

We are asked 'What is fairness?'

'Fairness' in this context, should be regarded as all Haringey residents receiving their basic rights, rather than that they should receive a fair share from available limited resources. Even though Haringey Council is confronted with severe budget cuts the Fairness Commission needs to avoid a rationing mind set, but must instead focus on the entitlements of residents.

It is important to combat the east west divide in Haringey and to encourage citizens in both constituencies to work together confronting their common problems.

Topics, what should be looked at? Why?

The topics important to Hornsey Pensioners are their basic rights:

- to have care when frail and in need, i.e. adequate social services.
- for mobility, with accessible transport,
- to a warm safe home, adapted for elderly or disabled residents.
- an age-friendly & safe street environment with seating, and public toilets.
- access – to venues, such as meeting places, especially libraries, equipped for those with disabilities including hearing loops.
- to be able to meet together, and therefore to have **affordable venues**.
- to be able to **travel easily** across the borough, with good bus services, not badly affected by traffic congestion, in order that east and west residents can meet.
- to be informed about services provided locally to which they are entitled.

Stories case-studies

We could give examples of members who lack the rights listed.

In particular HPAG is funded by members' subscriptions. Venues that are accessible, near transport, with meeting facilities, preferably with a hearing loop are extremely difficult to find and afford. We service and fund our own office work, notice production etc. In practice we serve as an information exchange that is found useful.

Some other boroughs provide a community centre where pensioners can find advice, a lunch club, meeting rooms and help with meetings. In Haringey we have no access to such a centre.

- Many of our members would like to downsize but cannot do so locally.
- Many struggle with home adaptation; response from Haringey services for help is slow or non-existent.
- Information on services to which they are entitled is scattered and confusing. Advice on how to access services is also lacking.
- Many are carers and have too little support.
- There are 2 public toilets, one in Muswell Hill, another in Crouch End, but far apart and rather forbidding.
- Many cannot use the public library in Muswell Hill, as the lift to the entrance floor often breaks down. There is no lift to the upper floor and no toilet provision, neither for general use nor for disabled people.

About our group

We have approximately over 140 members, retired men and women, including couples, from differing nationalities and experiences. Our group meets monthly. More information on the website