

Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting of Westway Trust (a company limited by guarantee) held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at Maxilla Social Club, 2 Maxilla Walk, London, W10 6NQ

Present:

Trustees

Toby Laurent Belson (Chair), Tom Fitch, Jonathan Kelly, Minal Patel, Marie-Therese Rossi, Huey Walker, Eve Wedderburn, Sheraine Williams

Member Organisations represented at the meeting

1. *Bramley House Residents' Association*
2. *Catalyst Housing Limited*
3. *Community Accountancy Self Help*
4. *Corner Nine Arts Project*
5. *Dalgarno Supplementary School*
6. *Echoes of Spain 1936-38*
7. *Eritrean Cultural Support Group and African Refugee Project*
8. *Eritrean Gheez Rite Community Association*
9. *Gloucester Court Reminiscence Group*
10. *Just Solutions 123*
11. *Lancaster West Residents' Association*
12. *Making Communities Work and Grow*
13. *Pepper Pot Day Centre*
14. *Portobello Radio*
15. *Response Community Projects*
16. *St Helen's Church*
17. *St Helen's Residents' Association*
18. *Silchester Residents' Association*
19. *Swinbrook Residents' Association*
20. *Tavistock Crescent Residents' Association*
21. *Trellick Tower Residents' Association*
22. *Volunteer Centre Kensington & Chelsea*
23. *Westway Community Trust*
24. *Young K&C*

In attendance (non-voting)

Chair of the Community Advisory Group to the Tutu Review: Niles Hailstones

Other members of the Community Advisory Group: Emzee Haywoode, Clive Phillips, Marcia Robinson

Executive Team: Venu Dhupa (CEO), Mat Bradley, Nick Doran, Patrick Motindo, Ify Obu

These minutes record the key elements of the meeting and are not a verbatim account. A recording of the full meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGSjOGNs2sU> The minutes were written up from a recording of the meeting. Where individual questions and input were inaudible on the recording or were not captured there because they were not said into a microphone, they have not been included in these minutes.

1. Chair's welcome and introduction

The Chair (Toby Laurent Belson) welcomed everyone to Westway Trust's 2022 Annual General Meeting. He explained that formal business would be taken first and the meeting would then head into an open session answering questions from members and other attendees, with those questions submitted in advance being answered first.

The Chair gave grateful thanks on behalf of the Board and the Executive to everyone who had engaged with the Trust over the last three years since he became Chair. This engagement with people and the community was at the heart of transforming the Trust.

The Chair then invited attendees to join him in a 72-second silence, in commemoration of those who lost their lives in the Grenfell Tower tragedy. He also invited attendees to remember the life of Eddie Adams, a local resident, who had played a key role in trying to hold organisations like the Trust to account over many years and supporting the community from the grass roots.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were reported from the following:

1. Kathleen Lyons (CEO, Westway Community Transport)
2. Mary White (Latymer Community Church)
3. Cllr Marwan Elnaghi (Trustee, Chair of Property & Place Committee)
4. Niamh Graham (Trustee)
5. Martin Parker (Head of Governance & HR)

3. For Members to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on 26 January 2022

Members were invited to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting as an accurate record.

The minutes recorded that Gloucester Court Reminiscence Group was both present at the meeting and had sent apologies. The Group had in fact been present at the meeting, so the minutes would be corrected on this point.

Subject to the above correction, the members present **approved** the 2021 Annual General Meeting minutes.

4. Year in Review 2021/22 video

At this point the video "2021/22 Year in Review" was screened. This video set out what the Trust did and how it did its work, with a particular focus on the many events, challenges and developments in what had been another fast-moving 12 months. At the end of the screening the Chair thanked everyone involved in putting together the video and thanked staff for their continuing hard work.

5. Ordinary Resolution 1

To receive the Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts and Auditors' Report for the year ended 31 March 2022.

A discussion took place on the resolution, with the key points being as follows.

Steve Divall (St Helens Church, Member Organisation) had asked the following question in advance:

“Please could someone talk us through the £4M of bad debt. How has it arisen? What is the likelihood some/any of it will be paid? How might something similar be prevented in future?”

In response, the Chief Executive (Venu Dhupa) said that this amount had arisen because of traders getting into rent arrears during the pandemic. Where this happened, we made a bad debt “provision” in the accounts as required by the current accounting regulations. This was a precautionary action to protect the financial viability of the Trust. She added that we were working with our tenants for the debts to be repaid. We were taking recovery action through the services of a legally qualified debt consultant in consultation with our solicitors. Nevertheless, we were reviewing the impact and viability of this on tenants on a case by case basis.

Luke Narcisse (tenant) asked why apparently only one tenant had received a three-month rent concession during the pandemic when others had not been invited to apply. In response, the Chief Executive said that a number of tenants had received rent concessions with a total value of £115k. The Trust had emailed every tenant at their known contact address, inviting them to apply for a concession. A panel had been convened to consider the applications and take decisions. The concessions window had only been open for a limited period. Luke commented that he had not received the email and email was not always the best way of contacting a tenant. The Chair added that this was not an issue that could be resolved in this meeting. He suggested that Luke raise the matter with the Executive, escalating it as necessary to the Chair of the Property and Place Committee, Marwan Elnaghi.

Joe Delaney (local resident) asked whether there was anyone in the Finance Team who had debt recovery as a specific responsibility in their job description. The Chair replied that there was nobody in the team who was sufficiently specialist in the level of detail on debts arising from the unique circumstances of the pandemic.

Joe then asked how much had the Trust received from the Trust’s insurers for business interruption during the pandemic. The Chief Executive replied that the insurers had advised that although the business of the Trust had been affected by the pandemic, it had not been interrupted unlike the businesses of many of the tenants, so we were not entitled to a payout from the policy. Joe referred to the preliminary support he had undertaken in summer 2022 to help the Trust on their approach to the insurers. He reminded the Chief Executive that he had offered to write to the insurers to pursue the matter and said nobody had come back to him. He said that the policy wording allowed for lost income to be recovered, up to a maximum of £10m. It was now too late to make a claim as the time limit for so doing was last December.

Joe concluded that in his view the Trust had been negligent in not pursuing the matter further as it had a fiduciary duty to protect its assets and use its funds appropriately. £10m had been lost as a result of not taking action. The CEO asked whether Joe would like to register his query as a complaint. He said he did wish to make a formal accusation of gross negligence against the Trust over the loss of £10m. The Chair and the CEO said that this accusation had been noted and would be followed up.

ACTION: VENU DHUPA

Samia Badani (Bramley House Residents’ Association) referred to the mention in the Year in Review video and also in the Annual Report to a Community Advisory Group (CAG). She asked whether the creation of the Group had been a one-off action and also whether there was a report on the social value of the £17,132 grant that the Annual Report noted had been awarded to the Group. In

response, the Chair said that the CAG had been set up as part of the actual Tutu Review to guide progress. One of the recommendations in the Tutu Report had been that the Group should continue in order to support the Trust in delivering the Report's recommendations. The Trust was committed to ongoing engagement with the CAG for at least five years after the Report and potentially beyond that. On social value, the Chief Executive said that the Trust always required grant recipients to submit outcomes and/or data. A key piece of work under the Horizon Plan was on defining social value and how we measured it. This work was currently in progress. The conclusions and way ahead would be signed off by the Board's Charitable Purposes Sub-Committee. Inevitably grant recipients would have to submit data to enable social value to be measured. However, we would ensure that any requests for data were proportionate to the value of the grants and the resourcing ability of groups to compile the data.

In response to a question from an attendee about whether the accounts for the Community Street project were included within the overall Annual Accounts for the Trust, The Chair confirmed that this was the case.

Joe Delaney (local resident) asked whether the apology from the Council for its role in institutional racism at the Trust had been accompanied by any form of compensation payment. In response, the Chair said that there was still considerable work to do for the Council to fully understand its role at the Trust over the years. Until 2014 the Council had appointed seven of the fifteen trustees of the Trust, although information about how many of those had been Councillors at any one time was not immediately to hand. Joe suggested that those Councillors who had been trustees in the past should be sued for 'officials indemnity' breaches and any Council employees involved should be sued for gross negligence. In his view the Council should reimburse the 200k cost of undertaking the Tutu Review. He also felt that there was a clear conflict of interest for current Councillors serving as trustees of the Trust. The Chair said that he would bear these points in mind when holding conversations on these matters with the Council and others.

Aman asked why the Tutu Review had been aimed at only the African-Caribbean community. In response, the Chair noted that it had been that community's experience of bad treatment by the Trust over many years that had brought the Review into being. However, 80-100 testimonials from individuals had been gathered during the Review and this included testimonials from members of other communities. Although the majority of the Review's findings and recommendations did relate to the African-Caribbean community, it would be possible to extrapolate some of the recommendations to other communities.

Aman further asked why the North African community, present in North Kensington since the 1950s, had not been specifically included in the Review and what had been done since Tutu to improve relationships with that community. **Sam (Lancaster Voices, local group)** noted that there had been three events in ten days recently and it had been great to see how everyone had helped out and the Moroccan community had come together. In response, the Chair said he accepted there was a lot more for the Trust to do on engaging with the community and improving relationships.

In response to a question from an attendee about how the cost of the Tutu Report had increased from the originally approved £30k to £200k and who had approved that increase, the Chair said that this had taken place on the watch of the previous Executive and Board and so he was unable to provide an explanation or comment further. However, one of the reasons for the Review of the Review was to examine the background to the significant cost increase and how this had been allowed to happen. In response to a suggestion from the audience that the Review of the Review could also look at why the North African and Irish communities had not been included in the scope of the Tutu Review, the Chair said that this could indeed be possible. Audience members also referred to membership of the Community Advisory Group, noting that a North African had

previously sat on the Group. They asked if the membership of the CAG could be reviewed and potentially broadened. The Chair agreed that it could in theory, although currently it was for the CAG to decide its membership.

Emmanuel de Silva (local resident) asked how the community could get to see what had been said and asked by the CAG and how this would permeate into the community. In response, the Chair said that this was something to address with the CAG and the Trust, and in particular how the Tutu Report was shared with people. We would have liked to send it to all those who gave testimony to the Review but this had not been possible as we were not allowed to know who had given testimony.

Nadia Boujettef (local resident) said that ten community forums had been set up, divided into different ethnic groups. This was divisive in her view and risked pitting one group against other. She asked how the groups had been selected, what the criteria were and whether the groups were being paid. In response, the Chief Executive said that in 2021/22 we did not convene forums on ethnic grounds, deciding instead to convene seven on the basis of themes as part of the work to improve communications across the community. She confirmed that there was however a Moroccan forum, one of two themed around race. Some but not all convenors had been paid. It depended on the circumstances but for the future only the people initiating the forums would be paid.

Nadia responded that the Moroccan community had no understanding of the forum, nor had they been consulted on representation. The process should have been transparent. In response, the Chief Executive invited Nadia to come and find out more about the forum and help change it if that was considered necessary.

Dayo Gilmour (local resident) asked whether any trustees had been compensated for loss of earnings. The Chair confirmed that two trustees had received these compensation payments. Dayo responded by saying that the process had not been transparent and that Tom Fitch was not one of the trustees to have been compensated. She noted that at last year's AGM some resolution had been promised to avoid losing completely the role of CASH but nothing seemed to have happened. CASH had set up every Grenfell Support Project but Tom had received little remuneration for this, Dayo also noted what she termed the trauma that had been caused to the community by the putting up of rainbow flags during the Qatar World Cup but Tom was then in her opinion persecuted for calling this out and shortly afterwards CASH was evicted from its premises. She regarded this as questionable behaviour by the Trust.

In response, the Chair said that it was very difficult to respond to some of the points raised because of sensitivity and confidentiality issues. However, there had been big issues with CASH. The Chief Executive said that the Trust had been talking with the Social Council and others about how to retain the support work that CASH provided. We were continuing to lobby for a replacement service.

An attendee noted that the Horizon Plan contained a commitment to ensuring a well-led workforce. He asked whether the Trust now had such a workforce. In response, the Chair said that we were continuing on a journey towards that. It was not possible to itemise progress at this stage and we were still in the Covid recovery phase.

The resolution was then put to the vote. **The resolution was carried** and the voting was as follows:

For:	15
Against:	1
Abstentions:	7

6. Ordinary Resolution 2

To appoint TC Group (Registered Office: The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN) as Westway Trust's auditors and authorise the Trustees to fix their remuneration.

Steve Divall (St Helen's Church, Member Organisation) asked why a change of auditors had been proposed. In response, the Chief Executive said that there was an agreed action from last year's AGM to re-tender for audit services. It was common practice for organisations to re-tender and change auditors every few years.

The resolution was then put to the vote. **The resolution was carried** and the voting was as follows:

For: 20

Against: 0

Abstentions: 3

7. Any other business formally notified in advance

The Chair reported that no other business had been formally notified in advance. **He then concluded the formal business section of the meeting at 6.55pm.**

8. Updates from the Chair, Committee Chairs and other trustees

Toby Laurent Belson, Chair

In opening his presentation, the Chair said that we were still very much at the beginning of change and there was still so much more to do. 2022 had been the third of a three-year term to commence the journey of transformation at Westway Trust. We continued to move through the existential threat of Covid-19, with our communities facing the same threat, but were now beginning to show signs of recovery. The Trust continued to make varying degrees of progress in its transformation. There were many opportunities for groups and individuals to engage with the Trust on taking forward this transformation.

The Chair highlighted the sheer amount of work that had been taking place at the Trust, including:

- Surviving Covid-19 – at the height of the pandemic the Trust had been facing potentially zero income as a landlord.
- A new community-based Board
- Executive Team changes, including a new CEO.
- An ongoing rebuild of the staff team following the previous restructure and departures.
- New Co-optees joining sub-committees of our Board and making very effective contributions to our work.
- An increasing number of forums, working groups and steering groups and panels that offered opportunities for community input.
- Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the Tutu Review.
- A new strategy – the Horizon Plan – the key document for the Trust moving from strategy to practice.
- Grants Review
- Estate Plan – identifying areas of land not currently under the Trust's demise but should be. We were having ongoing conversations with RBKC but trustees would have to decide which areas to prioritise in the discussions. A 3D model of the estate had been prepared which would spell

out the situation to the community very clearly. The Chair said that the prep school land for example should be administered by the community. He confirmed that the Trust would be proactively advocating for Pepper Pot continuing in its current premises and getting a good new lease.

- Policy Reviews
- Governance Review, including constitutional reform. This was an issue with which members would have to engage. The Chair offered reassurance that there would be no change to our Constitution without consultation with our members.
- A new relationship with RBKC, based round a good ongoing working relationship.
- Ongoing improvements to the estate.

There was no denying that transformation happened only through time and energy committed, for example meetings, committees, away days, negotiations, ongoing engagement, new processes, forums and working groups. Engagement like at this evening's meeting was exactly what would drive the process. There was a focus on moving from a situation of keeping the community outside the workings of the Trust to the community being central to the workings of the Trust.

Challenges remained, including working through the details and individual relationships; the significant impact of histories and traumas; Issues currently outside of our understanding, skill, expertise or capacity levels; issues of a statutory nature; long-term issues being addressed for the first time and; overcoming 50 years of history.

The Chair concluded by saying that the vision was clear and the journey had begun, although positive and constructive energy would be needed to continue. We should keep focused on change. We were seeing change happen all around us. Doors were open that had previously been closed.

Property and Place Committee

The Chair of this Committee of the Board, Cllr Marwan Elnaghi, gave his apologies to the AGM due to personal business. However, he had recorded a short video message which was played to the meeting at this point. The message provided an overview of achievements and challenges for the Committee during the year, with key points being as follows:

- The Property Team had been operating with skeleton staff during the first part of 2021/22, meaning they could only focus on essential work across the estate.
- One of our anchor tenants Nu-line had left the estate and had assigned the lease to Lords,
- We had agreed an important option on the West London Community Riding Centre land, enabling them to proceed with fundraising.
- The Community Street consultation had been completed.
- We had operated the Rent Concession Panel as a support mechanism for tenants.
- Sub-groups had taken forward important issues such as the underpass to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, 3-5 Thorpe Close and the future of Stable Way.
- We continued to provide business support to tenants, including through input from Morley College and the Portobello Business Centre.
- Marwan wished to pay grateful thanks to the co-optees on the Property and Place Committee for their immense contribution.
- He also acknowledged with thanks the work Joel Colman had undertaken whilst with us as Head of Property and Estates from July – December 2022.

Charitable Purposes Committee

The Chair of this Committee of the Board, Eve Wedderburn, said that she would be standing down as a trustee in the coming weeks. It was against this backdrop that she gave a short presentation on the work of the Committee during the year. Key points were as follows:

- 2021/22 had seen a reducing number of staff. In particular, Val Patterson had left the Trust in May 2021. Before she left, she had made trustees understand how important the Learning Team work was to the community, not least the work of the supplementary schools.
- A closer relationship with Everyone Active had increased the level of understanding around the community benefits Everyone Active delivered.
- The Committee had overseen a tight discretionary budget. This had to include the delivery of grants and the review of the grants programme.
- Eve noted that there was often a disproportionate amount of work required for small grant recipients.
- The initiative under which the Trust offered fundraising support to small organisations by way of bid writing had continued to be effective and well received.
- On reparations, Eve said that a reparations agenda focused on one community could look exclusionary but there were lessons to be learnt from it that were applicable across our work. We had to be willing to take lessons and change processes. More directed reparations work was needed.
- Eve closed by saying that without the Tutu Report we would not have been able to start talking about support for any community in a dignified, forward-thinking manner. Everyone would benefit. We had learnt so much from the process. The relationship with the Community Advisory Group was challenging but it was the kind of relationship that produced change through discussion and dialogue.

Hamid (local resident) referred back to comments about the Portobello Business Centre. He said that the Centre mostly worked online but some people worked offline. He said he was a survivor of Grenfell and a sole trader who had not worked in the six years since Grenfell and had been on benefits and undertaking training. He was not clear what the Trust had actually done to support the victims of Grenfell and help people like him to get back into work.

Niamh Graham

Niamh gave her apologies to the AGM due to personal business. However, she had recorded a short video message which was played to the meeting at this point. Key points from the message were as follows:

- Niamh introduced herself as the newest but also the youngest trustee on the Board. She worked at Young K&C where a very close relationship with young people in the community had developed.
- Young people were generally under-represented at all levels but they had extremely valid and valuable lived experience to offer despite their age.
- She was an advocate for the needs of young people and for safeguarding their future.
- Another key priority for Niamh was communications – how we interacted day-to-day and how we could maximise opportunities to communicate with all communities. Everyone deserved a voice.
- She was still doing a lot of learning from young people, the community, the past and the present. She would push for change that was supported by everyone.

9. Presentation from Niles Hailstones, Chair, Community Advisory Group (CAG)

Niles Hailstones opened his presentation by saying how disappointed he was not to have been invited earlier in the meeting to explain anything about the CAG or answer any questions, even though the CAG had been mentioned a number of times. He reminded everyone that the CAG was formed by the community at a time when the community was, as he termed it, at war with the Trust. The CAG had been asked by the Trust how they would choose their members but his response had been that the CAG would choose and then tell the Trust who the members were.

Niles said that it was important not to compromise just because people felt uncomfortable about it. People did not like it when you stood up to them. The truth was contained in the Tutu Review. The Trust had been seeking to divide and rule the community. However, he would never back down from his mission to protect the rights of his people.

Niles accepted that some change had happened since the last AGM, However, the things that remained the same were at the root of all the problems still faced. He said the CAG had been working hard to implement the Tutu recommendations but the Trust in his view had failed to follow that lead. The Trust was still taking a corporate approach, with a recent example being the Festival of African and Caribbean Entrepreneurship (FACE). This started off as a demand for a tangible resources package of ongoing support but was diluted down to a festival. The Trust had fallen short on implementing reparations and was still not ready to do so. Instead, the Trust continued to patronise the CAG and did not know how to handle them.

Niles reminded the meeting that the CAG members were Clive Phillips; Marcia Robinson; Emzee Haywoode; Nicole Belfon and Malcolm Phillips, all of whom were very well known in the community.

Niles then told the meeting that he was the person who had taken down the rainbow flags that were flown during the Qatar World Cup. He regarded the flying of those flags as an abuse of power and privilege. He questioned why the Trust's Head of Comms had approved the purchase and flying of the flags and questioned also why community resources had been used for this.

In advance of a short break in proceedings, the Chief Executive said that as she had only taken up post full-time in August 2021, she had limited time to make an impact on 2021/22. The Trust was experiencing severe financial problems at that point due to the effect of the pandemic and it had taken the hard work and acumen of trustees and staff working together to tackle the Trust's problems and reduce the pressure. She said that she admired the passion on display in the room. It would continue to require people working together and having difficult conversations to give the community hope and make the Trust work. There were no quick fixes.

The meeting broke for a short interval at 7.50pm and resumed at 8.10pm.

10. Question and Answer session

The Chief Executive opened this session by responding to a couple of questions that member organisations had submitted in advance.

Eristar CIC (Member Organisation) had asked in advance:

"We would like to know if any progress has been made between Westway Trust and Everyone Active to serve the community."

In response, the Chief Executive said that Everyone Active had a number of important community deliverables in their contract with Westway Trust. This included a GP referral programme, our annual Sports Bursaries programme for local residents, and subsidised football pitch bookings. She thought that what had brought about this question was that many people had been on a waiting list for the pitches for some time and they did not know how people were selected or when the process would be reviewed. However, in terms of how Everyone Active have worked for the community and how they have heard from the community - they had held an open community information session, and we had also held a focus group with potential users. As a tenant they had a stipulated Social Value

that they had to deliver each year. However, we had to be clear – they were a commercial business. In the coming months, all of our member organisations would be invited to apply/re-apply for subsidised/free pitch bookings as part of an open and transparent process. Applicants would be asked to demonstrate the social value of their pitch use. We hoped that we would develop a Social Value Forum so that some scrutiny and some query could be done by the forum directly to tenants. These could be public should that be agreed. This would be our seventh community forum and opportunities to be part of this would be on a new opportunities section on our website.

Steve Divall (St Helen’s Church, Member Organisation) had asked in advance:

“The ‘Horizon Plan’ is framed in the context of national and global issues and the statements of Vision and Mission (p4) refer to multiple communities; how is the Trust ensuring that the North Kensington community benefits most from its activities, as intended in the foundation of the Trust, as compensation for the loss of amenity resulting from the construction of the Westway?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that the North Kensington community (i.e. residents of any of the five wards in the north of RBKC) were the primary beneficiaries of the vast majority of Westway Trust’s service delivery/programmes. Where the Horizon Plan referred to national and global issues, this primarily related to amplifying the voice of North Kensington residents in relation to these issues. We wanted to encourage all our communities to think about good examples from all over the world.

The Chief Executive then opened up the meeting to questions from attendees.

Sarah on behalf of David O’Connell (Lancaster West Residents Association, Member Organisation) asked when the vote for the Chair would take place as it was normal for the vote to be held at the AGM. In response, the Chief Executive said that in line with the Trust’s Constitution the vote would be held at the Board’s first meeting after the AGM. On this occasion an interim Chair would be voted in and there would then be an open recruitment process for trustees culminating in the election of a permanent Chair. Trustees would agree the process. The Chief Executive noted that we reimbursed reasonable expenses of trustees but we no longer reimbursed earnings lost whilst engaged on Trust business, although the possibility remained open that we might on a one-off basis in the future. The Chair added that not paying trustees was a concept that went back centuries and had entrenched inequalities in leadership. He said that we had challenged the Charity Commission and others on this point but until the acceptance of the culture was challenged, nothing would change. In response to a question from **Alex Korda (local resident)**, the Chief Executive committed to ensuring there would be some member involvement in the selection process. The Chair added that the overall process was in conflict with the Constitution. We needed to go through a process of an interim Chair but in due course come to members to request agreement to a change in the Constitution. The Chair recruitment had to be an open process with community involvement. Anyone could apply but should do so via the open trustee recruitment exercise to be launched shortly.

A Governor of Morley College commented that they were struggling to bring in a diverse set of Board members, as only a certain set and class of people could afford to apply and come in for meetings in the middle of the day. She then asked who was responsible for upkeep of various spaces around Swim Farm as the areas were an eyesore. In response, the Chief Executive said that the issue of water coming down for the highway was the responsibility of TfL who had a phased programme for fixing leaks but it was not clear where this piece of work sat in the programme. The area around the Argan café was the responsibility of RBKC. Swimfarm was the responsibility of the Trust - the building was made of asbestos and was dilapidated but we would be addressing this as part of our future plans.

Eunicia Harding (local resident) asked how we could get young voices onto the Board and how we could support them in their role. In response, the Chair referred to the earlier input from Niamh Graham and said that she was a member-nominated trustee and that there had been real support across the membership to get her voted onto the Board. In the forthcoming election for new member-nominated trustees, it would be open to members to nominate more young people. The Chair noted, however, that young people would be taking a big risk in becoming a trustee until we had a guarantee in place that they could be given the time they needed and wanted to operate fully in the role of trustee.

Eunicia then said that the Street Community Participation Group had worked really hard but had not seen anything happening on buildings like Bramleys. She also asked what was happening at Hope Gardens. In response, the Chief Executive said that there were significant issues with the Bramleys building due to asbestos and this would be addressed as part of the phased redevelopment work. Internal work had however already been undertaken. On Hope Gardens, Trees 4 Grenfell and Just Solutions 123 were driving the project. The Trust was trying to bring together the architects that were working in that area to achieve alignment for the various projects.

Leearna Oliffe (local resident) Leearna stated that the Bramley's building was not fit for use, it was freezing and its use risked the Trust being seen as a 'slum landlord'. She asked how the Trust was investing in the estate. In response, the Chief Executive said that investment would be in stages after years of under investment. Refurbishment plans went to the Board of Trustees for sign-off as part of the Estate Plan. She acknowledged that the drainage issues in Stable Way had been partly but not wholly resolved.

Samia Badani (Bramley House Residents Association, Member Organisation) asked how the Trust could support organisations like hers to contribute further to growth and change at the Trust. In response, the Chair said that the short answer was that we needed more residents' associations as members of the Trust. In some ways the question was actually what did residents' associations need by way of support from the Trust to be able to come together as residents' associations to have a conversation and then put their requests to the Trust.

In response to comments from **Nadia Boujettef (local resident)**, the Chief Executive commented that if the Trust said it was going to set up a forum and everyone should apply to join, it ceased to be a forum controlled by the community. Nobody needed the permission of the Trust to hold a forum. These forums should be self-organising.

In response to comments from **Sarah Tuvey (West London Community Riding Centre)**, the Chief Executive agreed to check why the land was handed over in 2015 and she would then clarify to Sarah outside the meeting.

Ron Best (local artist) said that he wished to thank the Trust for all the support given to him.

The Chief Executive noted at this point that local resident Jacob Rety was unable to be at the meeting but he had asked her previously whether it would be possible to have at least one further question-time session during the course of the year. She thought that this would be welcomed by the community and committed the Trust to taking this action forward.

In response to comments from **Alex Korda (local resident)**, the Chair said that Alex had been suspended as a trustee for verbally abusing another trustee, not for asking difficult questions. His behaviour had crossed the line of what was acceptable behaviour.

Didier Ibwila said that he wished to say thank you to the Trust for all the support that had been given to him and his colleagues since the disbanding of Migrants Organise. He was hugely appreciative. On forums, he commented that if there were to be forums, it would be advisable not to have them set up

on the basis of countries as that might be divisive in the community. He would advocate for theme/topic-led forums.

Hanan Miezou (local resident) asked what performance improvement targets set when the Chief Executive joined the Trust had been met. In response, the Chief Executive said that the Horizon Plan set out the targets for the first full year and we would report on progress against them after the end of the year.

Hanan then asked whether Subterania would be re-opening. In response, the Chief Executive said that the Trust had taken possession of the premises for non-payment of rent. The building would remain vacant whilst a legal process was followed.

More generally, on the subject of what the Trust was doing for the benefit of local residents, the Chief Executive said that all community programmes were for the benefit of the whole community. Income received from services went back to the community through a range of programmes and targeted bursaries and grants. She acknowledged that there were issues to be addressed around how we got information about the Trust to those who were not digitally connected or to those for whom English was not their first language.

Sakinah Touzani (local resident) asked what measures were in place to control air pollution and noise pollution for residents of the Swinbrook Estate. In response, the Chief Executive said that the plans for Community Street were set out in the progress report; Subterania would not be going back into business; and the recently established Environment Forum had agreed that air pollution would be a campaign for the Trust to take forward.

The Chief Executive then returned to questions that had been submitted in advance.

The First Georgian School in the UK (local group) had asked in advance:

“Is there any chance Portobello Summer Festival to be held in June or July, when the Supplementary School children are still studying?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that the last Portobello Summer Festival was held in 2019. In the years since, our focus has been on supporting community organisations to stage their own events and celebrations, rather than delivering large events directly. Last year, our Celebrations & Events grants programme supported 27 local organisations, in excess of £50k in direct funding, plus logistical and planning support for community-run events. The Trust does not take a curatorial role.

North Kensington Community Kitchen (local group) had asked in advance:

“What is the best way to optimise access to Westway Trust for North Kensington organisations for support and training for them and their volunteers?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that In terms of training, we implement an Adult Education Programme and Creative Training opportunities. We have also done a business development course and training for the market traders. We are open to developing new courses in the new financial year – providing there is sufficient evidence of need. Anyone who has any ideas to put forward on this should speak to Nick Doran, our Head of Community Initiatives.

In terms of volunteering, this is a bit ad-hoc in the trust. As the Horizon Plan stated, as part of the transformation of the organisation, we are implementing a new plan, supported by new policy. What we hope is that people will want to volunteer to improve the Estate and the Trust’s efforts on behalf of the community. In the meantime, we have a Volunteer Bank, so if you would like to volunteer in future we are storing contacts and details within this. Anyone wishing to have their details filed in the bank should email HR@westway.org

Sarah Tuvey (West London Community Riding Centre, local group) had asked in advance:

“What plans do you have for Stable Way and the Sports Centre going forward?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that in terms of Stable Way we were currently doing some surveys to determine the extent of the issues around drainage and sub-structure. We would then engage with the Council to see how we could bring the basics up to standard before taking development further. In terms of the Sports Centre refurbishment we needed to build a fund over a number of years to ensure that when we did refurbish, we would have enough money. At the moment we were building a reserve, but in the coming year we would get an expert steer on the level of funds we needed to put aside so that we would have enough when the time came.

Emmanuel De Silva (local resident) had asked in advance:

“After the findings of the Tutu Report, how has the community benefited?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that our progress on implementing the recommendations, and how the communities in North Kensington were benefitting, directly or indirectly, from this progress, was set out in our Institutional Racism Progress Report, copies of which were available in the meeting to take away.

Mikei Hall (local resident) had asked in advance:

“What is the mission statement going forward? What are the values of Westway Trust?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that the Horizon Plan set out the mission and values of Westway Trust. The plan took an outcomes-based approach, and we were committed to delivering 65 work packages over the coming years to deliver on these outcomes. Our mission is to dedicate the Trust’s resources to the social, economic, personal and environmental wellbeing of communities. Our values are: Courage, Equity, Integrity, Openness and Sustainability. Copies of our Horizon Plan were available at the meeting to take away, along with A5 flyers setting out our values.

Margaret Maher (local resident) had asked in advance:

“I would like to ask for more lighting under the Westway by Maxilla. Also, at the moment there is a homeless man sleeping by the storage area at the Wall of Truth. Is there anything that can be done about this?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that we wanted to see the Maxilla memorial space preserved, open and accessible for everyone in our community. We were holding monthly meetings with key community stakeholders and users of this space, and followed a plan for continuous improvement and maintenance. The rough sleepers in the area had received support from RBKC’s street outreach team and from the GLA’s Streetlink programme, and were no longer occupying the space.

Fergus Gilchrist (local resident) had asked in advance:

“Does the Westway Trust have a plan to make provisions to facilitate pop ups and businesses who wish to operate on short tenancies, thus ensuring that void periods are limited?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that where a void space had enough time to be used, it would be advertised. However, there were a limited number of voids, hence the pressure on space.

Eva Jedut (local resident) had asked in advance:

“Please can you explain why despite 1.3 million awarded to green communal areas your keep Honey Bee Play Area in disgraceful conditions? How have you spent that money?”

In response, the Chief Executive said that the £1.3m referred to was the Trust’s contribution to the Community Street programme. That funding was committed to 13 projects. She agreed however

that the play area did require significant refurbishment. A small amount for this work had been secured from the Future Neighbourhoods Fund. We would be applying to three other funds.

Paprika Skata-Williams (local resident) then asked the final question of the night, requesting details of organisations based under the Westway and in particular the workshops by Acklam. In response, the Chief Executive said a list of tenants was not on the Trust's website but we would send Paprika the information. Paprika also gave some feedback on an individual staff member but the Chief Executive said that it would not be appropriate to discuss the matter in an open forum. She added that every employee of Westway Trust was working hard to engage with the community.

11. Close of meeting

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. He also thanked everyone for the immense work being put into transforming the organisation to the benefit of the community.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Martin Parker

Head of Governance & HR