



Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre

AGM & Supporters' Meeting

**Thursday 30th November 2017 at 8:00pm
at Finchley Youth Centre, 142 High Road, London N2 9ED**

Present

Roger Chapman (chairman), Cllr Alison Moore, Andry Moustras, Faith Robertson (Barnet Council), Hilary Townley, Jan Hassan, Karen Ali (Barnet Council), Ken Osborne (secretary), Lisa Bark (trustee), Mark Vargeson (Barnet Council), Sarah Pearce, Stephen Allen.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Roger Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting and there was a round-the-table introduction of attendees. He apologised that it had been a while since the previous AGM (held on 1 October 2015).

Apologies for absence had been received from: Adam Cohen, Cllr Arjun Mitra, Catherine Atkinson, Catherine Nolan (treasurer), Emilia Georgiou (trustee), Judy Osborne, Laura Davitt, Lene Venga, Lucy Harrison, Robina Spinks, Stan Spinks.

2. The Future of the Centre:

Karen Ali, Mark Vargeson and Faith Robertson all from Barnet Youth Service will discuss with us developing plans for the future of the centre and answer questions

Karen Ali started the discussion by saying that with the current budgetary situation the Youth Service was awaiting an announcement as to exactly what services would be continued in the future. She said that in these fast moving times, when resources are reducing, the Service was trying to keep up with the changing needs and deploy their resources in a flexible manner, helped by employing partnerships with other organisations.

She said that the Service was concentrated on two sites in the borough - Finchley Youth Centre and Canada Villa.

Mark Vargeson then gave a verbal presentation of the services offered. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation which he used is attached at **Annex 1**.

Mark explained that the Barnet Youth Service created opportunities for young people to engage and thrive through their programmes and to provide a supportive environment so that young people could address the challenges they are facing in their lives. He said that last year the Service helped 4170 young people from their two sites. Karen added that there are 18 full-time members in the Service plus part-time workers.

Mark outlined the services offered which included:

- Targeted Youth Work - promoting school attendance, street-based youth work, crime prevention, pre-court referrals, return home interviews for missing young people
- Positive Activities including arts-based activities at FYC and holiday activities
- Accreditation including Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Counselling service to give specialist support - both at FYC and Canada Villa - referrals being by the young people themselves or via GPs
- Young peoples drop in service - offers parents, carers, professionals and young people the opportunity to access a confidential place to speak to a youth worker without an appointment and give advice on a range of topics and issues such as housing, education and employment - held every week at Canada Villa

- Youth Homelessness - Karen added that the Council has responsibility for 16-17 year olds and they work in conjunction with Centre Point

Mark then gave more details of the plans for FYC. He said that after Liz Sacre left in July the Youth Services team stepped in. At the moment eight organisations were providing a range of programmes for young people and next term a further four organisations would be employed. The Youth Service was working to ensure that the space was used effectively and that the activities are of the expected standard. He added that various organisations wanted to use the Centre but the Council were prioritising its use for youth services.

He said that the Spring 2018 term would include creative arts, volunteering, an accreditation night, a live band night and opening of the cafe in the foyer.

A timetable of activities for January 2018 would be issued shortly which would show that the Centre would be used every day of the week.

The floor was then opened for questions, which included the following:

- Roger said that this all sounded quite promising for the future of FYC. He asked for more details about the cafe. Faith said that they were still in discussions with organisations and would ensure that all provided a similar menu of food and drinks. Volunteers who would be needed to run the cafe would need suitable training in food hygiene, etc. Mark said that it was intended to open 3 days per week initially. A public WiFi system would be installed so that young people could also do work there - the initial opening would be limited to the young people who were already participating in activities at FYC but in the future it would be open to the general public. Hilary mentioned the possibility of partnering with local businesses.
- Hilary said that she is involved with an East Finchley local business network (N2United - <http://n2united.co.uk/>) and suggested that the Council could partner with local businesses to help provide facilities at FYC. She was willing to help in this respect.
- Sarah asked how the activities at FYC would be advertised and promoted. Karen said various channels would be used such as the Barnet Council and barnetyouth.uk websites, the Barnet First magazine and by displaying information on the notice board outside the building. She also said that with the 70th anniversary of the opening of the "Youth Hall" next year this would give a good opportunity to promote the activities. Faith added that Facebook and Twitter would be used plus information being given to local schools.
- Andry asked how occupied the building was with activities. Mark said that some or all of the building was used every morning and evening although there were some gaps in occupancy at the moment.
- Stephen said that he hoped the current activities would continue next year and he thought it important to keep the activities theatre-focussed.
- Hilary asked how many of the activities were performance-based, both at FYC and Canada Villa. Karen replied that a large proportion of the activities were performance-based. The Council recognised that using the arts to communicate was key but the Council had to deliver targeted youth activities so there had to be a balance. Mark added that the current users were all arts-based (apart from the church's use on Sundays).
- Mark said that they hoped to get some of the activities currently run during the holidays (eg. digital photography, technical theatre skills) to take place during term-time.
- Stephen said that two of the groups were using FYC were not specifically youth-focussed and he was worried that they may get shut down. He added that when young people with learning difficulties reached the age of 25 a lot of activities disappeared. Karen said that they had recognised that issue when Liz was in charge and had considered using the library but that idea had not been developed. She added that nothing prevented the Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre from running activities themselves but that would not be funded by the Council. Mark said that those groups which were using FYC at the moment would continue to be able to use it.
- Andry asked whether the activities were for all young people just those with special needs. Mark replied saying that all youth were catered for.
- Faith said that there will be an email link to raise issues and questions. Karen added that contact details will be provided on the notice board outside.
- Lisa asked what FoFYT could do to help to which Karen asked what FoFYT could offer. Roger said that FoFYT had contacts with a lot of people in the local community and could access funds so the opportunity to work closely with the Council should be very useful.

- Alison said that the anniversary celebrations next year and the East Finchley summer festival would be invaluable in publicising the activities. Faith said that she would be pleased if the Friends could help in the planning of the anniversary celebrations.

Roger then closed this agenda item saying that the discussions had been very useful and that we should plan to have similar meetings more frequently.

3. A look back over the past year's activities of the Friends

3a Chairman's report

Roger said that FoFYT's purpose was to fund raise and support the work of Finchley Youth Theatre. Since the last AGM they had sponsored several young people's activities. Funds had increased from donations by individuals and organisations and there was currently around £2800 in the bank and PayPal accounts (note that donations via PayPal can be made via the website www.fofyt.co.uk > Donate tab or by cheque or bank transfer - contact the treasurer for details - nolan.m.catherine@googlemail.com).

There had been some changes to the Trustees since the last AGM - see §4 below.

The history project was continuing - see §5 below.

3b Secretary's Report

Ken said that there were now 76 people on the Supporters' email list but some previous Supporters' email addresses had been rejected so he stressed that it was important for people to advise him of changes to their email addresses.

He reminded people of the FoFYT website at www.fofyt.co.uk which was managed by the webmaster Tony Batchelor (who now lives in Denmark but who used to live in East Finchley with strong ties to the theatre). Ken said that he liaised with Tony to get changes and additions made to the website and gave thanks to Tony for his invaluable work.

Ken continued by saying that his main role was writing the minutes of the meetings - the Supporters' meeting and the FoFYT Board meetings (which were attended by the Trustees every couple of months). He said that the Board meeting minutes are published on the website (under the Meetings/Events tab) after approval by the Trustees (normally at the next Board meeting).

Ken added that there was also a Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre Facebook page which Roger looks after, and encouraged people to look at it and contribute. There is also a Twitter page at https://twitter.com/Fo_FYT.

3c Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Catherine, the income and expenditure since the previous AGM are presented at **Annex 2**. Note that the bank account has changed in the current year from Co-op to Barclays.

4. Appointment of trustees

The FoFYT Constitution requires that all trustees are elected/re-elected at the AGM.

Since the last AGM Marian Stratton and Marie Clark had resigned. The current trustees are:

- Roger Chapman (Chairman)
- Catherine Nolan (Treasurer)
- Ken Osborne (Secretary)
- Emilia Georgiou
- Marley Seville
- Lisa Bark

All were all willing to continue, with the possible exception of Marley who had not attended Board meetings or responded to emails recently so Roger would try to contact him again to see if he wished to continue.

Roger said that if anyone else wished to become a Trustee they should express an interest either now or by contacting himself or Ken. Sarah Pearce asked what was involved and Roger explained. After the meeting ended Jan Hassan expressed a possible interest and would be invited to the next Board meeting to help decide whether she wanted to become a Trustee.

All of the existing Trustees were re-elected.

5. History Project on the Finchley Youth Theatre

Catherine had been responsible for the History Project in conjunction with Tony Batchelor. Some information was currently on the website under the Historical Archive tab but the addition of further information was in process. Ken would email Supporters when any significant updates had been added.

6. Any other Business

Nothing was raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting

No date was set. The Secretary will inform Supporters by email when a date has been agreed by the Board.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm.

Note that at the subsequent FoFYT Board meeting on 18 January 2018 Roger Chapman resigned as Chairman but will still be a Trustee. Lisa Bark was elected as the new Chairman.

Annexes:

- **Annex 1** - Barnet Council Youth Service presentation (presented verbally by Mark Vargeson)
 - **Annex 2** - Income and Expenditure
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Annex 1

Barnet Youth Service presentation

 <p>Barnet Youth Service</p> <p>Finchley Youth Centre</p> <p>Thursday 30th November 2017</p>	<h3>Who are we?</h3> <p>We are Barnet Youth Service –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-We create opportunities for young people to engage and thrive through our programmes.-We provide a supportive environment for young people to address the challenges they are facing in their lives.-4170 young people worked with the service last year.-The Youth Service operates from two sites – Canada Villa and Finchley Youth Centre.
<h3>What services do we offer?</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Targeted Youth Work- Positive Activities- Accreditation including Duke of Edinburgh's Award- Counselling service- Young peoples drop in service- Youth Homelessness	<h3>Targeted Youth Work</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ School attendance: promote attendance and reduce absence▸ Detached youth work: street-based youth work. Currently working in 5 areas across the borough. In addition, targeted work is delivered through the KYPs project. (Keeping Young People Safe)▸ Casework: referral based and covers many areas including CSE, crime-prevention and self-esteem▸ Pre-court: referrals direct from Police for Triage, caution and Youth conditional caution▸ Return Home Interviews for young people who have gone missing. 
<h3>Drop in provision</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ This service offers parents, carers, professionals and young people the opportunity to access a confidential place to speak to a youth worker without an appointment.▸ This service can offer advice on a range of topics and issues such as housing, education and employment.▸ The drop-in runs at Canada Villa Youth Centre every Wednesday from 11.30am – 7pm. 	<h3>Finchley Youth Centre</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ So far – 8 organisations delivering to ensure a range of programmes on offer to young people.▸ We have worked to ensure the space and activities are of an expected standard.▸ Next term – at least 4 more organisations utilising the space.▸ Spring term will include – Accreditation night, Live band night, Creative Arts, Volunteering, Launch of the Arts Award and opening of café space.

**Annex 2
Income and Expenditure**

Income and Expenditure 1 October 2015 - 4 November 2017	£
Income	
Donations from individuals (net of PayPal charges)	288.04
Donation from East Finchley Open	1000.00
Donation from Nationwide	100.00
Donation from East Finchley Methodist Church for Alan Jobson fund	564.50
Donation from The Archer to purchase ballet barres #	390.60
Donation from First Give / Fortismere School	250.00
TOTAL INCOME	2593.14
Expenditure	
Sponsored Places for FYT activities	452.00
Ballet barres for FYT dance studio #	390.60
Website Hosting	55.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	898.10
BALANCE (bank account + PayPal)	2924.04

Note: donation and expenditure for the ballet barres did not pass through the bank account for administrative reasons
