

**Spring Grove Residents' Association  
Minutes of the AGM – 29 April 2010, Parish Hall**

**PRESENT**

**Chairman:** Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz  
**Committee members:** Deborah Robinson, Gordon Bell, Sean Yeates, Mike Harris, Paul Hemmings, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Natascha Logan **Residents:** Approximately 30 **Guests:** *Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood team:* Sgt Dave Williams *Kingston University:* Anne Barr (Community Liaison Advisor), Mark Horne (General Manager of the Students Union) *Grove Ward Councillor:* Chrissie Hitchcock. *RBK:* Steve Cardis, Planning Policy Manager

1. **Apologies for Absence:** *Councillors:* Rachel Reid and Bart Ricketts
2. **Minutes of the 2009 AGM :** Approved.

**3. Chairman's Report**

**A. List of Events in the Community**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Organiser</b>	<b>Funds raised (approx)</b>
The Sound of Musicals	May	Spring Grove Fringe	£1000 Scope (EnhanceAble)
Midsummer Extravaganza	June	Barbara + John Higham	£2000 (The Hannah Memorial Academy)
Wine Tasting	June	Vanessa Hamilton	
Summer barbeque	September	SGRA	
Field of Hope daffodil planting	October	St John's Church	
Three of a Kind (One act plays)	October	Spring Grove Fringe	£1000 (HeartLine)
Half Term children's Drama Workshop	October	Spring Grove Fringe	£200 (Children in Need)
These Sceptred Isles	November	Spring Grove Fringe	
Celebration of a Decade	December	Plan B	
Festive Community party	December	Kingston University	
Cinderella pantomime	February	Spring Grove Fringe	£1000 (Homestart)
Pancake Supper	February	St John's Church	Children's playground in Gaza
Spring into Spring Barn dance	March	SGRA	£180 (SGRA funds)

plus monthly coffee mornings at St John's Church and many events organised by St. John's School including a Pampered Chef evening, Race Night, Quiz Night

## **B. Regular Activities by the Committee**

The committee continued with all its regular activities:

- Keeping contact with councillors, MP, university, police, other local residents associations
- Attending the open meetings held by the police and university
- Monitoring all planning applications in the area
- Organising the barn dance and barbeque
- Delivering 5 issues of Springboard to all residents in the area.
- Running the [www.springgrovekingston.co.uk](http://www.springgrovekingston.co.uk) website and email list for residents
- Attending the Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Committee meetings

## **C. Other Activities by the Committee during 2009/10**

- (a) Provided input into RBK Core Strategy
- (b) Provided input into South London Waste Plan
- (c) Liaised with RBK on trees in Portland Road and Geneva Road
- (d) Provided input into plans for playpark in Villiers Road
- (e) Attended the Grove Ward SNT police Community Panel meetings in which local concerns are raised and priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood team are set
- (f) Organised noticeboard

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Income totalled £340 including £183 from the barn dance and £162 advertising receipts from Springboard. Expenditure totalled £437. The two largest items were Springboard costs + admin (£195) and annual public liability insurance (£141). On 31 March 2010 the SGRA had an accumulated fund of £768.81, down £97 on the previous year. The accounts have been audited.

**5. Election of the Committee/Approval of Parish Hall representatives:** All posts unopposed. **Chairman:** Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz **Committee Members;** Gordon Bell, Deborah Robinson, Phil Chapman, Natasha Logan, Mike Harris, Paul Hemmings, Sean Yeates, Phil Harvey were re-elected. Dawn Trigg was voted onto the committee. Joan McConn and Gordon Bell were approved as the SGRA Parish Hall Representatives.

**5. RBK Core Strategy and South London Waste Plan proposals (Steve Cardis):** The Core Strategy will guide development and change in the borough over the next 15 years and set the overall planning framework, looking at future land use (including housing, schools, health facilities and other infrastructure). It will consider the impact of future demographic changes (some greying of the population but also an influx of younger people into the borough) and look at where change is appropriate and what must be protected. The Hogsmill Valley has been identified as a key area of change. Consultations to date have shown broad support for some opening up of the area and for environmental development. But there has been a mixed response to the idea of the student village - with some support but also major concerns about student behaviour and the impact of extra traffic. There will be further detailed consultations later this year. Note that RBK has already conducted a Borough Character Study (available on the council website).

The Waste Plan will guide the management of waste processing and the distribution of waste management facilities in 4 London boroughs, including Kingston. The Villiers Road site has been identified to remain as a site for waste processing but traffic will be an issue. There will be further consultations later this year – possibly in October/November. Other issues under consideration by the Planning Policy Department include urban flooding/lack of drainage, flood relief in the Hogsmill Valley, and shopping facilities outside Kingston Town Centre (including Surbiton and Tolworth).

Concerns raised in the Q+A session included: the student village issue rearing its head again so shortly after the previous application was rejected / limits to growth of the student population / "Studentification" and the increase in the number of residential houses locally with student housing / a perceived increased use of cars by students / concerns about the loss of Metropolitan Open Land (which was the reason the student village application was rejected a few years ago) and the need for a green corridor south from Kingston into Surrey / the attitude of Thames Water/ concerns that if an area which is currently open land becomes a temporary sports centre its classification may change to a brownfield site (though SC said that this would not change its designation).

SC offered to return for a further meeting and to keep in touch about further developments.

## **6. University Issues (Anne Barr, Mark Horne):**

Mark Horne outlined the role of the students' union: an independent body to support and ensure a positive student experience. There are now 21,500 students at the university spread across 4 campuses and numerous partner colleges in the UK and abroad. (Part of the recent increase in student numbers has been due to a massive increase in the number studying abroad who spend their final year here. Following major budget cuts there would be no growth for the next 2-3 years). 33% of current students live at home. The students are the largest supplier of volunteers in the borough. The Union runs 2 shops and 3 bars. All the bars are the only recipients in Kingston of the national "best bar none" awards and 2 operate the "behave or be banned" scheme.

Anne Barr spoke about the role of the Community Liaison Officer in liaising between the university, local residents and businesses, Kingston Council and the police. The partnership between the various bodies is now much stronger than before and there is greater information sharing. AB would like to hear of activities/volunteering that students can do to feel involved in the wider community.

AB understands that perennial complaints include street noise at night with people using Grove Lane, Villiers and beyond to return home after clubs and pubs, noisy student neighbours/differing lifestyles, and rubbish dumped, especially from parked cars around Fasset Road. She requested that specific concerns should be reported; the university has to be aware of specific problems in order to take action; there is a range

of disciplinary measures that the university can and does apply.

Specific issues raised in the Q&A included: rubbish in the Hogsmill/ noisy student neighbours/lack of response if concerns are raised.

**7. Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team: (Sgt Dave Williams)**

DW thanked the SGRA for its contribution to the ward panel meetings where priorities are set for the Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team. He spoke of the strong working relationship between the council, the university and the SNT police team. He reiterated the need to get in touch if there are problems. There are several methods available – both by phone and email. Even if contacting the police has not worked in the past please do so now. If the problem is noisy neighbours contact both the council and the police.

**8. Councillor Chrissie Hitchcock:** CH noted that the topics she had planned to speak about had already been covered. The SGRA thanked her for her assistance with the community notice board.

**9. AOB:** A resident noted that a planning application by a developer to modify the Kelly Arms building to use the first floor and roof level for two flats (one 4 bedroom and one 3 bedroom) for use for students is underway. It was agreed that the SGRA would investigate this further.

Anne Barr agreed to contact the Headed Tenancy Supervisor at the university about the status of the former Swan pub in Mill Street and the former Kelly Arms