



Summary of Resident Panel meeting held on 20th April 2023 at Colebrooke Place and Teams

Residents Present: Janice, Chris and Mark

Staff/Board: Nancy Korman (NK) Susan French (SF) Patrick Penny-Annang (PPA)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies were received from Vivienne Astall, Rachel and Helen

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the previous meeting held on Feb 9th 2023.

3. Resident Engagement update

PPA updated the panel that BHA will be implementing parking management on Morland Mews.

A letter has been sent to residents regarding the next steps.

Mark found the letter difficult to understand.

PPA suggested creating a one-pager to summarise the parking consultation and next steps.

PPA to create a one-page poster summarising the consultation and next steps.

The Building Safety Act 2022 has been introduced to ensure safer buildings. Even though BHA does not manage high-rise buildings, following the guidelines will help to uphold resident safety.

Janice asked if BHA practice fire drills.

SF explained that Highbury View has a procedure and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) are in place in a box for every block at Highbury View.

Chris emphasised the importance of having a plan for older/vulnerable residents in case of emergency and asked if the London fire brigade (LFB) still visit homes.

PPA replied that they do and that it can be booked directly with LFB. This was promoted in previous newsletters.

Mark suggested a leaflet and newsletter to raise general awareness on building safety.

Janice suggested inviting Islington Fire Brigade to the Annual Fun Day.

PPA will invite the local fire brigade to an event.

PPA updated the panel on recent events with Arsenal in the community and tickets distributed to residents for recent performances at Peacock theatre.

Patrick asked for suggestions for this year's Fun Day.

Chris suggested that the activities should focus on health and well-being, such as checking blood pressure.

Mark proposed that the activities should be fun and enjoyable, and suggested that blood pressure checks could be conducted at monthly drop-in sessions.

Chris further suggested that a smoothie bike could be a great addition to promote healthy eating.

The panel discussed the idea and agreed that it could be a fun and engaging activity.

Chris also proposed turning it into a competition to generate more interest and participation.

PPA will research acquiring a smoothie bike for the fun day

4. Update on Barnsbury Street retrofit pilot

SF updated the panel on the progress of the retrofit pilot project for the listed building on Barnsbury Street.

The primary objective of the project is to improve the energy efficiency of the flat while taking a realistic approach that can be replicated in similar properties.

5. Update on Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF)

The panel was then informed about the successful bid for £500,000 to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) to improve energy efficiency in homes on Morland Mews.

This was the most significant allocation for a small Housing association, and BHA will match it.

SF highlighted that the amount invested in a property is determined by its energy performance.

BHA is considering installing solar panels and loft insulation to improve energy efficiency ratings in properties, focusing on homes with the poorest ratings.

NK asked about the benefits of solar panels for residents.

SF explained that solar panels will provide electricity to properties, and those with the poorest energy efficiency rating would be given priority.

6. Downsizing incentive scheme.

SF presented some ideas on how to encourage residents to downsize.

Janice suggested that residents could be worried about moving because they expect rent to be higher when they move.

Mark commented that older residents who don't want to move may not be motivated by financial incentives and may prefer the money to be used to make moving easier.

Janice and NK mentioned that the resident local network plays a big role in moving.

Mark suggested that BHA should keep connected to residents interested in moving, instead of a broader approach.

The upcoming garage redevelopment was identified as an excellent opportunity to promote the scheme.

7. BHA Fun Day

Suggestions were noted earlier in the meeting.

Patrick to invite LFB and source a smoothie bike for the Fun Day.

8. Other matters

Cost of Living Support

NK asked how BHA are helping residents who are struggling with the cost of living.

PPA informed the panel that the Council has set up hubs at the local library and will be opening one at 222 Upper Street location.

SF mentioned that BHA's new Income Officer Sandra is available to support residents, and there is also a Tenant Support Fund available to residents.

PPA added that the council has recently established a Hardship Fund, which is accessible to residents who are not receiving benefit support and are working.

The next resident panel meeting will be held in June.

Minutes are published on BHA's website:
<https://barnsbury.org/get-involved/resident-panel/>

For information on the panel please contact Patrick Penny-Annang (patrick@barnsbury.org)