

## SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 1 – 2013/2014: GOVERNANCE

### PANEL MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM VISITS UNDERTAKEN AFTER AGENDA DESPATCH

Panel Member Name	Organisation Attended/Venue	Date of Visit	Purpose of Visit	Observations/ Findings	Conclusions and Recommendations	Additional Comments
13 Cllr John Gallagher	<b>Hobayne Ward Forum Meeting</b> Drayton Manor High School Drayton Bridge Road, London, W7 1EU	Monday 18 Nov 2013	To observe the proceedings	<p>I was late due to another meeting and had to leave early due to dependence on public transport and rain.</p> <p>There were no signs although other meetings were in progress.</p> <p>There were two Councillors present, about four officers and an impressive seventy people or thereabouts. However, about a quarter left after the second item regarding a local parking problem. There were no Police or Park Ranger and a written envirocrime report was provided.</p> <p>The third item was a presentation from two more Council officers and Jackie Seer on Hanwell Community Centre and a local neighbourhood</p>	<p>I have been to this Ward Forum before, when I was Mayor and the other Councillor was present on her own. I had a problem finding the meeting on both occasions without signs. The other Ward Forums had them.</p> <p>No Police have been present at any of the three Ward Forums I attended as a visitor or my own, South Acton, during the present round. I think they should send at least one member of the Ward SNT. Park Rangers were present at the other three. I think there should be someone present from envirocrime but no-one was present at any of the four. Residents do report other incidents on the spur of the moment and may give more details than appear in the notes.</p>	Residents were directed to the council website during the discussion on parking but most seemed unaware of it or were hazy about its function.

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				<p>initiative (KAJIMA) with a million pounds funding over ten years. This item was hijacked by a Boxing Club who, despite both Councillors, representing different parties, requesting brevity and having been kind enough to let them talk, went on for nearly half-an-hour. It was 8:30pm when they finished and I left.</p>	<p>The turnout of residents was very impressive. I noted it here when I was Mayor and also noted it at that time when I attended Northfield. Incidentally, I also attended Walpole, Ealing Common and Ealing Broadway at that time, which were not so full.</p> <p>We need to consider some sort of procedure to make it easier for the Chair to avoid single-issue groups hogging the meeting to the frustration of everyone else. It used to be common at Acton Area Committee but I have not found it so noticeable at the other Ward Forum meetings. However, it is always a possibility. Equally, there may be an issue which one person might raise and stimulates a mass response independently indicating a major problem where we should not suppress discussion.</p>	
14	<p>Cllr Anthony Young</p> <p><b>Isleworth and Brentford Area Forum – LB Hounslow</b> Brentford Free Church,</p>	Thursday 21 Nov 2013	To observe the proceedings	1. More like an Area Committee as we used to have.		

**Appendix 1A**

Panel Member Name	Organisation Attended/Venue	Date of Visit	Purpose of Visit	Observations/ Findings	Conclusions and Recommendations	Additional Comments
	Half Acre, Brentford, TW8 8DW			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Greater number of Councillors than members of public.</li> <li>3. Dealt with both local issues and Borough-wide issues. Very long time spent of budget issues. Value to public?</li> <li>4. Delegated to Ward Councillors to speed process.</li> <li>5. Reasonable attendance by Councillors.</li> <li>6. Police reports – no attendance by Police.</li> <li>7. Planning Applications considered in so far as whether or not they should be considered by delegated powers or by Planning Committee.</li> </ol>		
15	Cllr Ann Chapman <b>Isleworth and Brentford Area Forum – LB Hounslow</b> Brentford Free Church,	Thursday 21 Nov 2013	To observe another Borough's Ward Forum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion on relocation/closure of GP practice – clearly key local issue but</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very similar to Ealing's old Area Committees.</li> <li>2. Good mix of area and</li> </ol>	Hounslow runs 5 Area Forums, each covering a neighbourhood, as

## Appendix 1A

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	Half Acre, Brentford, TW8 8DW		equivalent	<p>unclear what the Forum could do/had done.</p> <p>2. Agenda included written reports from Police for each Ward but police expected at meeting and did not attend. Ongoing problem.</p> <p>3. Budget proposals for 2014/15 presented. Would have been good presentation to Members (although no questions) but not very useful to public, who did not seem interested or have questions. Level of detail also too much for 'tabled' presentation without supporting agenda paper. Not appropriate topic for Area Forum.</p> <p>4. Petitions item for follow up on matters apparently previously raised through petitions and for new</p>	<p>ward level items. Less effective when tackling Borough wide item (budget).</p> <p>3. 9 of 12 councillors present; good engagement. Competent chairing kept control of meeting and contributions.</p> <p>4. Low resident attendance – 12 only with two key contributors who are RA/police forum chairs.</p> <p>5. Appeared to be good ownership of some matters raised although members frustrated by lack of progress on some matters that had come before the forum previously.</p> <p>6. 6 meetings per year and dedicated 'area participation' officer and administrative officer should mean timely action but (as above) this does not always happen – officers</p>	<p>per the old Ealing Area Committee structure. Includes partner organisations as appropriate, although there is an apparent problem of Police non-engagement.</p>

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				<p>petitions to be presented. Update given on two traffic schemes.</p> <p>Governance confusion over whether for Forum or Ward Councillors to take decisions. New petition re footpath; clearly local issue of great concern with contradictory officer advice given; proactive response with 1 Ward Councillor undertaking to address following day.</p> <p>5. Small grants. Forum has £7,000 to allocate to small (&lt;= £500) community projects. Easily approved but limited scope as small sum.</p> <p>6. CPZ consultation reports – surprisingly attracted no resident attention.</p> <p>7. Planning item.</p>	<p>blamed lack of resources.</p> <p>7. Format/venue allowed appropriate technical resources – PA and OHP.</p>	

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				<p>Forum members can 'call in' planning applications to suggest they should be determined by Committee. One item, agreed without discussion. This item seems unnecessary as could adopt LBE model whereby any Ward Councillor can request consideration by Committee by request to Chair.</p> <p>8. Open forum item allowing residents to raise items – requested to be pre-notified</p> <p>i) Presentation by RA chair 'Community View of the Environment' feedback on successes and failures of recent PFI contract for highways management including cleansing. Chair</p>		

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				<p>proposed forwarding to December scrutiny review of the PFI.</p> <p>ii) Local mosque speaking of their commitment to working with local community.</p> <p>iii) Complaint about non-management of Japanese Knotweed on Network Rail land; chair agreed to write to Network Rail.</p> <p>iv) Request for feedback on items from previous meetings – no follow up. Unhelpful officer response, blaming lack of resources.</p>		