

Spring Grove Residents Association
Minutes of the 2018 AGM, 23 May 2018, Parish Hall, Grove Lane

PRESENT

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

Committee members: Gordon Bell, Mark Clutterbuck, Pippa Sparks, Dawn Trigg

Residents: Approximately 25 (including the above)

Guests: *Kingston University:* Aranee Manoharan, *Grove Ward Police Team:* PC Cefai & PC Stilliard, *Grove Ward Councillor:* Fiona Boulton, *Kingston & Surbiton MP:* Ed Davey

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Vicky Maunder (Vicar, St John's Church), Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey and Sean Yeates (committee members)
2. **Minutes of last year's AGM:** Approved.
3. **Kingston University: Aranee Manoharan (AM), Student Community Engagement Advisor**
 - KU is currently going through a period of transformation in which AM is taking on a new role. Once the new Student Community Engagement Adviser has been confirmed AM will provide contact details to Jackie. [Done. Andrew Gill is the new Stakeholder Engagement Advisor].
 - Construction of Town House is well underway. The building will open to students and the community in September 2019. Local residents had the opportunity to take a tour of the site in March – and AM will investigate whether a future tour for SGRA residents might be possible. The best way to find out further details about the development is to attend the Civic Reception on 12th June 2018 at Penrhyn Road campus from 5pm. AM also suggested that a member of the Stakeholder Engagement Team be invited to a future SGRA meeting to provide more detail on Town House.
 - AM's new role will include a focus on getting students more involved in the local community through academic courses so that students achieve their learning objectives and gain practical experience whilst contributing to the local area. AM requested that if SGRA residents work with charities or community-based organisations and have an idea for a project with a particular course (e.g. engineering, psychology, architecture etc.) then get in touch with her so that she can work with you to see how it could be embedded.
 - The Q&A included a question about student numbers and student halls. AM said that the university is looking to reduce its numbers slightly from its current level of 16000 noting (i) that this figure includes not just the 4 university campuses in Kingston but also across partner institutions across the UK and abroad (ii) the majority of students studying across the 4 main campuses commute from outside RBK (iii) the new student halls were private and have nothing to do with the university. She recommended if residents had queries about the numbers of private student halls being developed they should contact the Council who give planning permission for such builds.
 - There was a question about the Knights Park development activity. The work is likely to continue for the next academic year and is mainly focussed on refurbishments to ensure students have the best experience. She mentioned that the End of Year Exhibitions will be in place soon and that residents should visit them if they can.
4. **Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood Police Team : PC Stilliard and PC Cefai**
 - PC Cefai outlined in detail the restructuring whereby police forces from Kingston, Richmond, Wandsworth, Merton are merging as of 23 May 2018 into the South West Basic Command Unit. More information here: <http://news.met.police.uk/news/met-announces-changes-to-local-policing-294044>. Kingston police station will be remaining open 24/7.
 - At the University the accreditation of 12 KUSCO officers with certain police powers has had a big impact on antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of the University sites.
 - Priorities for Grove Ward Police are set by a Ward panel. If any resident would like to join the panel or suggest priorities for the Grove Ward team please get in touch with PC Cefai or PC Stilliard,

- The Q&A included questions about recent lead thefts, trends in reported crimes, speeding on Villiers Road and Portland Road, particularly near the school, and about whether it would be beneficial to install a speed camera. PC Cefai talked about the need to design out the opportunities for speeding.

5. Councillor Fiona Boulton (FB): Grove Ward Councillor, Royal Borough of Kingston

- FB is the new Councillor for Grove Ward elected just 3 weeks ago.
- So far she has undertaken several training days, made a planning site visit, and held meetings about The Old Post Office site, Go Cycle, the Enhanceable Centre in Geneva Road and residents' concerns about Surbiton High coaches etc.
- In the period before and after the election she has spoken with many residents from Villiers Rd to learn more about their concerns and will be looking at possible solutions.
- She invited residents to get in touch with any concerns and noted that she is always to be seen around the area walking the dog or on her bike.
- In the Q&A concerns were raised about: (i) the huge Clancy Docwra lorries which are driving up and down Lower Marsh Lane early each morning and evening and shaking the houses. (ii) the measures that had been taken last year on Villiers Rd and the lack of engagement at the time in consulting residents (iii) the new system for parking (with everyone wanting the continuation of scratch cards) (iv) the apparent higher costs if a Ringo App is used compared to paying by bank card and (v) pedestrian access to the tip. FB agreed to further investigate all the above.

6. Ed Davey (ED), MP

- ED offered to speak about either national or local issues – but suggested, as this was an RA meeting, beginning with key local priorities. He has 6 Councillors (including 2 from Grove Ward) working for him on case work and holds 2 surgeries a week.
- Education is a key local priority and ED and the new Council will be working in tandem to address major problems inherited from the previous administration. These include: school funding (the Dedicated School Schools Grant fund in Kingston, which had been in £2M surplus in 2014, now has a deficit of £12M leaving local headteachers extremely concerned about their reserves/budgets); the loss of 165 teaching jobs in the borough; provision for children with high needs; school places (2 new schools were approved in 2014 but so far not a brick has been laid).
- Policing is also a key focus of ED's work as around 50 officers/10% of the force has been cut the last 2-3 years leaving the police very stretched.
- ED has held 4 meetings and exchanged hundreds of emails with the new franchise South Western Railway – which has been operating trains in the constituency since it took over from South West Trains in Summer 2017. He noted that complaints about delayed or cancelled trains have rocketed in recent months and has been working to ensure that SWR deliver on their commitments to him – particularly extra infrastructure maintenance, reliability improvements to their rolling stock and better management of train crews. ED is setting up the Wessex Region All Party Parliamentary Group comprising the 59 MPS whose constituencies are impacted by SWR. He asked residents to let him know about concerns so that he can report them. The Q&A related to: a request for integrated announcements with the District Line at Wimbledon so that commuters can make informed decisions on days when there is a problem; issues with Delay Repay; rezoning.

7. St John's Church: Karoline Molberg (standing in for the Rev'd Vicky Maunder who was unable to come at the last minute)

- Many thanks to all in the community who have supported our Regeneration project. We are hugely grateful for the fabulous support we have received from the community and local community groups.
- There is now £205k in the Regeneration fund raised through donations, two legacies and fundraising events from the church and community. The money will be used for Phase 1 of the project – to replace the failing heating and lighting systems in the church and to replace the worn carpet tiles

(which are a trip hazard) with wooden flooring. The work will hopefully be conducted this summer and has just gone out to tender. The building is vast and grade 2 listed so sadly the work will be very costly but we are hoping that tenders will come in within our budget.

- We also hope – in Phase 2 - to make accessibility improvements to the building; a better entrance with permanent step free access, toilets at the back of church and an improved kitchen and are applying for various grants to raise the money to do this. If successful we hope to do this in 2019.
- Our fundraising events team are planning two events a year. The film and music quiz in March which was much enjoyed.
- The church will be open on Saturday mornings from the beginning of June from 10am to 12 as a community space for people to enjoy.
- We are hosting an opera!:'**The Book of Thel**' – on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th June. For updated information, tickets and to watch videos from the production in Spoleto, Italy visit: www.bookofthel.com or e-mail contact@threebridgestheatre.co.uk

8. **Proposed Changes to the Constitution : introduced by Mark Clutterbuck**

Mark described how at a recent committee meeting it was noted that the constitution of the SGRA, which was drawn up in 1977 and last amended in 2002 could benefit from updating in certain respects. Proposals for four changes had therefore been drawn up and publicised in advance on the noticeboard and website. The four changes related to removing references to subscriptions payable by residents and businesses (as none are charged), to the number of committee meetings required each year and the addition of a precautionary clause giving the committee power, in exceptional circumstances to suspend membership of the Committee to any member whose behaviour is not in keeping with the “open, tolerant and collaborative nature of SGRA”. A vote was taken and considerably more than the required two thirds majority approved the changes. There were no objections. The revised constitution has therefore been published on the website. <http://www.springgrovekingston.co.uk/about.php>

9. **Chairman's Report (Alan Leeds):** AL outlined the history and scope of the SGRA and the regular activities of the committee (organising events such as the barn dance, keeping contact with councillors/ MP/ police/ university, delivering Springboard, running the website, twitter & Facebook page, monitoring all planning applications in the SGRA area plus some of the larger applications outside the area). He thanked the departing committee members for all their support.

10. **Treasurer's Report (Karol Smal):** Income in the year ending 31/3/18 totalled £307.32, arising from advertising receipts from Springboard and the barn dance. Astonishingly, expenses (for Springboard, the website, the AGM, insurance) also totalled £307.32 so the accumulated fund remains at £540. The accounts have been audited.

11. **Election of the Committee** All the previous year's committee members were willing to stand except for Emma Poole, Phil Chapman and Phil Harvey who have all stood down. All were thanked for all they have done for the SGRA. Paul Hemmings has agreed to rejoin the committee 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, Pippa Sparks, Mark Clutterbuck, Dawn Trigg, Sean Yeates, Paul Hemmings.

12. **Approval of SGRA representatives on Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Council:** Pippa Sparks and Joan McConn were thanked for their service in 2017/18 and approved again as SGRA representatives on Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Council (CAAC).