

Federation of Enfield Residents' & Allied Associations (FERAA)
Half-Yearly Meeting - November 9th 8pm at Civic Centre
Report and Action Notes

15 FERAA members in attendance

Welcome: Madeleine Betton from the Enfield Rd action group - a special guest, reference green belt.

Chairman's summary of recent activities:

- The council's intractable resistance to representation from residents was causing major alarm. The democratic deficit is widening.
- Councillors in the main were no longer listening to or responding to genuine public concerns, and offered no strategy of their own. Managing decline, waving deficits as pretext to deflect proper enquiry
- Administration councillors showed no coherent plans or genuine interest in defending the borough from unwanted or unwarranted development – accelerating rate of growth is presented as unavoidable. No discernable vision or strategy.
- Highly paid and reclusive officers, most not living in the borough, seemed to have captured another generation of councillors. The administrators are now the effective executive.
- Enfield council moving to revenue collection as dominant priority, improved services secondary, quality of life a distant by-product.
- FERAA was responding by upping its campaigning effort to right the balance and give residents a voice again.
- At risk is the quality of life in Enfield - no one wants to mirror Haringey, with poorly planned, over- developed massing, and over-remunerated officers.
- FERAA seeks a balance of living and economic growth, and to retain uniqueness which is foundation of quality of life and future prosperity.
- Support from the Opposition party varies but must be worked with to increase influence.
- Rousing public indifference is always a labour of love for activist groups like FERAA. But some communities very responsive and must be sought out and engaged with.
- FERAA's prime activities now focused on Cycle Enfield and Green Belt

Agenda Items

Cycle Enfield

- FERAA's (Sept 1st) conference dismissed the published grid scheme as inappropriate to suburban conditions, causing excessive collateral damage to lives of many - both transport users, residents and businesses adjacent to affected major roads.
- Local cycle safety opportunities throughout borough not addressed. No investment planned west of town centre. No upgrade of cycle tracking on A10 or Mollison Ave planned, where cycle opportunities are high.
- GLA insisting on its grid scheme, mirroring central London super highway network, and threatening Enfield council with loss of funds if scheme refused. FERAA rejects this threat, and with reason.

- Confused scheme objectives – cycling / regeneration / traffic suppression, reinforcing views that Enfield council using GLA scheme in part to replace own community funding, but still apparently liable to contribute £11m to GLA's £30.9m for cycle scheme.
- Greenway network for tracks through parks and open spaces slowly advancing in parallel but not main thrust of cycle facilities.

A105 Scheme

- FERAA submitted on October 9th a detailed critique of A105 scheme (now on FERAA website) which we understand has been rejected.
- A105 scheme now in final stage of planning. Public survey completed, results just published with insupportable claim by EBC of majority public acceptance.
- Council trying to push scheme over the line, in violation of its own condition that scheme would only advance with majority approval.
- FERAA's critique forcefully rejected by Mr Gilligan, TfL's representative. His is the only scheme in town, he thinks.

Enfield Town Centre Scheme

- Town centre scheme based on halving private vehicle road space, strongly resisted on numerous objective considerations.
- Council's Scheme 6 rejected by FERAA in preference to scheme 4, where cycling is diverted along Cecil Rd, which remains one way, and retaining Church St as now with full vehicle access. Scheme 4 has been withdrawn from consultation as insufficiently "transformational" - a meaningless assertion.
- Town centre scheme now in survey, closing December 12th.
- 3 public meetings called by MP David Burrowes with approx. 1700 attending; schemes overwhelmingly opposed.
- FERAA rejects concept of impeding traffic flows to promote "traffic disappearance" as uncalled for, unjustified in suburbs, damaging to lives of many relying on cars. Loose insistence that public transport meets majority of needs unfounded and unreasonable.
- Many deficits related by FERAA members who have studied plans carefully and note sloppy and inconsistent planning.
- Clear that most public have little or no concept of what will happen, owing to council failure (deliberate) to take case to residents.
- Majority of residents reject scheme when presented full implications for road users.

Action Agreed

- Members agreed to continue to apply max pressure to get cycle needs of Enfield reconsidered objectively
- Removal of damaging and unnecessary elements is the focus.
- Integration with Greenway is positive theme
- Encouraging maximum negative response to Town Centre consultation closing Dec 12th is vital: select for option 4 to demonstrate to EBC that intrusive scheme 6 is absolutely rejected and it does not have popular mandate to impose scheme.
- Work with business community to raise awareness of resistance
- Communicate with all influential authorities from Prime Minister downwards.
- Consider enlarging David Burrowes' forthcoming petition to neighbouring boroughs
- Plan for poster and local newspaper advertisements
- Target press with protest letters.

- Campaign all administration councilors to reconsider scheme objectively
- Press for delays using enabling studies on pollution, transport, economic impact studies as procedural blocks.
- Aim to get London Mayoral candidates to commit to delay and review scheme if they are elected in May.
- Action group set up of Linda Miller, Robert Taylor, John Jewson, Paul Mandel headed by Peter Gibbs to press all advantage on behalf of FERAA and individual associations.
- All FERAA associations to distribute call to members to sign up for Town Centre survey, and all other contacts to be pressed to help with additional submissions.

Green Belt

- Madeleine Betton outlined her groups' successful campaign to mobilise local support to resist development of local 35 acre green belt site by Fairview for approx. 300 houses, which could in part support a new secondary school planned by the Church of England, the beneficial land owners.
- New housing on this site not in local plan
- Dispensation to build housing can only be approved in exceptional circumstances so not appropriate in this case
- Need for new school not established nor called for in October EBC strategic review of school places plan.
- Fairview continuing its plans and may present an outlined application to EBC early in 2016
- Church of England has applied to Educational Funding Agency for agreement to build 8 form entry school on site; not yet acquired minimum signatures (480) from supporting families to meet criteria for consideration. But continuing to campaign and will not consider other sites.
- Petition of over 4800 signatures collected by defence group rejecting building on green belt, slated for presentation (done with great success and major public support!) to full EBC council on Nov 11, coincident with debate on need to resist incursion into green belt in Enfield.

FERAA Action

- FERAA resolved to defend quality of life in borough and need to preserve natural assets and amenities for health and wellbeing of existing population.
- FERAA does not support concept of unlimited and uncontrolled growth in borough with risk of transformation into another inner urban borough eg Haringey
- Landscape is major distinguishing asset of borough and to be preserved as means of encouraging indigenous growth, as opposed to dormitory character.
- FERAA is dismayed by EBC's consistent failure to recognize its duties towards existing population, and importance of assets it seeks to degrade in pursuit of income to support its poorly managed services.
- FERAA totally and actively supportive of all moves to avoid incursion into green belt land as means to above.
- Full support from meeting accorded to Enfield Rd group, and invitation to join with FERAA in pursuit of common aims.

Meeting concluded 10.10pm