

# One Norbiton – Past, Present & Future

## A Review

Dr Mike D'Souza Chair Community Working Group

# The Past

## How this Started

- David Smith of the NHS and Bruce Macdonald of RBK with Derek Osborne and our Council's approval accept the Government's challenge to try two *unfunded* localism pilots in Norbiton

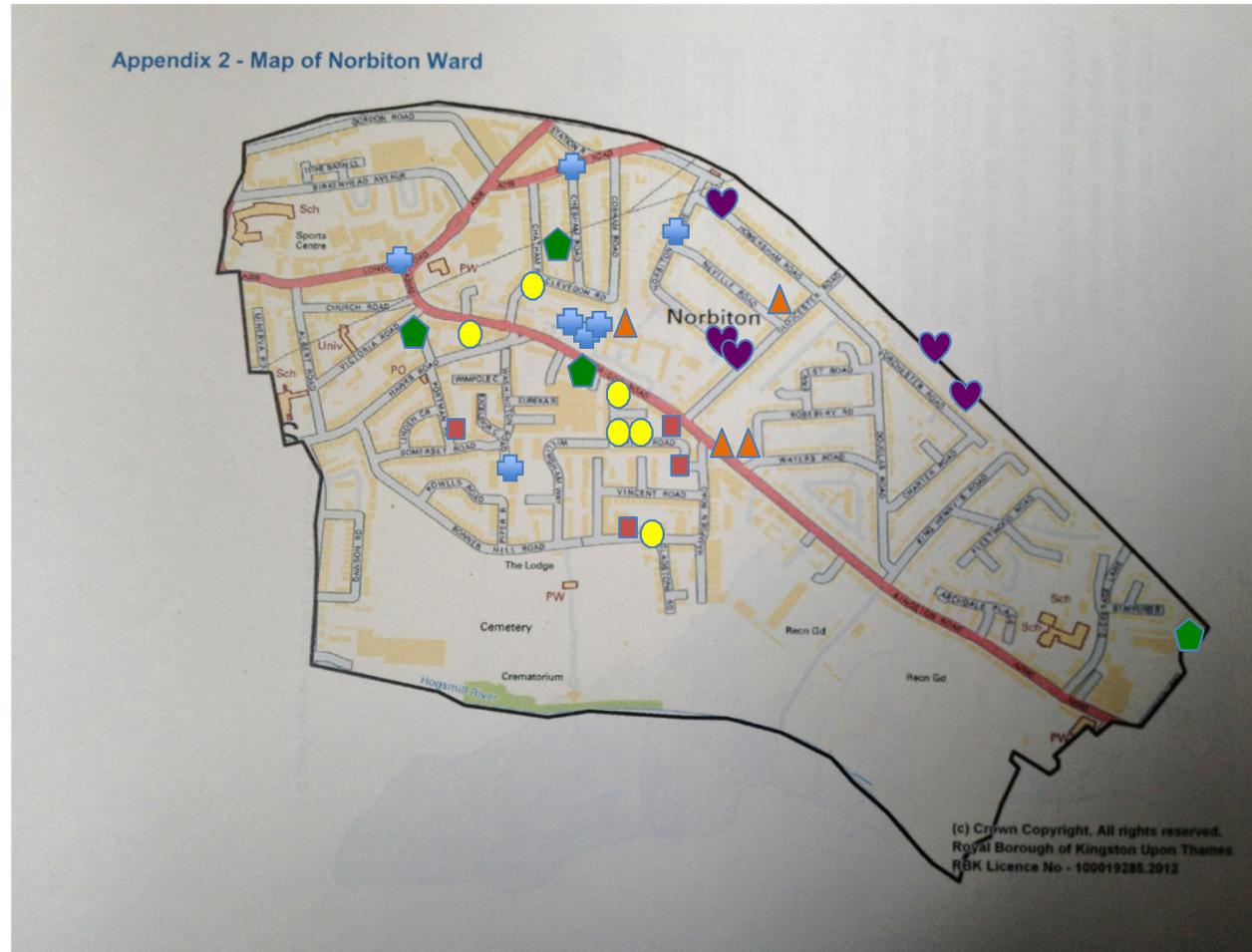
# One Norbiton CWG

## Public Meeting & Consultant panel

- RBK created the Community Working Group by recruiting Volunteers from local charities etc. In June this year we became legitimized by holding a public meeting.
- To increase our representativeness we also mailed a (painfully designed) leaflet to a random sample of Norbiton addresses. This taught us it's better to knock on doors. By combining this personal approach we got:
- 14 emails and 20 Phone numbers, three from ethnic minorities and two teenagers .
- This preliminary random sample panel is now fairly distributed across Norbiton. (see map)

# NORBITON WARD

Showing where our Consultant Panelists live



5881 Addresses; Approx 10,000 Residents - about 17% p.a. leave. Only 60% reside 10yrs+

■ ▲ ● ■ + ♥ = Panelist's Rainbow Zone membership

# The Quality of Life in Norbiton 2012

## How did our panelists score themselves?

QoL		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
10												
9		2.7%										
8		25%										
7		25%										
6		30.6% 11/36										
5		8.3%										
4		8.3%										
3												
2												
1												
0												

**Over 80% of our panel reported a Quality of Life score of 60% or more**

# Details of what our Panelists suggested: 1

## CLEANING UP THE ENVIRONMENT (7)

- Clean up dog mess around Norbiton Station
- More police, more rubbish bins & dog bins. More community events
- Less Litter
- The Fly tipping problem needs to be solved
- Stop Fly tipping in Chatham Road
- Cleaning up lifts/ less overcrowding/more job prospects
- Dislike emails as do not understand them – Also am unhappy with rubbish

## DEALING WITH YOBS, GANGS & DRUGS (6)

- Less yobs around
- Much less pressure on local schools More play areas. Less drug dealing
- Less drug dealers
- Deal with Gangs/drugs/loneliness
- Less men hanging around streets – makes me feel unsafe when travelling in the dark
- More police at nights . Concerns about the sale of private houses to students

# Details of what our Panelists suggested : 2

## **MAINTAINING GARDENS, RECREATION FACILITIES (4)**

- More local community events. Clean up days. Play areas
- Clean up neglected spaces & front gardens
- Would like business rates to be nil for vacant property so owners can afford to maintain them.
- Mend broken fencing

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES (2)**

- Things for young people & job opportunities
- More things for kids to do

## **OTHER ISSUES (2)**

- Less noisy neighbours
- More consultation. More choice of local shops

## Our Subgroups were already addressing some of the concerns raised by our panel

1. **Community Engagement (led by Davinder Lail)** – Consultant Panel. Public Meetings. Rainbow games\*. Dog Mess clear-up
2. **Housing (formerly led by Tim Bell)** Consultation in Cambridge Gardens
3. **Police and Safety (led by Sheila Griffin)** Setting up of local Neighborhood Watch. Merging of two Police committees
4. **Finance (led by Jill Preston)** Acquisition of Community First funding. Setting up of Company and Governance. Administration

\* Our competition for best window boxes and front gardens between Rainbow-coloured zones in Norbiton, each containing both Council Tenants and Owner occupiers.

## Further Subgroups activities.

5. **Youth Activities (led by Peter Jeens)** Liaison with Gillian Hall in charge of RBK Youth activities
6. **Employment 16 to 24yrs & Income Maximization (led by Ed Naylor)** Developing long term plans for helping NEETs. Getting liaison between key parties. Promoting Credit Unions to reduce debt.

**Also some individuals have provide valuable skills**

- **IT (John Hall)** Setting up of One Norbiton's Website, Face Book, Twitter and email.
- **Logo (Simone Kay)** Design of One Norbiton's Logo



# Lessons Learned so far

- We need a more personal door-knocking approach. At this level we are about changing personal relations rather than “systems”
- Drug and alcohol abuse was one major concern not so clearly reflected in the councils “hexagon” surveys

# The Present

## Our immediate Plans

- To set up our own bank account etc.
- Establish robust external and internal Governance
- Agree and prioritize a program of action for 2013
- To create a proper Office in Cambridge Gardens\*
- To restart our Environment and neighborhood subgroup
- Continue to recruit our Consultant panel and experiment how best to use it. (Our credibility will rest on our being recognized as the best Voice of Norbiton.)
- Continue to recruit interested and creative local people to our committee

\*We are getting excellent support from Simon Oelman and Housing Department to do this

# **The Bigger Picture**

## **Where we stand with National and Local Government**

- **Among the ten pilots, Norbiton seems to have one of the most active Community Groups.**
- **However when these pilots officially end in April 2013, to keep HMG's continued support we may need an early practical success. (See letter)**
- **RBK still will maintain its support for localism but its other LIS partners have not delivered much so far.**
- **We need to understand each others motives better if we are to retain our existing local volunteers and recruit more.**

# Some motives for Volunteering

- Most decent people want their home environment to be improving for everyone
- The average lifespan in Norbiton is over 5 yrs less than other parts of Kingston
- Urban stress here creates health inequalities, poor environments, Drug and Alcohol abuse, Crime and dangerous streets, poor education and unemployment.
- All this is very costly to tax-payers, creates misery and a cycle of deprivation for our vulnerable children.
- Top down regeneration has often failed because the key is a change in personal attitude when “Learned helplessness” is replaced by self reliance, self respect and a better quality of life.
- One Norbiton Volunteers range from those interested in doing practical achievable things like housing the homeless, to others who want to engage with this bigger picture. We need more.

# **Balsall Heath was regenerated by localism**

## **Their Outcomes were...**

- **Are more people at work?**
- **Is the Arrest rate higher?**
- **Have we picked up a large amount of Litter?**
- **Have we mended more broken windows last year?**
- **How many students pass how many GCSEs?**
- **Does the neighborhood look and feel good?**
- **Are people confident and proud?**
- **Do people trust one another?**
- **Are fewer services needed?**
- **And is money saved?**

**With all our advantages can Norbiton do better and do it quicker ?**

# **ONE NORBITON's FUTURE**

## **Some specific measurable Outcomes**

- **Reduction in local public service costs (Council)**
- **Decreased local crime rates (Police)**
- **Improved local educational attainment (Schools)**
- **Reduction in local benefit claims ( Local Statistics)**
- **Improvement in local health measures (NHS)**
- **Improvement in local quality of life (we have already started measuring this in our randomly selected panel. (Ourselves)**
- **Reduced local family breakdown (Courts)**
- **A measurable increased population stability (Housing)**

# Conclusions

- **We have made a start but have a long way to go.**
- **Our starting point measure of the Quality of Life in Norbiton has been found to be not as bad as we feared**
- **Our One Norbiton pilot must continue to pursue regeneration by promoting volunteering, creating self-respect and looking for a general attitudinal change in both our service providers and in our local population.**

# Data about NORBITON

	<b>NORBITON</b>	<b>KINGSTON</b>
• Population estimate (GLA, 2011)	<b>9,900</b>	<b>158,851</b>
• Workless Benefits (November 2011)	<b>11%</b>	<b>6%</b>
• Total Benefit Claimants (November 2011)	<b>11%</b>	<b>6%</b>
• Primary Free School Meal recipients (living in Kingston and attending a Kingston school)	<b>13%</b>	<b>6%</b>
• % children living in poverty (2009)	<b>32%</b>	<b>16%</b>
• % Social Housing (Census 2001)	<b>30%</b>	<b>18%</b>
• % rented from Private Landlords or other (Census 2001)	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>
• Average Life Expectancy of Males (2007-09)	<b>75.7 yrs</b>	<b>81.3 yrs</b>
• Average Life Expectancy of Females (2007-09)	<b>78.5 yrs</b>	<b>85.6 yrs</b>