

**SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 4 – 2018/2019: FUTURE EALING
MEETING 4 – 28 FEBRUARY 2019**

PANEL MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SITE VISIT

Visit 1**Horsenden Farm****Horsenden Lane North, Greenford, UB6 7NP****Thursday 13 December 2018**

To observe how the site is being managed with the help of volunteers and the activities that take place there.

Attendee: Cllr Karam Mohan

Panel Member	Observations/Findings	Conclusions and Recommendations	Additional Comments
Cllr Karam Mohan	<p>I visited Horsenden Farm with Harjeet Bains (Scrutiny Review Officer). We were greeted by two lead members of the Friends of Horsenden Hill, Lynda O'Hare (Chair, Friends of Horsenden Hill) and Deb Worsley (Vice Chair, Friends of Horsenden Hill) and Jon Staples, the Council Park Ranger. They showed us around and explained to us about the numerous activities that happen at the farm location and around the farm throughout the year. Although we had already read the report that was presented to the Scrutiny Review Panel on 5 December 2018 and seen the presentation in relation to the activities of the Friends of Horsenden Hill yet seeing and observing the activities ourselves proved to be very useful, vivid and informative.</p> <p>I was able to witness a very successful example of the implementation of the 'active citizen' initiative and programme with its various merits and scope for the future.</p>	<p>I feel that behind the success of Friends of Horsenden Hill is its dedicated committee, membership and the volunteers. They devote a great deal of time to organise and run the activities. I am glad to have visited the Horsenden Farm and was so impressed by its work that I have become a member of the Friends of Horsenden Hill.</p> <p><u>Recommendation:</u> Horsenden Farm is a big set of buildings and a significant part of it has been put to beneficial use. However, the main building is in disrepair and boarded up so not being used. I think that this is a sheer waste of a valuable building/asset as it needs to be put to a meaningful use. I acknowledge that the Council is now short of funds but surely it can guide and assist an organisation e.g. the Friends of Horsenden Hill or the wider community to generate</p>	-

**SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 4 – 2018/2019: FUTURE EALING
MEETING 4 – 28 FEBRUARY 2019**

PANEL MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SITE VISIT

Panel Member	Observations/Findings	Conclusions and Recommendations	Additional Comments
	<p>We were informed that the Friends of Horsenden Hill got started only two years ago in the summer of 2016. It is a small of group of volunteers. There are office bearers and an executive committee that meets every 6 weeks to plan and review their activities. Jon Staples undoubtedly plays a vital role in the running of the various activities at the farm. The Committee and members of the Friends of Horsenden Hill support the Ranger to maintain the farm and its buildings, manage gardening groups, volunteer days, raising funds for improvements and host events and activities.</p> <p>Looking at the various aspects of work and initiatives going on at the Horsenden Hill Farmhouse, it is a remarkable success story. The farmhouse buildings and farmland have been put to multiple use involving the community. Apart from the work undertaken by the Friends of Horsenden Hill, there are number of other organisations that operate from the farmhouse location (e.g. Bead Sew Crafty: craft workshop for people with learning disabilities, Solace School of Complementary Therapies: Solace offers bespoke holistic therapies, workshops and courses). There is a comprehensive coverage in the Winter 2018 edition of the 3-monthly newsletter 'Horsenden Herald' published by Friends of Horsenden Hill of the vast range of activities undertaken at the farmhouse which was emailed to the Panel Members.</p>	<p>resources/funds in bringing the main farmhouse back in use.</p>	

**SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL 4 – 2018/2019: FUTURE EALING
MEETING 4 – 28 FEBRUARY 2019**

PANEL MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SITE VISIT

Panel Member	Observations/Findings	Conclusions and Recommendations	Additional Comments
	<p>During the visit I saw a number of group activities e.g. there was an apprentices group at work, members of the Nepalese Community were looking after their vegetable plots/allotments, walkers were having a break outside the main room, people with learning difficulty were busy in their pursuits, a volunteers group involving all ages and genders was busy putting waste wood into good use, and there was a spoon carving workshop in progress.</p> <p>Friends of Horsenden Hill provide multiple opportunities to people of all ages in the community to learn and enhance life skills in a welcoming, natural and friendly environment. The notion of belonging to a society which seems to have been lost, is being rekindled at this farmhouse. Friends of Horsenden Hill have good working relationship and links with the statutory, voluntary and private sector. Primarily, social media is used to communicate with members and volunteers which is a very progressive approach. Friends of Horsenden Hill are proactive in engaging resources e.g. they have successfully acquired some funds from the nearby Ward Forums and Tesco.</p>		