at the Crossfield Centre
8 Fairhazel Gardens NW6 3SG

- Doors open 7.15 pm
- Starts: 7.30 pm
- Ends: 9.00 pm

Find out what is going on!

- Find out what your association is doing.
- How we can help you.
- Election will be held: we need you!

Your Association is only as strong as its members.
Do you want to get involved in some way?
Come along and find out more...

Help us to help you!

Message from the Chairman

Last June at the AGM, I was re-elected as the Chair of the Residents' Association for a third year. I have been a committee member for a few years and have enjoyed working with the TRA in liaising with the council for the benefit of serving the Hilgrove community. Our current committee is made up of 10 members all of whom are very devoted to ensuring that the needs of our estate are met and supported. The members come from diverse backgrounds with a range of skills that add to the melting pot of the Hilgrove community. We meet once a month on the third Tuesday 7 pm in the evening at the Swiss Cottage Community Centre. At the last AGM, we welcomed new residents attending the meeting who then decided to join the committee. Our new members **Andreas, Chris C.** and **Joey** have brought new ideas and strengths to the group. As well they live in blocks on our estate which for some time, have not had representation. I would like to thank them along with our other valued members – **Chris R., Caroline, Lucien, Pat, Nicola, Barbara -** for their dedication and support.

We seek new members to represent the larger blocks:
Langhorne Court, Dobson Close and Leitch House

As well we would welcome any resident who would like to come forward as a committee member from the smaller blocks on the estate:
Nalton House, Redferne House, Gillies House, Castleden House

If you feel that you would like to engage, you can attend as an observer, or if there is anything you would like to bring to our attention please do contact us. We would very much welcome your input regarding any concerns residents might have with their block. You do not have to attend every meeting. We can be contacted by email: hilgrovetra@hotmail.com

We are a friendly group and we do our best to represent residents on Hilgrove estate and we usually manage to sort out most problems that arise. We cannot, however, address issues of which we are not aware; so please keep in touch with us.

What is a TRA?

The objectives of the tenants and residents' association are to promote the exercise of tenants' rights and the maintenance and improvement of their housing conditions, amenities and environment. We help provide facilities for recreation and amenity where appropriate in order to promote a community spirit. When important works such as any capital works' programme or spring clean occur, this would be supported by the TRA in representing the interests of tenants in consultation with the local authority and other bodies. Our mission is to promote the harmonious functioning of a multi-racial community and to work towards the elimination of all forms of racism and discrimination within it.
Please visit our website at http://www.hilgrovetra.org.uk

Updates this year

At our last AGM, several issues were raised including- antisocial behaviour within various parts of the estate, dates for the Farjeon House spring clean. There were further comments regarding the playground areas, refurbishment of the small enclosed garden area located in Dobson Close, cleanliness of the recycle bins and the lack of maintenance to garages.
We would like to update you on some of these areas::

Antisocial behaviour
There have been several on-going issues all of which are being addressed. Frequent urination in the lifts at Tayler Court and Farjeon House have been commented on frequently. Camden did install camera surveillance to locate the perpetrators and take necessary action. Surveillance cameras were on the agenda at the District Management Committee meetings. As there have been job cuts within police and council sectors, there are no longer dedicated staff available to view the footage. A proposal was made whereby volunteers from TRAs would view the footage and liaise with police and council staff with feedback on footage viewed regarding

antisocial behaviour in lifts.

Residents have voiced serious concerns regarding the misuse of communal areas in Freeling House and Sherlock Court over the past few months. Students and staff from the neighbouring school, Quinton Kynaston, were using the blocks as a meeting place before and after school creating disturbances to residents in those buildings. The ongoing issue was brought to our attention last November and we wrote to Camden council expressing our concerns. Camden were very supportive in contacting me to resolve the situation as soon as possible. Mary Keeshan, Community Intervention Officer, put me in touch with Police Officer Mr Uzun, the school's head of security. We met and discussed a suitable strategy which he then organised along with Community Police Ward Officer, Toby Springate and Dave Fenn, Caretaking Supervisor for our estate. The actions taken included the dismantling of the T-button function on door entries which previously allowed entry early mornings. Black boxes which have been fitted to each door entry are key safes for social service staff visiting elderly and disabled residents. As well, PC Uzun and the Swiss Cottage Community police will continue to monitor the situation and include our estate on their regular walkabouts.

The message PC Uzun stressed was that if anyone witnesses a crime such as smoking illegal substances and any antisocial behaviour, please contact the police on 999!

Contact your local police:

020 8721 2755
SwissCottage.SNT@met.police.uk
www.met.police.uk/camden
To receive regular email updates from your local SNT team, please visit:
www.neighbourhoodlink.met.police.uk

Garages across the estate

During our walkabouts over the past 3 years, we noticed that the garages were in great need of refurbishment. Tenants who are hiring garages also contacted the council to point out that this has not been done in quite some time. Some serious damage has occurred due to water damage. The council are now addressing the issue and have started to repair the brick casing of the garages near Freeling House. This year, following TRA walkabouts, we have seen further improvement to garages across the estate.

Further estate matters

Farjeon house will soon undergo a spring clean which includes minor repairs to communal areas. A subcommittee has been formed to give feedback regarding the work being done. If you are a resident of Farjeon House, information will be placed on notice boards on who to contact during building works.

Other areas of the estate have been refurbished including some walkways where tarmac has eroded. Gardens in Sherlock Court and in front of Leitch house have been cleared and cleaned of rubbish.

We now have one telephone number to make it easier for you to keep in touch. **By phone: Contact Camden, 8am – 6pm,** **020 7974 4444 for:**	**Reception: at 5 Pancras Square N1C 4AG** **Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm, for:**
Housing repairs Rent inquiries Estate parking Replacement keys and fobs Estate cleaning, Pest control Registrars' services Electoral services Leasehold/Service Charges Anti-social behaviour Housing options advice and support	Hampstead Tenancy Services Team Council tax Benefits Housing options advice and support Pest control Planning Public protection Rents Land charges

Wonderful News!

Refurbishment of the Dobson Close Garden Area

I first met with Tom Hart just over a year ago to discuss refurbishment of this neglected area of our estate. Following up on our meeting, Janice put me in touch with Carrie-Ann Arnold, Grounds Maintenance Officer. I explained the situation and showed her the space. We both agreed that before redeveloping the area, the concrete base would need to be cleared as it was in ruin and the rubble removed and replaced with bark as an attractive filler that also acts as a weed deterrent. The regeneration of this lovely patch would enhance the aesthetic of our estate and create a green conservation area within the environment of Hilgrove estate. The first stage of the project has taken place thanks to Camden Council and Carrie-Ann's support. The TRA will invest money from our budget for a newly planted biodiverse garden to include an assortment of plants and flowering shrubs.

Dobson close garden area before its transformation





Stage 2 following the removal of the concrete slabs, weeds and litter. The second photo (a selfie) shows my happiness in seeing the project coming to life!





The final stage will be the potting of the plants and flowering shrubs.

A Big Thank You to Residents, Committee Members, Councillors, Community Police and Camden Council for your continuing support!