



AGM 2018

Chair's Report 2017/18

This year has seen both disappointment and success for One Norbiton. Setting up an office/Hub to support all Norbiton residents particularly those on the two Cambridge Rd estates has at last come to fruition (albeit four years later] and much diminished from what was originally planned. We took possession of a one year peppercorn lease on the former Community Shop on the 16th of February. Our new address is:

61 Madingley, St Peter's Rd Kingston Upon Thames KT 1 3JG.
Email: 1norbiton@gmail.com

Our first step will be to enlarge the small office area by removing most of the stud wall between it and the back room.

We are grateful to RBK who have agreed to provide us with £5k towards the costs of doing this in accordance with the original promise made to us by Simon Oelman in 2013.

Already our local police have held a pilot drop-in session in our front office. This is an experiment to explore the value of reintroducing regular police presence on the CRE. Jill and Ed Naylor continue to run a branch of the Boom Credit Union and of the Food Bank from the Hub where Jill is often available for drop-in advice.

We will now be actively encouraging other voluntary and statutory groups to hold their meetings in the Hub or simply to drop in for a tea or coffee.

Many of you will recall that last year we jointly applied with CREst to take over some of the Resident participation work. Although our bid centred around 'catalysing Conviviality' and was the most economic, disappointingly, it failed to secure the contract. This was awarded instead to Pinnacle, a firm that is owned by a Hong Kong billionaire and is now on the short-list to partner RBK as a CRE Regeneration Development Partner.

Battling for the CRE Residents not to be disadvantaged by the regeneration plans has consumed a lot of our energy this past year. It has been helped considerably to have formed a strong alliance with CREst and CRERA. Now myself, Jill Preston and Harry Hall have become known to RBK as "the three Chairs" We have succeeded in carrying out two surveys seeking Residents' views on regeneration and were able to recall

the Housing Sub Committee's unacceptable decision not to include a fair and robust appeals process as part of the Decant Policy.

We have been holding regular update meetings for the leaders of all three political parties, our local councillors and the project leader of Regeneration. This is to ensure that if Regeneration goes ahead it will be for the benefit of residents and with the support of all parties. Additionally, to this end, we are sitting on the Residents Steering Group for Regeneration under the chairmanship of Newman Francis, the company engaged by RBK to be the "residents' friend". We will hopefully be going with them to visit both successful and unsuccessful examples of Regeneration in London.

To help us further understand the political context of Regeneration we have held meetings here in Norbiton with Tom Copley – GLA member and James Murray Deputy Mayor in charge of Housing.

Our other major activity this year has been to work with CREst to support the street homeless and vulnerable in Norbiton. This culminated in being able to write a report q.v. showing that there may be as many as 200 homeless people visiting Norbiton. We are working with our local MP Ed Davey to try and improve the health and well being of these vulnerable people.

Once we have completed our limited building works we will be continuing our plans to promote more conviviality in Norbiton. Additionally we are hoping to start a closer partnership with CREst. We will be sharing our new office with them and working jointly to raise funds. Also as the tenure on the new Hub/Office may be foreshortened by Regeneration we may soon have to start looking around for alternative accommodation.

Ed Naylor has continued to chair our very popular Police and Safety committee which brings together local representatives from across Norbiton on a regular basis to meet with our local police team. The Neighbourhood Watch has thrived over recent years and now has over 300 residents involved across Norbiton.

Can I thank all of you for your continued support for this Localism venture. In particular Jill whose hard work for the welfare of others is now becoming legendary. All seven members of the Board have been most supportive as has Harry Hall and CRERA. Also we have been extremely grateful to Emily Gasson for legal advice on handling the recall and the details of our new lease.

Finally, this year, I am proposing four people to receive our One Norbiton awards in gratitude for the service they've given to Norbiton.

They are:

1. Maundy Todd, for all the work she has done for Norbiton youth and to support us
2. Neville Rainford, who has been a truly supportive council officer and chaired the important initiative that has secured better care for Norbiton's homeless.
3. Sheila Griffin and Bill Brisbane our two ward Councillors who are retiring this Spring. They have both served the ward tirelessly and have helped us a great

deal. They will both be missed and as well as expressing our gratitude we wish them a very happy retirement.

4. Finally, for Hilary Garner CEO of KVA. As some of you know Hilary is now retiring after two decades of service to Volunteering in Kingston. He was one of the four Kingston applicants to the DCLG that secured One Norbiton's original grant and has been a major support of Norbiton for many years. We are very grateful. He will be greatly missed and we wish him a very happy retirement