

Columbia TRA

Open Meeting Minutes – 8th January 2018

Present from the Committee:

- Kevin McKenna (Chair) - Council
- Penny Creed (Secretary)
- Pam Haluwa
- John Cotter
- Ed Furey (Treasurer)

Others present:

- Mayor John Biggs
- Paul Grudge, Neighbourhood Team Leader

1. Tonight's agenda:

- Apologies
- Minutes of last meeting
- Financial report
- The CTRA Cart
- John Biggs – Mayor of Tower Hamlets
- AOB

2. Apologies for absence from: Jenny Dunn (late), Jim Connelly – Webster, John Pierce, Abdul Chunu, Kobir Chowdhury

3. Minutes of the previous committee meeting were distributed and agreed as correct by the committee. The minutes of the previous open meeting were read and progress checked on action points.

a. General ASB

Paul Grudge: THH have own police officers now.

If we phone 101 or 999 – invariably they won't turn up. Residents should be reported so that information is passed to THH. Hot spots are identified and work allocated accordingly

CTRA have offered to help THH with a leaflet to tell residents what to do

b. LBTH clean team – met with committee members on Tuesday 7th November. Spencer has suggested that more litter bins are placed on Columbia Road. These are going to be monitored. Spencer also asked about residents dumping rubbish outside of their properties. Maisonette properties should all put their rubbish in their cupboards. Other residents should only put their rubbish out one day a week. Anyone dropping rubbish more than one day a week shouldn't be. Paul Grudge to speak to Kobir about send a reminder to residents. Pam noted that this is especially a problem when properties are sublet.

- c. Kevin asked people what they think of the state of Columbia Road recently. Residents gave a mixed response. Action to follow this up in March.
 - d. Action for Kobir to change the bin shoot lunch. Paul Grudge confirmed that it had. Spencer suggested that a combination lock might work.
 - e. Fire door at Cuff Point superglued shut – Kevin to check if this is still the case
 - f. Action for John Piece to find and confirm the number of affordable homes that will be provided in the Baroness Road development. This hasn't yet been decided. There will be two rent bands. London affordable rent and THH living rent. ACTION to follow up
4. Finance: Ed reported on CTRA finance for the last two months - £850.00 (including £750 from grant funding for the picnic in July). Expenditure was £330.53. £965 from the film office due that will be confirmed in the next meeting. Spencer reported that the last time Nike used Old Market Square they left oil stains all over the car park at Sivil House. Spencer called the film office who said they had left it with Kobir. Nothing so far has been done. The attempt to change the signatories on the bank account, there is movement on this. Total in the bank account £5500.
5. Questions Mayor John Biggs

Job of the executive mayor: Executive Mayor is what the leader was, the town mayor's role is now fulfilled by the speaker. 310,000 people now in LBTH grown massively. Big pressure on building, planning. ASB is a big problem, misbehaving, drugs made worse by brick lane and the night economy, support schools, people with disabilities, maintain highways, support THH. A lot of Weavers ward transferred. The Mayor is the single shareholder in THH legally. Make decisions on how much to spend and rent levels. Will make the decision on whether to keep THH or take housing back into the council. Great diverse borough. We have a massive economy here now which means jobs. Quite a lot of money spent on training to get people into employment, support the schools. Concerns about under 5s, we have one of the youngest populations in UK, increasingly hard to cover costs and both parents need to work therefore we have to support with childcare/nursery etc. Spending quite a bit on housing, some borrowed.

Qu: What are you not responsible for?

An: Policing. We do spend a lot of money on ASB services. Policing Neighbourhood managed scheme. Health service but work closely with NHS in social care, occupational therapy, meals on wheels. We run public health service to improve health of residents e.g. alcohol, smoking. We don't run the buses or London transport.

Qu: John Cotter: LBTH building the new block on Baroness Road with permission from the planning office, this feels like a conflict of interest, what controls are in place in this instance?

An: In this case, there was a lot of consultation, it was agreed under 'delegated powers'.

Qu: how far did the consultation go?

An: The law says that all you really must do is put a poster up and put an advert in the paper, we did more than this, with meetings and leafletting residents. This decision didn't go to committee but it could have.

Comment: some of the consultation was misleading, short notice of the consultation and unclear information on how many dwellings would be affordable or social rents. Does the

prestigious location have anything to do with the number of affordable rents? There needs to be clarity on the rent levels.

An: we wanted to build 1000 and did a survey of all estates to find infill. Identified that space because it maintains symmetry of the estate. Conservative government introduce affordable housing at 80% of market rate. My view is that affordable which is housing that is affordable in terms of income not the market. I put together an affordability counsel and took evidence and came up with LBTH definition of affordability so we have two types of rent, one is social and the other is TH affordable. I will send Kevin the numbers.

Qu: I have a noise problem, beside me. I live in 1-8 James Bryant house by Clutch and on an irregular basis they play music and sometimes have a DJ. I have spoken to the owner and had exchanges. The building isn't acoustically insulated. I have called the out of hours service who have been out. Last year they were served with a noise abatement order. Since then their live music licence has been extended in terms of hours. But they are playing music later than their licence allows later than 2.30am when their licence is to 12.30am. I also have vibration. Is there something that can be done about the vibration?

An: The one problem to solve more than any other is problems with neighbours. I will go away and look at that. You can email me mayor@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Qu: who owns the building? He uses the next-door residence (no 8) as the kitchen

An: Paul Grudge to find out

Qu: Can we have an update on the drug situation? Access to the buildings is an issue, in the last month, we've had a broken window to gain access, a coat hanger to gain access (twice), the door isn't fit for purpose. Residents on Quilter Street are scared to say anything.

An: It is largely a policing problem, we are due to do some work on Sivil House. You could get rid of the drop key. We had a meeting about Sivil House to discuss the entry door system. I'm very happy to look at making your block more secure. Perhaps a camera concierge.

Qu: I worked very hard to get new lifts in George Loveless House because of the noise. I asked for the shafts to be insulated. The new lifts are worse. My son sleeps with me because his room is too loud.

An:

Qu: night time economy

Licensing policy night time levy. I speak to the Mayor of Hackney, he says they don't have the same kind of problem we have. City of London and Islington. Extra money into warden service and neighbourhood service.

Qu: What is the process of licencing? Who controls it and how much surveying do you do before licences

An: As mayor the counsel has decided that I don't have any licencing powers, I can change policy but that is rare. Did set up night time levy – pay a fee after midnight.

Qu: Street cleaning: What is classed as fly tipping and what is classed as rubbish collection?

Qu: Community buildings: How do you access community buildings?

An: One of the challenges I've had as mayor is to tackle this, we're looking to provide 'community hubs'. The intension with Turin Street is to turn it into housing in a year. If a

building becomes available in the future, I want a policy that ensures that anyone using it is borrowing it.

Comment: We need a clear policy

6. AOB

The next All Member Meeting will be on 8th January 2018 at Dorset Community Centre at 7.15pm

The next committee meeting will be at the Dumore Hut on 5th February 2017 at 7.15pm.