

## Columbia TRA

### CTRA General Meeting minutes - 5 November 2018

Present from the Committee

1. Kevin McKenna (Chair)
2. Penny Creed (Vice Chair)
3. Jonathan Moberly (Secretary)
4. John Cotter
5. Dave Sinclair
6. Ed Furey (Treasurer)
7. Abz Zubair
8. Rupsha Begum-Smith

Enamul Goni - LBTH Baroness Road Development Project Manager:

Alison Cormack - Bouygues Resident Liaison Officer

Cllr John Pierce

Residents: Raphael Bouchier, J White, Hayley Claire, Chris Hilton, Mary Dinneen, Sylvia Clark, Peter Wilson

#### Agenda

- 1 - Apologies
- 2 - Previous Minutes
- 3 - Baroness Road
- 4 - Dunmore Rubbish
- 5 - How we communicate
- 6 - Football
- 7 - ASB
- 8 - THH Review
- 9 - Spitalfields Town Council proposal
- 10 - Finance
- 11 - CTRA Cart
- 12 - Remembrance Sunday
- 13 - Christmas

#### **1 - Apologies**

Jenny Dunn, Kabir Choudry , Ishmail (Site Manager)

#### **2 - Previous Minutes**

Copies provided of Baroness Road meetings, TRA AGM and Committee Meeting.

Matters arising from last general meeting

Work list for Kabir is being complied.

Key items

- Bicycle storage for JHH, George Loveless and Old Market Square, Kabir has looked into this and we are waiting for a report back.
- repairs to the planters outside Tomlinson close - waiting for a response

#### **3 - Baroness Road**

Alison Cormack - introduced Bouygues, social housing is one of their specialists.

Enamul Goni - reviewed minutes from Baroness Road meetings.

- *Disabled access* - ramp will remain on the South side.
- *Secondary access* via the park is for emergency vehicles - if required. It will become a path after construction is finished.
- *Deliveries* - Arthur Wade will get extra signage so they know where it is. *CCTV* - will be taken up with the council.
- *WC on site* has been moved.
- *Workers bad language* - site managers have apologised and will be raised at the monthly 'tool talk'.

- *Communications* - Alison / BYG will deal with all communication. A meet and greet is to be set up. Monthly newsletter will go out to all residents. Distribution list agreed with Kevin.
- *Making good* - will be done, site will be left as found according to the condition survey.
- *Site Compound* - this needs to be reshuffled a bit because of the path. When it is finished a site map will be distributed via Kevin.
- Enamul will come back with other items via email
- The hoardings going up this week, will take 2-3 weeks. Surveys happening involving subcontractors. Traffic management plan to be looked at.
- *Lighting, mesh and cable TV*- site meeting with contractor tomorrow will bring items up.

### **Complaints Process**

Pam H - what is the safeguard re complaint follow-up between contractor and council? Is there a common report log shared between both?

Alison C - will be on site most of the time. She will be hosting a weekly residents surgery. Also approachable on site. Will keep a complaints register. If concerning council not contractor will be passed to Enamul. Feedback to the council within the client report on a monthly basis

PH - so how does the council ensure that complaints about the contractor do actually reach the council?

Enamul G - expectation is complaint is dealt with by the contractor, but anyway every complaint goes on to a register and Enamul will track it. If a resident wants to go direct to Enamul they can.

PH - can I duplicate a complaint directly to the council?

Enamul - If complaint is not logged or dealt with, ask BYG. again. If it is not logged a second time around, take it directly to Enamul who will raise it as a contractors meeting.

KM - we can keep a parallel log as the TRA.

PC - suggests to set up a TRA email inbox to track things and/or to receive issues independently.

EG - Proposing to collate logs from Bouygues and TRA monthly and create a combined list of all complaints which will be also emailed back to TRA.

KH - this makes sense - for BYG to manage complaints in realtime and Council to reconcile monthly.

AC - BYG use complaints register as quality control and welcomes complaints as a way to improve.

EG - complaints are among the key performance indicators used to monitor contractors.

[TODO - TRA to work with BYG + LBTH to formalise complaints process]

### **Building design**

AC - No finalised design available yet. Alison chasing up computer generated images in time for the meet and greet. We are unlikely to see a physical model as these are expensive.

[TODO - AC to set up meet and greet]

### **BYG promises and offers**

RB: BYG has offered to give us excess materials from building.

KM - all offers need to be in writing. Should keep all offers accessible via the Google Drive.

Require public visibility of any BYG promises and a log that we can hold them to. All offers to be forward to the committee.

[TODO - RAPHAEL to forward any offers from BYG]

### **4 - Dunmore Rubbish / Recycling**

- The recycling point by Dunmore is being used as a general fly tipping/ dumping ground. -
- Mildmay flats and Gascoigne House are all using it as a general dump. It is possible that residents of Mildmay have been informed that this is an 'official' dumping point.
- The corner with Hocker St is also a problem.
- John Pierce plans to set up meeting with THH and council waste contract team by end of the month to discuss:
  - who are the bins for
  - are they in the right place
  - to bring Dunmore Point storage shed to be brought back into use
  - funding from the Mildmay development is intended to improve the landscaping of the estate, this links in to positioning the bins. Also to resolve issues with works program.
- KM: we would like to link in with Mildmay TRA. Why are they dumping? They need to be involved in this process
- Dave S: bulk waste is not getting picked up since the building work started. Are they using it as an excuse that they can't get in

- Resident: Columbia Rd flats are getting covered in rubbish. Same with back of Mildmay development. People have been seen throwing stuff off top balcony. Residents need to be informed how they should dispose of things. People who live there are not clearing up their own back yard, and the housing association is not acting.
- KM: Two housing associations are involved in Leopald Buildings: London and Quadrant and Tower Hamlets Community Housing. Those residents have no recycling function and have been told to use the Dunmore Point facility. Kevin has asked residents to verify this. There is a question whether we bring Leopald into the TRA? Or should they be combined with Mildmay?
- JP: THCH have their own estate-based system across Bethnal Green that they will refer to. Somehow we need to bring these residents together - there is a wider question whether we should be associated with them also on other matters.
- PH - at one point they came under the Gascoigne Neighbourhood Association. All of the landlords signed up to it under the neighbourhood agreement.

### **Other waste issues**

- Rupsha: has anyone been issued with a key for bulk rubbish area for JHH? It was gated as it was a fire risk, but the resulting ad hoc dumping is also a fire risk.
- JC: we need to encourage people to report dumping and encourage THH and LBTH to act on those reports.
- example of residents of one address in Arthur Wade House. Intimidating residents.
- similar but different situation in JHH which THH ASB is already acting on .
- [TODO - John Pierce to speak to THH ASB, and residents impact statements to be solicited]
- Rubbish - it is a significant issue also elsewhere on the estates. Sybil House, Tomlinson Close for example.
- [TODO - to organise a meeting around Gascoigne place then on the back of that an approach to THH. + to request to Kabir to ensure THH involve CTRA in decisions on waste and recycling services and locations]

### **5 - Communications**

- WhatsApp: the number of WhatsApp groups are mushrooming with hugely overlapping concerns and members. Suggestion to merge Raphael's group with Columbia Crew.
- Website: now contains sections for calendar, group meetings, newsletter signup, Baroness Road development, Community Cart, gardening, ASB, football. Will be regularly updated.
- <http://www.columbiatra.org.uk/>
- PH - we should get website into Open Door THH magazine. Also we need to distribute via posters / signboards and keep poster events in general
- JC - ideas to offer incentives for people to visit website/signboards.

[TODO - merge whatsapp's, and set up a chat-free announcements whatsapp]

### **6 - Football**

The CTRA has started a young persons football club for girls and boys. We have some money for first aid training etc. Aiming to get more well organised. Already over capacity in terms of kids coming along. So we are looking for more football coaches. Does anyone know anyone who would be interested off the estate. Kickoff is 2pm Sunday afternoons in the winter. Bring kids and coaches. [sports@columbiatra.org.uk](mailto:sports@columbiatra.org.uk).

[TODO - encourage prospective football coaches to get in touch - email [sports@columbiatra.org.uk](mailto:sports@columbiatra.org.uk)]

### **7 - ASB**

- Next meeting Monday 12 November in Clutch. Question raised whether to move it to DCA. TBC.
- A meeting has been requested with the mayor, waiting for a date.
- ASB Activity has been slightly lower following sign campaign and increased police activity, but seems back to usual level now.
- There is a BBC documentary piece in the making. The action group has put out a request for any residents video footage of drug dealing or using.

### **8 - THH Review**

- in the context of the current review of Tower Hamlets Homes there is a suggestion that it could take over some additional services from the council.

- JM: believes we should take advantage of the review to recommend that THH should take on council ASB services across the council, not just on THH land, as the only people who have been effective in this story have been the THH ASB team who are very hands on. They can't operate beyond the bounds of the estates which leads to dysfunctional and confused services for people who live off-estate who are affected by same drug users and dealers .
- JP: has written a blog about why in his view THH should remain arms-length and take on such additional services.
- <https://cllrjohnpierce.wordpress.com/2018/11/03/the-future-of-tower-hamlets-home/>
- JP: the consultation process has included stakeholder interviews and resident panel interviews. The output won't be a recommendation but will report general thinking of local people. This feeds in to the council decision-making process, and the Mayor will ultimately make the decision going forward.

### **9 - Spitalfields Town Council proposal**

A group in Spitalfields has triggered a process considering setting up a town council. Two questions addressed by the process (1) should it exist? (2) what purpose should it have? Residents raise the request, council seeks opinion, and ultimately the council takes a view and the full council will make a decision.

- JP: does not support the proposal, feels it is unnecessary additional cost and layer of administration.
- KM: area includes Bishopsgate Goodsyard and all the wealthy and money-making areas and exclude the poorer areas.
- general consensus that the CTRA is unhappy with the proposal. CTRA can put out material on the website and on other channels about the issue and about Bishopsgate Goodsyard. recommending people respond to the consultation and voicing an opinion.

[TODO - add sections to website re Town Council and Bishopsgate Goodsyard]

### **10 - Finance**

We have received £600 from THH for running the kids football sessions. Chasing up Jasmine about the general running cost grant for last year and timing for submitting for this year, have not received a reply.

### **11 - CTRA Cart**

Is back in its garage and is ready for a spinout on 28 November for first Christmas Wednesday on Columbia Road. Join us for carols and mince pies. If anyone wants to get involved in the cart project please let us know.

### **12 -Remembrance Sunday**

If anyone sees a poppy in a window it signifies a place that someone lived who died in the first world war. Remembrance event at Ion Square Gardens 10:45 Sunday 11th.

### **13 -Christmas Party**

We have been asked to pick a date for a Christmas party. Suggestion to get the Young Foundation involved in organising. Will request the date of the 15th December. THH Inspiring Communities can put in money for Christmas events.

Raphael: we can obtain money from Bogeys as well -

Penny: we need to ensure that request to Bogeys align with CTRA strategic aims.

[TODO: speak to Young Foundation for co-organisation and look in to THH Inspiring Communities for funding]