

**Spring Grove Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of the AGM – 27 April 2017, Parish Hall**

**PRESENT**

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

**Committee members:** Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Pippa Sparks, Dawn Trigg, Paul Hemmings **Residents:** Approximately 20 (including the above)

**Guests:** *MP:* James Berry *Grove Ward Councillor:* Rebekah Moll

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Jon Tolley and Phil Doyle, Aranee Manoharan (KU Student Community Engagement Advisor), Grove Ward Police Team, Emma Poole and Sean Yeates (committee members)
  
2. **James Berry, MP**
  - One of the positive outcomes from last year's SGRA AGM was that, following a concern raised about speeding on Villiers Road, design work has been undertaken by the Council, a proposal drawn up and there will be a public consultation on the plans this summer.
  - Kingston is now officially the safest borough in London. However there has been a rise in burglaries, particularly near the A3 and particularly early on winter evenings, with criminals driving in via the A3 and breaking in via side returns. JB organised a campaign to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) Cameras throughout the Borough – these will be installed this year. [More info](#)
  - Evening and weekend GP services are being rolled out across the borough. There are now 3 surgeries in the scheme and a number to call (020 3841 9942) to make appointments. [More info](#) Kingston Hospital has been awarded nearly £1 million for a major transformation of A&E which should help alleviate the overcrowding seen last winter. [More info](#)
  - Network Rail has awarded funding to Surbiton station to reduce overcrowding by building another staircase from Platforms 3 and 4. This will be the mirror image of the existing staircase. First MTR have been awarded the franchise for South West trains from 20th August. They will take over from Stagecoach who have held it since privatisation in 1996. [More info](#) There will be significant works taken place at Waterloo during August in order to bring the former Eurostar platforms back into use. Services will be seriously disrupted during this time. JB is continuing the cross-party work that has been done to try to rezone Kingston and Surbiton from Zone 6 into Zone 5. He had a meeting set up with First MTR but this is likely to be rescheduled in light of the General Election.
  - In addition to questions on the topics above JM answered questions about whether the hearings about the large development projects in Kingston, were stacked in favour of the developers, affordable housing and the impact of all the extra housing on schools, GPs and other services. There is funding of £2.5M for additional school places but he noted the inequity of the National Funding Formula whereby Kingston's children currently receive £2000+ less per pupil than some other boroughs (Kingston ~ £4,600 per pupil, Tower Hamlets £7,000). There may be funding available for a new GP hub in Kingston.
  - After JB left there was discussion about another related item - the redevelopment projects going on in Kingston today and in the future. One resident made a suggestion that the Council should seek to modernise how they report transparently on the key attributes of a project? She suggested that a grid could be created near the start of any written materials by the Council in assessing the suitability of a development. The grid would note items such as Great London Authority requirements and policies that must be met (top level or more detailed requirements as you explained to us) and continue with any policy, or building or heritage requirements from RBK that are associated with the application being considered. It would then place ticks or crosses where things are "met" or "not met" with the objective of helping non-experts to understand what is going on and goes on and would help immensely when residents are involved in reading the applications and attending the hearings. [Since the meeting the resident has emailed JB about this and he has agreed to take this up with the

Leader of the Council and then report back when he has a response].

**3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM : Approved.**

4. **Chairman's Report:** It has been yet another active year locally with many community events including the SGRA barn dance which is very good value at £8 for a full evening's food and dancing. Two events in the near future include (i) the Spring Grove Acoustic evening on 29 April which is being organised by committee member Phil Chapman and Tony Hardy with proceeds going to Love Kingston and (ii) the BloomFields Street Party on 13<sup>th</sup> May. 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. It also wrote a letter of strong support for St John's Heritage Lottery Fund application. A very big thank you to Karol Smal and Joan McConn for producing all the Springboards for the last 25 years. Thank you too to Phil Chapman for taking on the role.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Income in the year ending 31/3/17 totalled £458, from advertising receipts from Springboard and from the two barn dances held during the financial year (an oddity - as the Spring dance of 2016 was held in April while in 2017 it was in March). Expenditure totalled £372 which was considerably less than last year due to the reduction in the Annual Public Liability Insurance as the Spring Grove Fringe now pay a greater share. The two largest items were Springboard costs (£233) and annual public liability insurance (£60). Income exceeded expenditure by £86 and the the accumulated fund is £540. The accounts have been audited.
6. **Election of the Committee** All the previous year's committee members were willing to stand except for Paul Hemmings who has stood down. He was thanked for all he had done for the SGRA. Mark Clutterbuck has agreed to join the committee in a job share with Pippa Sparks. 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 2017/18 is thus: **Chairman:** Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz **Committee Members;** Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Emma Poole, Pippa Sparks/Mark Clutterbuck, Dawn Trigg, Sean Yeates.
7. **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).
8. **Kingston University: Report sent by Aranee Manoharan (AM), Student Community Engagement Advisor (delivered by Jackie Steinitz)**
- AM sent her apologies that she was unable to attend but sent a written report
  - The university has continued to maintain collaborative partnerships with the local Police and Council in order to proactively and pre-emptively address issues relating to students and the University. There is a monthly Police Group meeting, which PC Matt Cefai attends along with the KU Security Manager, the Halls Manager, the Union of Kingston Students, as well as other relevant areas. If there are issues which to be addressed, please email [community@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:community@kingston.ac.uk) with as much detail as you can provide, and this will be investigated swiftly
  - The university provide opportunities for students to engage and work in the community in 3 ways with programmes run by the Union of Kingston Students, Kingston Hub and Student Engagement (which runs degree-related community projects. eg architecture students have worked with the Council to re-design some green space for a residential neighbourhood in South of the Borough which provides great experience for the students, but is also beneficial for the local community). It is hoped to broker more of these types of projects in the coming year. If you have any projects which would appropriate please email Aranee and she will put you in touch with the right people.
  - Town house construction is set to begin soon (in mid-May)

- The Tower Block at Knights Park refurbishments are set to begin on 20 July and finish on 6 October. The work includes replacement of the existing roof covering, masonry repairs and external redecoration.
- There are no updates yet on whether Halls of Residences will leave university administration
- If there are any questions please email Jackie ([jackie@springgrovekingston.co.uk](mailto:jackie@springgrovekingston.co.uk)) and she will forward them.
- Phil Harvey noted that he had raised issues with the university buses on several occasions in the past but that this year they are much better. He asked that a message should be passed to Aranee. (done)
- The view of the meeting was that issues with student noise and disruption are markedly less than a few years ago. This will also be relayed to Aranee together with our thanks.

## 9. **Kingston Council: Councillor Rebekah Moll**

- RM updated the meeting on the current status of some of the major planning projects. Work on KU's Town House will begin in mid-May. Eden Walk has been approved but there are still issues to be resolved before building can begin so timing is likely to be tight to fit in with the permitted 2-year time frame. Work on the Old Post Office is underway and this will be done in sections. The flagship corner building is being redesigned in conjunction with the developer, St Georges, with input from a panel of 22 residents. Swan House on the Portsmouth Road will be developed into a primary school and residential units. The Dairy Crest site has been sold with planning permission; works will need to start within the time limit.
- A major issue when RM has been out talking with residents has been Surbiton Crescent which has been closed to public traffic on a trial basis. However many motorists, unaware of the change and have been fined and there is widespread concern that the signs are not fit for purpose even though they have recently been changed to fit minimum requirements. RM is campaigning to get the signage improved and also to resolve issues of access.
- In the Q and A RM answered questions about the Market House, the Old Bingo Hall site, King Athelstan School's caretaker cottage, local provision for homeless people. She spoke about the Lib Dem's campaign, led by Cllr Tolley for a tap in Kingston Town Centre to help the homeless, cyclists etc.
- A resident asked via email if the Council, now that they have repaved Portland and Herbert Roads could pave the residents' side of Horace Road as it is very uneven.
- Another resident queried whether the procedure at Council planning meetings which appeared to be stacked against objectors since they were only allowed to speak at the beginning and therefore were not able to respond to points which are made subsequently. Many at the meeting felt that th

## 10. **AOB**

- Chloe, who is on the committee organising the BloomFields street party on 13<sup>th</sup> May spoke about the event which will include music, bar, food and entertainment. Help with the planning or on the day would be greatly appreciated.
- Information sent by email by Hannah Hines about St John's regeneration project was read out. In March an application was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a major restoration to the Church building (which is now almost 150 years old) so that it can be enhanced as a worship space, a community hub and a heritage centre. A decision is expected by mid-June.