



**NORTHWOOD HILLS**  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



**The Queen's Award**  
**for Voluntary Service**  
*The MBE for volunteer groups*

**Minutes of the 86<sup>th</sup> Northwood Hills Residents' Association  
Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

1	<b>President's Opening address:</b> Prof Tony Lane welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked the Committee for their work over the last 12 months. 45 people attended the AGM and 16 apologies.
2	<b>Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 May 2023:</b> Accepted with no matters arising.
3	<p><b>Chairman's report:</b></p> <p><b>Clean Up Days</b> were held in September 2023 and May 2024. He was delighted with the number of people who took part and thanked everyone who did.</p> <p><b>The Station Gardening Volunteer Team</b> did a magnificent job looking after the platform gardens but sadly did not win an award. However, the team was invited to a reception at TFL headquarters which was enjoyed by all who attended. The chair commended the Gardening team for overcoming logistical issues, in particular the lack of water supply.</p> <p><b>The Hills Echo</b> (the envy of other Residents' Associations)! 80-page editions issued in September 2023 and March 2024. 5,000 copies of each were delivered to every home and business in the Ward by our fantastic network of around 100 voluntary Road Stewards.</p> <p><b>The Website</b> is currently being reconstructed. Many pages have now been refreshed but there is still some work to complete the exercise. The new History Section is currently in "About Us" but will move to its own tag. It contains 50+ articles about Northwood Hills.</p> <p><b>The NHRA Facebook</b> now has 4,700+ members, so we have achieved the last objective set by the (then) Mayor of London when we received the regeneration grant monies 10 years ago.</p> <p><b>Annual Christmas Lights Switch on Event</b> sadly had to be cancelled (for the first time in 15 years) due to adverse weather. However, we were delighted that Father Christmas still agreed to come to switch on the lights and hand out presents to around 30 children.</p> <p><b>Annual Supper Party</b> was held in April to thank our Road Stewards and others for the help and support given to the Residents' Association over the last 12 months.</p> <p><b>Police.</b> Whilst the local officers are now more visible, we are still seeing far too many changes at a Senior level in the Police which is impacting attendance at NHRA meetings, and there was no-one here tonight which is very disappointing.</p> <p><b>Planning Applications.</b> This year, we followed and commented on a number of Planning applications. Eg we have stopped a 15m and 17.5m high telephony monopoles being erected in Daymer Gardens and Northwood Way. Elsewhere we have managed to stop a number of developments, but over time Northwood Hills is gradually changing. 70 Flats are to be built on the existing Health Centre site. 8 flats are to be built over the new Library when built. A floor of flats is to be built above the CoOp store at the station, and a number of flats will be built to replace the garages at Farmlands.</p> <p><b>Joel Street Farm Land.</b> Without wishing to be political we have strong concerns regarding this land if Greenbelt Planning laws are to be relaxed.</p> <p><b>The Friends of Northwood Recreation Ground</b> (FoNRG) are not part of NHRA, but we nominated them for a Hillingdon Community award and were delighted when they received a bronze award for the volunteers' work to improve the area.</p> <p>In closing the Chair thanked the Committee for their work over the last 12 months and said he looked forward to working with the Committee, including some new members</p>
4	<b>Treasurer's Report:</b> In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman presented the accounts, thanking the Treasurer and the Independent Inspector for their work and due diligence.

	<p><b>Funds.</b> The NHRA has a surplus of £1,711 for the year. This was mainly from membership subscriptions (and advertising in The Hills Echo covers the magazine printing).</p> <p><b>Expenditure</b> included items such as trees for the recreation ground and plants for the station gardens.</p> <p><b>Future.</b> The Association continues to be in good financial health with £23k deposited at the Bank. Of this £2,500 has been ring-fenced to buy a piece of equipment that can be used by both practices when the new Health Centre is opened, £1,000 is held for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Northwood's new Scout Hut Appeal. Plus, the Members endorsed a Committee decision to set aside a further £5,000 (to be matched by The Councillors putting in a further £5,000 from their Ward Budget) for additional Trees for Streets in Northwood Hills Ward.</p>
5	<b>Election of Officer.</b> All the Officers proposed by the Committee were approved.
6	<p><b>David Simmonds CBE MP</b> – gave a short presentation, discussing:</p> <p><b>New Health Centre.</b> He commented on the challenge faced by NHS Property Services, including raising additional capital.</p> <p><b>Schools.</b> He has contacted schools re their Travel Policies to try and reduce traffic delays.</p> <p><b>FoNRG</b> He congratulated the volunteers for their work which he had visited.</p> <p><b>Elections.</b> Reported this is a challenging time for World Politics and Democracy, with elections in India, USA and the EEC. And now the UK with a General Election called today.</p> <p><b>Wars</b> in Ukraine and Gaza are impacting the world and a potential threat to democracy.</p> <p><b>ULEZ.</b> The problems associated with the ULEZ scheme (which he opposed), were commented on, particularly on people living outside but working in the Borough.</p>
7	<b>Police.</b> Disappointingly, apologies were received from the Police not attending tonight.
8	<b>Questions</b> were responded to by a panel made up of MP David Simmonds (DS), Cllr Jonathan Bianco (JB) and Andrew Riley BEM (AR), Chair NHRA. Below.
9	<b>Any Other Business</b> – None
10	<b>President's Closing Remarks.</b> He thanked all for their support. Meeting closed at 9:30pm.

### Appendix – Questions to the panel

- a. The possibility of obtaining trees from the Woodland Trust was raised. (JB) stated that Officers purchased trees from a list of approved suppliers as there were strict rules to ensure no diseased trees were planted.
- b. It was asked whether hedgerows rather than grass verges could be more appropriate. JB responded that maintenance would still be necessary, which had cost implications.
- c. JB reported that the development of the Northwood Hills library was out for tender.
- d. The sale by lease of Haste Hill and Uxbridge Golf Courses was progressing. Exclusive talks are taking place with a prospective purchaser, which may take up to 12 months to complete.
- e. Hedges of Northwood School are overhanging the pavement. JB to investigate.
- f. JB urged the audience to join the Council website, 'My Account' to lodge any complaints.
- g. Traffic flow in Joel Street was highlighted but it was clear that this would be difficult to resolve. The possibility of engaging a School Crossing Person was discussed but the council have found it difficult to employ such a person.
- h. Illegal parking in NH shopping area was discussed (many on pavements). JB reported 100+ penalty notices had been issued. The possibility of the general public taking photos of illegally parked vehicles was discussed. This is not possible at present, but DS mentioned a forthcoming change in the Law may change that. However, due to Parliament about to be dissolved, this Bill could be lost.
- i. Speeding in Joel Street was discussed. We are awaiting training for some committee members by the Police to use a speed camera so that this can be tackled in various areas.
- j. JB stated that there were 2 increasing costs for the Council, HMOs, House of multiple occupation and SED, special Educational Needs.
- k. The conversion of garages to flats was highlighted. JB replied that many of these garages were used for storage rather than cars, the latter now being too large to fit into these garages. Such conversion of use is closely monitored by the Council.