

# **BOWES PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**(A charitable company limited by guarantee)**

Charity No: 1140433

Company No: 07483426

## **FIRST ANNUAL REPORT 1 April 2011- 31 March 2012**

**Registered Address:** 38 Thorold Road, Bowes Park, London N22 8YE

### **Members of the Executive Committee**

The following people served as members of the Executive Committee and charity trustees during the year and up to the date of the report:

**Trustees:** Gemma Claire McNab (Company Secretary until November 2011)

Dee Kushlick-Williams (Company Secretary since November 2011)

Christopher Nicolas David Hook, (resigned November 2011)

Caroline Simpson,

MatRiches,

Doris Quinn,

Christine Marie Elizabeth Campbell,

KateFranzmann,

Mrs Susan Elizabeth Baylik,

**Committee members:** Catherine Herman

Pauline Latchem (Treasurer)

Catharine Perry (Membership Secretary)

Ed Balleny

Sarah Harris

Asha Patel

Olivia MacDonald (resigned January 2012)

**Governance:** The Bowes Park Community Association was registered with the Charity Commission on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and has formally adopted Articles of Association. The trustees were members of the executive committee of the previous unincorporated Bowes Park Community Association. The Association is governed by an elected Executive Committee elected by members at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee may at any time appoint any members of the charitable

company as a member of the Executive Committee either to fill a casual vacancy or by way of addition to the Executive Committee.

Prior to becoming a charitable company in 2011 the Bowes Park Community Association was an established unincorporated charity which for the previous ten years had been successfully working in collaboration with Haringey Council, Thames Water and British Rail to improve the local environment and provide better amenities for local people.

#### **Vaules and objectives:**

The Bowes Park Community Association works to promote activities for the benefit of the people who live, work or have an interest in Bowes Park and the surrounding area without distinction as regards gender, sexual orientation, disability (mental or physical), race or political, religious or other opinions. It aims to protect and conserve the physical and natural environment of the area; improve facilities for recreation and provide a range of opportunities for people to meet participate in a range of leisure activities.

The Charity shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

#### **Activities and achievements this year**

##### ***Conserving the physical and natural environment of the area*** **Myddleton Road Strategy Group**

The BPCA has continued to contribute to the work of this group alongside Councillors and officers of Haringey council, local residents and local traders. Following the publication of the conservation report commissioned from conservation architects, ButlerHegarty, the group has continued to look for ways to improve the street. A grant from English Heritage will be matched by money from Haringey council which will enable the restoration and conservation of some buildings on the street over the coming year.

The BPCA has a grant from Haringey to work with local residents to re-site satellite dishes which contravene planning regulations in this conservation area and regularly monitors all planning applications and unauthorised planning developments in the area that contravene the local development plan.

The BPCA has put in a bid to Making A Difference for funding to create an outdoor gym on a piece of waste land owned by Thames Water next to the New River. Local consultation has shown there is a high level of support for this development.

##### **Finsbury Gardens**

This year the main drive of the Friends of Finsbury Gardens has been towards applying for a £50,000 grant from the Big Lottery to carry out final improvements to the Garden. There was a wide ranging consultation with local residents, with plans displayed at the very successful summer festival held in the Garden in July 2011 and on notice boards in the Garden and along the New River Path and opportunities to comment on-line. The views expressed about the proposed changes were taken into account in the final plan. The bid was successful and work will be carried out later in 2012.

The Finsbury Diggers have met monthly to help with the upkeep of the Gardens and the flower beds at either end of the garden. A local gardening company, Urban Earth, has also contributed to the maintenance of the beds at the Nightingale Road end of the garden.

### **Community Garden Myddleton Road**

The garden continues to bloom and is very well used by local residents. The sun shone for the Community picnic in June organised by the Garden Group which provided lots of entertainment for local people and was enjoyed by all. In March 2012 there was also a very successful Easter egg hunt in the garden which delighted the children.

This garden is also maintained by volunteer gardeners who meet once a month.

### ***Cleaning up the environment***

This year a number of people signed The Pledge whereby they promised to help in keeping the area as free of litter as possible. They were lent Litterpickers to take out with them on walks, especially along the New River Path and they were encouraged to recycle litter using recycle bags/bins provided. There has been an improvement to street cleaning by both Haringey and Enfield councils which has resulted in less rubbish strewn on the street and a reduction in fly tipping.

### **Sustainable Bowes Park**

In October there was a successful Environmental Fair organised which provided a fun-packed family afternoon to help people live greener lives. An exciting new project Sustainable Bowes Park was launched at the Trinity at Bowes centre in January with a lively energy-saving advice meeting led by Cara Jenkinson of the Muswell Hill Sustainability Group. The group received a grant of £500 from Enfield council to support its activities and held a further three evening meetings during the year.

### ***Provide a range of leisure activities***

#### **Community Space at 128 Myddleton Road**

The grant from Haringey Council which supported the running of the Community Space finished in May 2011 and unfortunately the application to the Big Lottery for a grant to continue operating the Community Space was unsuccessful. It was possible to keep the Space open until July and activities continued until the end. Alternative space at Bounds Green Children's Centre was offered to the Mums and Babies group and at Mum's Lounge for the Little Birds Babies Music group. Unfortunately the Older People's social group has had to close. One of the legacies of the Community Space is a successful oral history project My Bowes Park where young people interviewed older residents who have lived in the area for more 40 years. This project was funded through Arts for All.

Although the Community Space was only able to operate for a year it provided a valuable hub for local people to get together and has acted as a catalyst for more community involvement which it is hoped will continue.

### **Bowes Park Community Choir**

The choir has celebrated a successful year during which more than 50 people had joined it. The choir performed at the Finsbury Festival in July 2011 and in December 2011 it joined with Friends of Finsbury Gardens and other local residents for the annual carol singing in the park. In January 2012 Sarah Jewell, the Musical Director since the choir started last year, stepped down.

Following auditions Patrick Allies became the new Musical Director and is doing a good job leading the choir, many of whose members are new to singing. The choir meets on Thursday evenings 7.15 – 9.15 at St Michael's Church Hall, Bounds Green Road and new members are welcome without auditions. This year the choir has donated £250 to the BPCA general fund and a further £1000 to Finsbury Gardens to support the Finsbury Festival.

### **Bowes Park Walking group**

The walking group is now six years old. In the period covered by this report there has been a New Year's Day walk, four summer evening walks and monthly weekend walks. The average number of people on a walk is 11, varying from 4 to 16, with the majority being in double figures. Altogether about 60 people have walked with us. There is a core of about twelve regular walkers with another dozen or so members who come less frequently and others who have come along once or twice. The group has continued the pattern of biannual meetings/socials to plan the next six months.

### **Bowes Park Art group**

The art group continues to thrive and meets monthly. The group organises outings for people in Bowes Park who would like to do some drawing, though this is not a requirement. Trips are organised to museums, parks and cemeteries in the London area. Sometimes day trips are organised to historic places further afield.

## ***Communications***

### **Newsletter Report**

The newsletter continues to be published and distributed twice a year, in spring and in the autumn. This is distributed to all households in the Bowes Park area and keeps residents up-to-date with developments and activities in the area. It is produced and delivered by volunteers and thanks are due to everyone involved.

A big plus for the continued existence of the newsletter came in the New Year when Hobart's estate agency offered to be the newsletter's official and ongoing sponsor. We extend thanks to Chris Davenport from Hobart's who initiated the link with the association.

### **Public meeting**

A well attended public meeting was held in November. The meeting provided residents with the opportunity to meet their local councillors and to be informed of recent developments in the area. It was also used to consult with residents on the BPCA's priorities for the coming year.

### **Financial Report (to follow)**