

Spring Grove Residents' Association
Minutes of the AGM – 25 May 2016, Parish Hall

PRESENT

Chairman: Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz

Committee members: Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Pippa Sparks, Dawn Trigg, Sean Yeates

Residents: Approximately 25 (including the above)

Guests: *Kingston University:* Aranee Manoharan, Student Community Engagement Advisor, *MP:* James Berry *Grove Ward Councillor:* Jon Tolley

1. **Apologies for Absence:**, Councillors Rebekah Moll and Phil Doyle, Grove Ward Police Team, Emma Poole and Paul Hemmings, (committee members)
2. **Kingston University: Aranee Manoharan (AM), Student Community Engagement Advisor**
 - AM's role is to develop & implement a student community engagement plan to enhance student engagement in university and in local communities. She is particularly involved in 3 projects this year including a community mapping project (in which students have walked the entire 326km of streets in the borough) and a project to involve students who live outside Kingston.
 - She also works on both sides of protecting students and the community, working (a) to safeguard students in the community as some as vulnerable and susceptible, and (b) with the complaints team who deal with complaints from the community – complaints@kingston.ac.uk), She manages the University's Police relationships (and has a monthly meeting with them) and runs the KU volunteering programme <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/in-the-community/volunteering-in-the-community/> so if we need volunteers to help with a project please get in touch with her.
 - The planning application for Town House has been approved and building will start this year. Deirdre Ferrier of KU would be able to answer any detailed questions about this. <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/aboutkingstonuniversity/campus-development/new-town-house/>
 - Issues raised in the Q and A included: (i) a concern by a local resident about drug dealing in the alley between Portland Rd and Bellevue (ii) a query about whether the halls of residence were going to be outsourced and if so what are the implications (iii) strong concerns about speeding by the University buses, particularly along Villiers Rd. AM agreed to look into all these issues.
 - The view of the meeting was that issues with student noise and disruption are markedly less than a few years ago.
3. **James Berry, MP**

In the year since his election JB has attended many public meetings and dealt with 3700 items of case work (of which ~40% housing, 40% immigration, 20% very mixed). He reported on a number of areas of potential interest to SGRA residents including:

 - Policing: now 12 extra police officers for Kingston Town Centre which have led to more arrests - Kingston is now officially the safest London borough.
 - Education: Hollyfield recently uprated by Ofsted to "good", all RBK schools except one now good or outstanding. School funding however an issue – JB has a campaign for fairer funding for Kingston on his website <http://www.jamesberryp.com/fairer-school-funding> as Kingston schools receive ~£4,600pa compared with e.g. £7,000 in Tower Hamlets.
 - Transport: Consultation in progress for the next franchise on the railways as the current South West trains–franchise expires in Aug 2017. <http://www.jamesberryp.com/what-would-you-change-about-local-rail-services> . JB has submitted to the consultation on Crossrail 2 for it to come to every station in Kingston as he believes it will be essential to relieve overcrowding. <http://www.jamesberryp.com/15815-2> . He will update the SGRA on any news about whether TfL

may run local trains as part of London Overground (they will definitely not run the long distance trains)

- Housing: JB noted the difficulty in meeting the need for more housing (8,500 people on waiting list for Council Houses) plus the requirement for Kingston to build 635 new homes a year and the need for more $\frac{3}{4}$ bed homes with the desire not to have large tower blocks or spoil the local area. He holds regular meetings about housing with, inter alia, Housing Associations.
- There were a number of questions put to JB (including questions asked at other points in the meeting). He agreed to get back to residents on a number of issues including speeding in Villiers Rd, CAAC charging, the status of the care home in Beaufort Rd, South West Trains/TfL developments, liaison between NHW/police. [At the date of writing the minutes – 28 May – he had written to Kevin Davis about CAAC charging, written to set up a meeting about speeding and reported back about the Beaufort Rd care home)].

4. Minutes of the 2015 AGM : Approved.

5. **Chairman's Report:** It has been an active year locally with many community events. The committee continued with all its regular activities (organising events such as the barn dance, keeping contact with councillors/ MP/ police/ university, delivering Springboard, running the website, Facebook page monitoring all planning applications in the SGRA area plus some of the larger applications outside the area (including TOPO, Eden Walk, Dairy Crest (including a meeting with Bellenden), Hotel Antoinette etc. The committee wrote a letter of support for KU's Town House application).
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Income in the year ending 31/3/16 totalled £120, all from advertising receipts from Springboard. Expenditure totalled £510. The two largest items were Springboard costs (£246) and annual public liability insurance (£191). The primary reason for the £390 shortfall between income and expenditure was the timing of the barn dance; there was no dance in the FY2015/6 as the 2015 dance was held in March but the 2016 one in April. However even when the receipts for this year's dance (£159) are considered there was a net reduction in the accumulated fund which stood at £594 on 30/4/16. Options to redress this include re-considering the annual liability insurance and a kind offer by Phil Chapman to donate a share of the funds that will be raised at a proposed acoustic evening later this year. The accounts have been audited.
7. **Election of the Committee/** All the previous year's committee members were willing to stand except for Peter Czaja who has stood down as the rep for Balmoral Rd. There were no further volunteers to join the committee despite publishing the positions in Springboard and asking for volunteers at the meeting. The committee for 2016/17 is thus: **Chairman:** Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz **Committee Members;** Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Paul Hemmings, Emma Poole, Pippa Sparks, Dawn Trigg, Sean Yeates.
8. **Approval of SGRA representatives on Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Council:**
 - Pippa Sparks and Joan McConn were approved as SGRA representatives on Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Council (CAAC).
 - Karol Smal said that CAAC, which for many years has held its monthly meetings in the evening in Guildhall has recently been told that they must either pay for the use of the room in the evening (at a rate of well over £100 per hour) or meet so as to finish by 7pm (which would be difficult for most of the volunteers on the committee). James Berry agreed to write a letter to the Council Leader, Kevin Davis about this (and he did so on 26 May).
9. **AOB**
 - There was a question about the link between Neighbourhood Watch and the Police team as there were no communications to residents following a recent burglary. The SGRA committee was asked to do what it could to ensure that information is being passed on.

- Two residents from Villiers Road raised concerns about speeding. They distributed results from a speed survey undertaken over 4 days in October 2015. The speed of over 27,000 vehicles was recorded over this period in which 73% (ie ~20,000 cars) exceeded the 20mph speed-limit, 5% (1,300 cars) were travelling at 30mph+ , 44 were above 40mph and 3 above 60mph. There had been a bad accident outside their house. The residents had written repeatedly to the Council suggesting a number of measures to be taken but nothing has been done. It was agreed to set up a meeting between the Council, the police, the SGRA and James Berry.

10. **Kingston Council: Jon Tolley**

- ASBO issues are reducing but are still a problem
- On the spot fines for dropping litter, including cigarette ends, are being introduced. JT believes that a great problem is fly-tipping (including by businesses) and that fines for this should be increased.
- From next year Greenleas in Mill Street will be used as sheltered housing for vulnerable young people (who will live with a warden on site).
- Consultation underway for a new policy on licensing which will particularly target underage drinking and aim to reduce anti-social behaviour in the borough.
- The Cambridge Estate is being regenerated.
- There were questions about when the cycle lane on Portsmouth Road will be useable, what will be done about the sites on Lower Marsh Lane opposite Addison Gardens where a large number of trees have been cut down and when building was likely to start on the Dairy Crest development. Concerns were expressed about the volume of traffic on Lower Marsh Lane. JT agreed to find out and report back to the SGRA.