



Executive Committee Meeting

Monday 21st July 2025 7:30 PM

Harrow Council Hub, Forward Drive

Present: Councillor Marilyn Ashton (chair)
Councillor June Baxter
Leslie Bolsover
Stephen Bolsover
Simon Braidman
Keith Ferry (via Teams)
Margaret Huitson
Councillor Janet Mote
John Orchard
Angelique Soon
Robin Youle

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor Dan Anderson
Linda Clark
Adrian Doyle
Vicky Wallace

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd March 2025 were approved. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Leslie Bolsover

Two reports were circulated (attached): the financial position at the end of the 2024-2025 financial year, and the current position.

The accounts for 2024-2025 will need to be audited by an external examiner since the income exceeded the £25,000 threshold. It was agreed to use the same independent examiner as in previous years; in previous years this cost £800-£900.

Outgoings since the end of the 2024-2025 financial year were mainly website and insurance costs (listed as Admin) and spending on the grant funds for work at Old Redding Nature Reserve (listed as HNCF).

Subcommittee Reports

Headstone Manor and Museum – Robin Youle

Mayday at the Manor, which this year celebrated the anniversary of V E day, was attended by 3,000 members of the public of whom 600 visited the Manor House.

The site has a new site manager, Riya Passmore.

Sadly a bid to the Museum Estates and Development Fund (MEND) for funds to restore the front of the manor house in a Georgian style was unsuccessful. It was agreed to ask the fund for feedback as to why the bid did not succeed.

Pinner Local History Society – Robin Youle

Meetings of the society continued as usual and included visits to Moor Park house and Grims Dyke hotel.

Harrow Heritage Trust Membership – Leslie Bolsover

No new people have joined the Trust since the last meeting.

Plaques

Following the death of John Williams no one at present is managing this program. Leslie Bolsover suggested contacting the Herts and Middlesex History Group, while Marilyn Ashton suggested that John William's son Robert might be prepared to take on the role.

Harrow Nature Conservation Form – Stephen Bolsover

At the AGM of the Bentley Priory Management Committee on 14th May 2025 Tony Hassan, Martin Fairley and Andrew Fernandes were confirmed as Chief Volunteer Warden and Assistant Wardens of that site respectively.

On 31st May 2025 HNCF ran a BioBlitz at Church Fields, a wonderful example of rewilded grassland on Harrow Hill. Our total haul was 102 confirmed species, from insects to birds. This is an absolutely gorgeous site and a credit to Harrow.

In contrast the small wildflower area at Stanmore Little Common, created in 2022, has been abandoned. An increasing proportion of the local residents disliked this area and HNCF regretfully went along with the Council's decision this spring to return it to close-cropped species-poor amenity grassland.

Following discussion with Matthew Adams of Harrow Council Stephen Bolsover has agreed to modify the proposed leaflet about paving over front gardens to be more one that advises on how to a front garden into both a place to park a car, and a place that has plants and is good for nature. A discussion on paving over front gardens followed. Marilyn Ashton explained that at present the council has no power to prevent people paving over front gardens unless the action is proposed as part of a wider ranging planning application. The council is actively considering using an "Article 4 Direction" to remove permitted development rights for properties in Harrow.

A full report is attached.

Historic Buildings Grants – John Orchard

A grant of £3,000 has been agreed towards restoration of the windows of the Grade II listed Billiard Room at Harrow School.

An application form has been issued to the Grade II* listed Grims Dyke hotel for restoration of the heron statues in the garden. No application has yet been received. Margaret Huitson reported that Helenka Jurgielewicz, the head gardener at the hotel, definitely intends to apply but is waiting for a second quotation.

An application has been received for roof repair works on the Grade II listed Goodengate on Stanmore Hill but after discrepancies in the application were pointed out in April 2025 nothing further has been heard.

A list of historic structures in the public realm in Harrow that need repair and restoration work was presented – see attached report from John.

Work with Young People – Simon Braidman

Simon and others from HNCf volunteered at an event at Harrow Farm School organized by the Harrow Youth Foundation. 240 children from four local state schools attended over the two days July 10th and 11th and rotated around experiences ranging from a farm animal display to the bug hunt that we organized. This was a taster event and the intention is to roll it out for more schools based on the lessons learned at this event.

Simon and others from HNCf worked with Harrow Litterpickers to run an event in Newton Park West for St. Anselm's school, on June 27th and July 4th, where the children spent half the time collecting litter and half the time looking at newts and invertebrates from a local pond and from the Yeading Brook East in Newton Park West. Simon has been invited to visit St. Anselm's school to advise on how they might improve their site for nature.

Simon attended "Yes Fest", an event to empower children in school Years 4 & 5 to act for the planet, at Harrow School and West Lodge School.

Joshua Wright, who hopes to make conservation/ nature his career, spent the week Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July with Simon as work experience.

Hatch End Association

There was no representative present or report received. However there was a lively discussion about the large barn that is under construction in the fields at the foot of Oxhey Lane. Marilyn Ashton reported that the council is aware of the public disquiet and is monitoring the building work closely.

Harrow Hill Trust

There was no representative present or report received.

Pinner Association – Robin Youle

Harrow Council is consulting on designating an area of West End Lane and West End Avenue a “Local Area of Special Character”. Unlike Conservation Areas this designation does not give the council the power to block what would otherwise be permitted developments, but does help maintain the character of a location.

Turning on of the seasonal lighting in Central Pinner, which is paid for by the Pinner Association, will be earlier this year to include Diwali as well as Christmas.

Harrow Rivers Group – Angelique Soon

The group is now on social media at @harrowriversgroup.bskyb.social

A number of meetings were attended:

- River Pinn water quality training 20th March 2025, organised by Groundworks
- Brent River Catchment meeting 25th March 2025
- Crane Valley Smarter Water Catchment 13th May 2025
- River Brent Catchment meeting 12th June 2025

We met with Friends groups at Roxbourne Park and Headstone Manor Park, both groups are keen to have the passive water quality monitoring boxes that we are constructing installed in the Yeading Brook on their site.

There was discussion about the boxes; Leslie Bolsover would like at least one for the Roxbourne since the SOND that had been monitoring pollutants has recently been removed. Unfortunately one cannot be provided for Simon Braidman to monitor at the Winterbourne at Stanmore Marsh since the project only covers the Crane catchment.

We participated in the Brent Road Runoff Survey organized by Clean Up the River Brent and Imperial College; we sampled at Becmead Avenue next to Kenton Recreation Ground, and at Northwick Park. The analysis of the samples will be shared later.

The possibility of an educational campaign to Increase public awareness about the link from surface water drains to Harrow’s rivers - “Only Rain Down the Drain” for short – was discussed. See attached report from Angelique.

Any other business

Local councillors have agreed to fund an information panel about the ridge and furrow formation at Pinner Village Garden.

The Public Works of Art fund has a balance of £18,000 at present and no member on the committee to organize its disbursement. Leslie Bolsover suggested contacting Voluntary Action Harrow, who might suggest possible applicants.

Leslie Bolsover requested copy for the next Trust newsletter.

Date of next meeting

This will be arranged by consulting members. It was emphasized that it should be done soon to ensure that we find a date suitable for a majority of people, including our new meetings secretary Nic Jackson.

HARROW HERITAGE TRUST - FUNDS AT 31ST MARCH 2025					
FUNDS	INCOMING RESOURCES	OUTGOING RESOURCES	MOVEMENT IN YEAR	OPENING FUND BALANCE (2024)	CLOSING FUND BALANCE
GENERAL (UNRESTRICTED)	19,655.70	19,188.85	466.85	36,930.98	37,397.83
PUBLIC WORKS OF ART	1,002.13	52.50	949.63	17,445.96	18,395.59
HERITAGE GRANTS	1,536.83	2,000.00	463.17	31,573.39	31,110.22
WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE	0.52	790.99	790.47	3,142.68	2,352.21
HEADSTONE MANOR APPEAL	4,686.80	0.00	4,686.80	95,023.62	99,710.42
	26,881.98	22,032.34	4,849.64	184,116.63	188,966.27

Current Financial Position

March 31st 2025 Balance: **188,966.27**

INCOME		
	Membership	£155.00
	Donations	£110.00
	Corporate Workdays (HNCF)	£623.00
	COIF Interest	
	Total	£888.00
EXPENDITURE	Admin	£746.00
	HNCF	£1987.00
	Total	£2733.00

July 21st, 2025, Balance: **185, 121.27**

Harrow Nature Conservation Forum report to Harrow Heritage Trust 21st July 2025

A lot of my attention has been concentrated on Bentley Priory. This is partly because it is our largest site and our only Site of Special Scientific Interest, but also because the new warden team of Tony Hassan, Martin Fairley and Andrew Fernandes are settling in and need support. At the AGM on 14th May 2025 Tony Hassan was confirmed as chief warden with Martin Fairley and Andrew Fernandes as assistant wardens. Tony proved his mettle as a hands on warden during two episodes of significant sewage pollution; one in the woodlands below Summerhouse Lake that we noticed in March 2025 and one in May 2025 from outflow from the Bentley Priory Housing estate at the top of the site. In both cases as a result of Tony alerting the authorities four or five Thames Water vehicles were on site for a number of days. Tony is having an operation today at Northwick Park and will not be doing physical work on the site for two months but after that should be back stronger; we wish him (and are counting on!) a speedy recovery.

We have contributed to a number of events with schools. Simon will talk about events with St Anselm's, St Bernadotte's and Grange schools; in addition older children from St Dominics school spent a day working at Stanmore Country Park on 2nd July 2025.

We have found a helpful and enthusiastic colleague in David Raven who works at the Forest School at Bentley Old Vicarage nature reserve and runs a company "Woods and Wellbeing" to provide nature experiences for children.

On 31st May 2025 we ran a BioBlitz at Church Fields, a wonderful example of rewilded grassland on Harrow Hill. It was exhausting – Leslie and I began setting up at 9:30 AM and got home at midnight after the evening moth trapping – but we had some great interactions with members of the public including local children and the 8th and 19th Harrow Cubs. Our total haul was 102 confirmed species. This is an absolutely gorgeous site and a credit to Harrow. Judging by our interactions with the public the rewilded site is popular with local residents and I hope our day there helped that cement that favourable opinion.

In contrast the small wildflower area at Stanmore Little Common, created in 2022, has been abandoned. An increasing proportion of the local residents disliked this area and we regretfully went along with the Council's decision this spring to return it to close-cropped species-poor amenity grassland. This shows the importance of communicating with all the community and making sure that one is not only in contact with those who think the same way as oneself – that seems to have been the mistake made at Stanmore Little Common.

At the last meeting on the 3rd of March 2025 I showed the draft version of a leaflet that I had created to try and persuade people not to pave over their front gardens. Leslie and I talked with Matthew Adams at the Council on 26th June 2025 and he said that the council would support a leaflet if the emphasis was on how to turn your front garden into both a place to park a car, and to have plants and be good for nature. I agreed to try and generate such a leaflet.

Independent of this, I was contacted on the 15th of July by the CPRE (which used to be called the Council for the Preservation of Rural England) who wrote “CPRE London is putting together a bid for Green Roots for action on front gardens – we need to do this very quickly (by 30 July) because we’re on leave after that.” On 17th July I wrote to Matthew Adams: “We are keen to join this project but thought we should check first that Harrow Council would be supportive. Any work would be done by volunteers from HNCf and the Harrow Rivers Group. As you see the deadline for us responding to CPRE is 30th July.” Matthew forwarded my email to Michael Bradshaw to respond; Michael wrote today “We would not object to HNCf supporting a bid by CPRE but we can't support this as we are early stages of planning our own LB Harrow Green Roots bid and each borough is only permitted one bid per borough for this grant.”

We note the arrival at Harrow Council of Nick Bolton, the interim Principal Ecologist. To my knowledge he has visited Bentley Priory, Old Redding and Stanmore Common and has made some interesting suggestions about future management.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS GRANTS – JOHN ORCHARD

Since the last HHT meeting there have been two enquiries for HHT grant assistance:-

- (i) Grade II* Listed Grims Dyke Hotel, Harrow Weald - restoration of heron statues. Having visited the site an application form was issued on the 14th April 2025 to Helenka Jurgielewicz, Head Gardener at the hotel. Currently no completed application form and quotations returned.
- (ii) Grade II Listed The Billiard Room, Harrow on the Hill - restoration of fenestration. Having visited the site an application form was issued on the 23rd April 2025. The completed form and quotations returned and a grant contribution of £3,000.00 for fenestration renovation agreed by the HHT Grants Sub-committee. Grant monies to be paid upon satisfactory completion of the renovation works.

Grade II Listed Goodengate, Stanmore Hill - roof repair works.

The completed application form was returned on the 25th April 2025 but the attached quotations appeared to be for two different projects and were not comparable.

The applicant was informed of the disparity on the 25th April 2025 and also that the proposed works did not tally with the Listed Building Consent description (PL/0045/25). Since then we have not received any further communication.

See attached list of historic structures in the public realm that have been identified as requiring essential repair and restoration work.

21st July 2025

HISTORIC STRUCTURES IN THE PUBLIC REALM IDENTIFIED AS REQUIRING ESSENTIAL REPAIRS AND RESTORATION.

Pinner New Cemetery locally listed entrance gates, railings and lamps.

Existing pier lamp to be repaired and made operational.

New pier lamp to match existing to be installed and both made operational on timer.

All gates to be overhauled and new locking installed.

Repair all metal work, cleaned down, primed and repainted black.

Paines Lane Cemetery entrance piers, walling, gates and railings.

New tarmacadam to frontage and bench to be cleaned down and timber treated.

Metal piers, walling and copings to be repaired, cleaned down and repainted in agreed colour.

Gates repaired, new locking installed and repainted black.

Railings to be cleaned down and black painted.

Electrical boxes to be cleaned down and repainted.

The Cedars Open Space, Grade II Listed stone piers, gates and railings.

Comprehensive survey and assessment of stonework and metalwork.

Stone pier to be rebuilt and other piers repaired with new carved replacement stone installed where necessary to match existing.

Stone from removed pier stored on site.

Gates to be repaired, cleaned down, primed and repainted black.

Railings to be repaired and extended into rebuilt stone pier.

Harrow Recreational Ground locally listed Pinner Road 1910 George V coronation entrance gates, piers and railings and Hindes Road entrance gates, piers and railings.

Gates, piers and railings to be repaired, cleaned down, primed and painted black.

Replace corroded inset 'unicorn' plaque in Pinner Road pedestrian gate to match existing.

Electrical box to be cleaned down, primed and repainted.

Harrow Cemetery Mortuary Chapel locally listed external fabric.

Slipped and broken roof tiles to be replaced.

Leaking cast-iron gutters and downpipes to be repaired or replaced.

Rotten timber windows and sills to be repaired or replaced.

Windows and doors to be cleaned down, primed and repainted white.

Damaged and eroded brickwork to be replaced.

Poor and eroded brickwork pointing to be replaced.

Grove Road Grade II Listed Harrow on the Hill War Memorial.

Stone paths, memorial surround and steps to the memorial to be taken up, levelled and re-laid with neat pointing.

New stone slabs to be installed to replace existing damaged and crumbling paving.

Harrow Rivers group sub committee report- Harrow Heritage trust meeting 21st July 2025

Bluesky social media account has been created
@harrowriversgroup.bskyb.social

Brent river catchment meeting 25th March Flood prevention pilot study in South harrow (Michael Bradshaw) where drainage held under people's driveways is hoped to delay surface water entering the river network and prevent flooding issues downstream.

River Pinn water quality training (20th march) - organised by Groundworks aims to survey the entirety of the Pinn and identify possible pollution sources. This differs from the ZSL outfall pipe survey that currently is carried out every other year on the Crane catchment as it also identifies road run off and manhole covers and bank erosion. There is 1 year to complete the survey.

Visited Roxbourne park (22nd April) and gave a presentation about the **Passive monitoring boxes** to the friends group. The Friends group are enthusiastic about having the boxes at Roxbourne and helped on site to locate the best areas to position the posts for the boxes. Also had a meeting with the members of the Friends group at Headstone a few weeks later who were also keen to have 2 or 3 boxes. The location of 2 boxes were decided and the Friends group said they would put posts in the brook which the passive monitoring boxes will be placed later on.

Crane Valley Smarter water catchment meeting (13th may) Gave update about passive monitoring boxes. And there still continues to be a great deal of sewage fungus in Yeading Walk and other areas

London Rivers week 30th May- 8th June River Pinn and Crane had walks starting in Harrow, Water Blitz and Chandos park Fun day

River Brent Catchment meeting 12th June included a Small workshop identifying areas with invasive species and harmful vegetation (japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed) along the brent catchment. Also possible npower grant for water monitoring By Simon Braidman? Visit Woodcock park and Lindsay drive afterwards.

Brent road run off survey with Clean up the River Brent and Imperial college has completed its 1st phase where road run off samples were collected from 50 sites on the river Brent Catchment. Not very much is currently known about the nature of the pollutants that gather on roads from vehicle tyres and brakes and what happens to them and the effect they have on watercourses when they get flushed into them when it rains so this is a very interesting and important study. Harrow Rivers Group were involved in Sampling 2 sites, Becmead Avenue next to kenton recreation ground and Northwick park. The samples have been analysed however the results are not yet permitted to be shared until later on in the study. The number of sites will be narrowed down for additional testing for phase 2.

Community report log link 'new' reports from page 6:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D8qXiMYtrukfLuTciBdegap1pzfE9JRGkVMM6iVCH6g/edit?usp=sharing>

Harrow Rivers Group

Surface Water drain educational campaign draft proposal Yellow fish- “Only Rain down the drain”

Aim:

To Increase public awareness about the link from surface water drains to Harrow's rivers. It is hoped that once this link is understood then people will take more care about what they put down these drains and so create a better less polluted environment in Harrow's rivers.

Possible methods:

- Visual indication of the link to river on/next to drain gratings, e.g Yellow fish spray painted on the area. Who to talk to in Harrow Council to get permission for this? (get college/gcse students to design stencil?) Bigger stencil for pavement spraying to expand on idea?
 - Talk to businesses about drain pollution issue
 - Leaflet
 - Posters,
 - Webpage,with info about issue
 - Activity for young people, decorate the drains with chalks? (road safety though?)
- Other ideas welcome

Yellow fish Resources:

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/east/what-we-do/yellowfish/>

Guidance manual for yellow fish: <http://oilcare.org.uk/avoid-pollution/yellow-fish/>

Funding;

Costings to be researched .

Crane valley community funding application deadline 16th september 2025.

Due to funding constraints by using the crane valley community Fund initially this project would only be carried out in the River Crane catchment, however there may be funding opportunities in the future for The Pinn and Brent catchments and then this could be rolled out to those areas too.

14/08/2025