

**Notes of the Myddleton Road Public Meeting
Monday 18 November 2013
At The Step**

Introduction

Mat Riches welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Richard McKeever, founder and administrator of local forum, [Bowes & Bounds Connected](#), as meeting Chair.

Richard thanked The Step for hosting the meeting and commented on another great turnout.

He noted that there had been a lot of discussion on Bowes & Bounds Connected about all sorts of issues such as Pinkham Way, planning applications, parking etc. These public meetings were an opportunity to formulate a positive local plan for the area, instead of having to react to ad-hoc issues.

Richard advised that unfortunately the meeting coincided with a Full Council Meeting therefore no council representatives were able to attend.

Myddleton Road Market Update

Lucy Whitehead reported that Haringey Council had agreed a Christmas market for 15 December. The focus would be on arts, crafts and gifts and there will be a brass band.

Anyone wanting to apply for a stall at the December market please [visit the website](#) – deadline for applications is Friday 29 November.

Lucy reported on a positive meeting with a senior council representative who wants to help with a business case for future markets. There is no legislation to allow street markets in Haringey as such but the Council can be flexible, treating them as street parties or allowing them under new play legislation (encouraging children to play in streets) and up to 14 markets can happen next year.

She had also emailed the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council and the Leader had responded very positively. For the first time there will be Christmas lights on Myddleton Road and in the gym, going up at the end of November. Suggested there should be some kind of switching on ceremony in early December.

The meeting broke out into applause!

It was noted that traders would love the market to be at the western end of Myddleton Road but covering the length of the road would involve an awful lot of stalls and there was concern about whether traders would sell enough for it to be sustainable. Road closure also became complicated. Extending the market to the whole street remained a long-term plan,

To become sustainable the market must become self-sufficient. It has to make money and fund itself. When a business case is established, the market will be a non-profit enterprise with any profits going back into community projects.

Next year the market could be monthly or quarterly.

It was asked if there could there be a regular micro market with key stalls every week (butcher, baker etc). Lucy reminded the meeting that there was a maximum of 14 markets allowed a year.

Competing local markets at Alexandra Palace, Harringay, Noel Park etc. were noted.

There was general support for a quarterly seasonal event.

Please feedback any other comments or suggestions to Lucy through the [Myddleton Road Market website.](#)

Myddleton Road Strategy Group (MRSNG) update

Cathy Herman reported that the last meeting had received a presentation on Neighborhood Plans from council officer, Clodagh McGuirk. The Powerpoint presentation and minutes of that meeting are on [Bowes & Bounds Connected here.](#)

Council officers have unlocked some bureaucracy and will be arranging to resurface the table tennis plot in the community gym.

The English Heritage project to redo shop fronts is going ahead and the council are appointing an architect.

There will be another meeting in December when they will again discuss the issue of Houses in Multiple Occupation and think about the future of the group and its membership.

Richard thanked Cathy for the update and recognized the enormous amount of work the MRSNG and Bowes Park Community Association (BPCA) have done and continue to do for the community.

BPCA is an umbrella organisation that works to improve the area and is responsible for loads of brilliant local initiatives – the gym, community garden, choir, walking group etc. He urged anyone who is not already a member to join. [Join here.](#)

It was asked why there are so many empty shops on Myddleton Road? In other parts of London charity shops or art galleries would have populated them. A general response mooted absentee landlords as a key issue for the street.

Several people commented on problems with litter and fly tipping on the street. Despite reporting to the Council, problems persists.

It was noted there is now an app called [Our Haringey](#) designed to report these kind of issues direct to the Council.

Issues of rubbish not being collected and people not being aware of rubbish collection routine were raised. It was suggested that there's no joined up thinking between Veolia and Council officers. There's also an issue of a transient population and residents for whom English is not a first language. There are no translated leaflets to explain the system.

It was suggested that there's action that residents can take, litter picking, putting things in bins, nurturing a relationship with the council, leaving notes for people on the bins.

A newcomer to the area commented that Myddleton Road was an enigma, a statement that was met with much approval by the meeting.

It was asked if the council was supportive to shops opening here or whether it was turning a blind eye to absentee landlords. The council have been very serious about trying to regenerate Myddleton Road but there has been little change. The issue is not market forces but the enforcement of anti social and illicit behavior. Landlords can make more money with a House in Multiple Occupation than by running shops and there's a limit to what you can do to stop that. The question is how as a group of people can we get those landlords to change their behavior.

Presentations

Richard welcomed Maggy Meade-King from [Highgate Neighborhood Forum](#) to the meeting. You can view her presentation [HERE](#). Key points to note and questions were as follows:

Initially, the Localism bill didn't allow for cross-borough forums – Highgate had to deal with both Camden and Haringey. Going through the process of setting up the Neighborhood Forum, brought officers from Camden and Haringey together, as well as councilors from three parties.

The Highgate community used to be divided by the borough boundary. Now they've come together and both councils have to take notice of them because they're a Neighborhood Forum. Even TfL now have a Neighborhood Forum portal online.

Undergoing the extensive consultation involved in setting up the forum was invaluable – bringing together community groups, using surveys, doing walkabouts, talking to people on the street, using blackboards and wish cards in cafés - they came up with innovative ways to engage with hard to reach people and learnt an enormous amount.

Note, there are still programmes and funding available to help community planning – e.g. the Prince's Trust.

A Neighborhood Plan must be broadly in line with borough local plan, London Plan and National Planning Framework.

But Neighborhood Forums aren't only about Neighborhood plans – they can designate Community Assets to prevent losing them, e.g. green spaces, pubs etc.

It was asked whether the crime rate had dropped since the Forum was set up. Maggy said that crime is not a huge issue for Highgate. The difference has been, people feel they can do something proactive about local issues - protect local assets and state what they want for local benefit.

The process for designation as a Neighborhood Forum needs 21 people or more to come together and show wide-ranging community engagement. It's a lot of work with many hoops to jump through.

Putting together a Neighborhood Plan is also a lot of work, culminating in a local referendum where everyone in the area gets a vote. Note that Haringey has now gone through the process once with Highgate and was prepared to look at the draft application and give feedback.

Highgate's Forum started with four people, who reached out to community organisations and formed a steering group. Later there were elections to committee. Now there are fifty people working on different aspects of the Plan

Quick wins are a good way to show the councils there's some power in the area. Getting designated as a Neighborhood Forum showed Highgate meant business.

When asked about how they decided on the geographical area, Maggy said that Forums come in all shapes and sizes. Start by talking to people.

It was suggested that we need to find out more about not just what we are in terms of area, but who are we – need a skills survey to find out what talent there is in the group and who has capacity to help move action forward.

Richard thanked Maggy very much for sharing her experience and top tips.

He then introduced Jan Kattein of Jan Kattein Architects who gave a presentation on his work regenerating [South Leyton](#). View his presentation [HERE](#). Key points and questions were:

The High Street is the heart of the community, it's not just about shopfronts. A regeneration project must look at what's special about the area, talk to local people, identify its assets and evolve its identity. Architect should be an advocate for the community.

Things in the high street are always changing. Regeneration needs to preserve local character but accommodate the needs of the contemporary retail environment. Make it cheap and easy for shops to change signs and maintain their buildings.

Strategic investment can achieve a lot. In South Leyton, £1m spruced up 43 shop units.

It was asked if there was a commitment from the council to maintain the regenerated area moving forward? Jan said that Waltham Forest made Leyton South a conservation area once it was finished and they are now rigorously enforcing planning contraventions.

He said that Waltham Forest had a progressive council leader. The first commission was nine shops. Then they realised the change that could be made with relatively small strategic investment. They kept finding more money. Projects can gain momentum. Now spread to ten high streets in the borough, £10m investment.

Maggy from Highgate noted that Haringey Council's chief executive, Nick Walkley, is passionate about high streets.

Richard thanked Jan for his presentation and insights.

Moving forward

Richard asked for a show of hands to indicate how many people are interested in moving towards a Neighborhood Plan? Nearly everyone in the meeting raised their hand.

What are the things we could do to move forward? Need to think about:

- Things we can do for ourselves as residents, quick wins
- Things we need help with
- Things we need the council to do

It was noted that we already have community infrastructure in Bowes & Bounds Connected and BPCA.

Actions

Everyone present was asked to put themselves on a map of the area, marking homes and businesses, to see what area is represented by the meeting. This map will be used by those formulating ideas for next steps to indicate the area of interest.

Everyone was asked to say hello to somebody they've not talked to before.

Julie and Simon agreed to create an online/email questionnaire to find out who all the interested people are, what they do, what time they have to commit, interests and what they see as the most important issues for the area. It is possible to [add yourself to this list](#) until the end of November 2013

This message will be set to both attendees at this meeting as well as those who attended the first public meeting.

People interested in helping to move the Neighbourhood Forum forward were asked to identify themselves. A smaller planning group of those willing to play an active part in establishing the forum will meet (provisionally December 10th) subsequently a more participative workshop /public meeting will be arranged by this group

A request to invite a council representative and police representative to the next public meeting was noted.

Richard reported that a [Myddleton Road page](#) has been created on Bowes & Bounds Connected and the questionnaire would be included there for anyone to complete – whether they had been at either meeting or not.

Richard thanked everyone for attending and The Step for hosting.