

Reports from Councillors Appointed to Outside Bodies

Affinity Sutton Housing Association London and East Regional Scrutiny Board – Cllr Chris Pierce

The Board is one of a number of established Regional Scrutiny Boards comprising representatives from Affinity Sutton, tenants and local authorities. Cllr William Huntingdon-Thresher sits on the Board as a nominee of the Housing Association. The Board continues to receive comments from Resident Area Panels (RAPs) which enable tenants in smaller areas within the region to voice their opinions. The National Residents Council (NRC) was held in Daventry on 14th and 15th November.

I was appointed to the Board as the LBB local authority representative in late 2014 and therefore could not attend the meeting on 10th December due to existing commitments.

I attended the subsequent meeting on 11th March at 6 More London Place.

The next meeting is to be held on 24th June when I am on holiday.

In 2014/15 scrutiny was completed on the 'repairs to vulnerable residents' service and an action plan was developed to deal with the findings.

Scrutiny subjects for 2015/16 are to be selected from

- Estate management
- Planned investment
- Communications
- Service charges
- Development re-lets
- Tenancy support/youth engagement.

Planned investment has been selected as the first item for scrutiny.

On 7th May it is planned that Affinity Sutton Repairs (ASR) will take over maintenance and repairs for the 18,000 properties in London and Kent, effectively bringing the service back 'in house' at the expiry of the Osbourne contract.

Bromley Youth Music Trust Board of Directors – Cllr Kate Lymer

Bromley Youth Music Trust continues to have a very high coverage, now delivering provision in 100% of primary schools and secondary schools in the borough. BYMT is now also providing various forms of instrumental tuition in one Kent primary school and in two Croydon secondary schools. Highlights of the last year include:

- 9,000 children received instrumental and vocal tuition
- 77,222 hours of high quality music lesson delivered
- 36 regular ensembles involving over 1,200 children
- 2,661 children performed at the Bromley Schools' Prom
- 120 major concert performances
- New initiatives including the opening of BYMT Rock School
- Bromley Youth Concert Band "National Award Winners" at National Festival of Music for Youth
- 4 BYMT musicians are now members of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain
- Pre-school music offer now established with Monkey Music, Baby Ukulele and Crescendo
- SEN (Journey Project) in place for 2015 to enhance collaborative work between BYMT and our Special Needs Schools
- High quality CPD now in place termly for all BYMT staff, primary school music teachers and secondary school music teachers

The development of a comprehensive fundraising strategy is a priority for 2015/2016, and a robust plan is being put together in order to maintain arguably the best music service in the UK.

Community Links Bromley – Councillor Ellie Harmer

Community Links Bromley in South Street Bromley, was established in 1965, and is the Council for Voluntary Service and Volunteer Centre for the London Borough of Bromley. It advises and supports local voluntary organisations and community groups. Community Links Bromley hosts Healthwatch Bromley and is also a member of NCVO and NAVCA.

The Volunteer Centre is accredited by Volunteering England and is part of a national network of volunteer development agencies.

It has six core functions:

- recruiting volunteers
- raising the profile of volunteering
- good practice in managing volunteers
- identifying volunteering opportunities
- responding to volunteering initiatives
- the strategic development of volunteering.

Key partnerships: are Safer Bromley Partnership, South London CVS Partnership, Bromley Economic Partnership, and the Borough Officers Group.

During 2013/14 Community Links Bromley organised a Conference on Disability Hate Crime, a Corporate Social Responsibility Expo and opened the new Healthwatch Bromley service.

My function on the Board as a Councillor, is to liaise and facilitate the relationship between the voluntary sector and the Council. I have an overview of the organisation of both bodies and a knowledge of their goals. This can be used productively to promote mutual interests.

I have attended courses provided by Community Links Bromley that support my role as Chairman of Careplus (a charity involved in befriending the elderly) and been awarded a Winter Health Champion Certificate. The courses are invaluable to those who work with a charity.

I have also been a judge of the Annual Volunteer Awards, where volunteers are recognised for their invaluable services to the sector.

I congratulate Community Links Bromley on their 50th Anniversary in 2015.

Mytime Active – Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP and Councillor Tim Stevens JP

Cllr Tim Stevens was reappointed for a second four year term as a Trustee of Mytime Active at the Annual Council Meeting in 2014. Cllr Nicholas Bennett JP re-joined the Trustees having previously served as one of the Council's two nominees between 2006-10.

There have been significant changes in the Executive leadership of Mytime Active in 2014-5. The initial Chief Executive, Steve Price, retired after leading the organisation throughout its first 10 years and he was succeeded by Marg Mayne, who had been Chief Executive of Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) since 2008. A new Commercial Director and a new Health Director have also been appointed. Along with the existing Finance Director and People Director, the Executive team is developing a longer term strategy for Mytime Active, the outline of which will be debated by the Board in May.

During the year the way the Mytime Board is organised has changed radically with the introduction of a new sub-committee structure. Three sub-committees have been established:

*Finance and Investment,
Operations and Quality (on which Councillor Stevens serves)
Audit, Risk and Compliance (on which Councillor Bennett serves).*

The sub-committees are responsible for Mytime Active operations both within and beyond Bromley, and across leisure, golf and health businesses. The benefits of this new structure are that Trustees have a greater role in the strategic oversight of the organisation and that there is more effective scrutiny and influence of executive actions.

Two new Trustees have been appointed, after open advertisement and interview. Isobel Gowan is a former CEO of an NHS trust and now works as a consultant with GPs and commissioning groups, bringing skills in working in the health sector. Michael

Evans is a policy and communications specialist, currently MD of a media company, and brings with him experience of strategy, brand and marketing, as well as policy influencing. This brings the Board to the full complement of eleven.

Mytime Active is keen to respond to the Council's request to renegotiate the current contract, including redeveloping the West Wickham site. The Board now awaits feedback from the Council as to how it sees the future plans for Leisure across the Borough.

The investment fund provided for under the contract has not committed during the year as the Board awaits a response on the renegotiation of the contract. This lack of investment is now impacting the business and Mytime seeks early decisions so that decisions can be taken.

The legal role of a Trustee requires us to put the interest of the Trust first and we have refrained from taking part in discussions within the Council where there could be a conflict of interest so that we can take a full part in the strategy of the Trust Board.

Heritage and Design Champion – Councillor Nicholas Bennett

Since my appointment in the course of the last municipal year to replace former Cllr Anne Manning I have attended seven one day conferences organised by Urban Design London. These have included the following:

Heritage and Conservation Review of best practice

Development Economics – Urban Regeneration Case Studies

Designing London – The Principles of Good Urban Design

The Design Savvy Planner – Know your Policy and Guidance

Planning London – London's Special Something

I can thoroughly recommend the course organised by UDL which are free to Bromley members and officers as we pay a subscription to the organisation which is under the aegis of TfL

As a Member of the 20th Century Society I have also taken part in a one day study tour of Conservation and Heritage Good Practice in Bedfordshire.

I addressed the Executive on February 11th on the historic and architectural history of Anerley Town Hall and the need to retain the building whilst making it for purpose for 21st Century use and including extensions to the building. This underlines one of my key beliefs that the role of the Champion is not to simply preserve in aspic our historic past. Some sympathetic extensions and upgrading can be supported to protect buildings from becoming unusable and falling into disrepair and decay. London exemplars of this have been the additions to St Pancras and Kings Cross stations, both of which are listed buildings.

I would recommend that we look at our blanket refusal to allow conservation approved double glazing in buildings in conservation areas, which runs counter to the need for energy efficiency.

I have also contributed, in a private capacity, to the recent 100 Buildings of the 20th Century published last year by Batsford.