



## Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in The Old Library, Shrewsbury House  
at 19.30

Thursday June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Present:**

Robert Million, Chair  
Liz McDermott, Vice Chair  
Alex Hayesmore, Secretary  
Ralph Million, Treasurer  
Nicola Dennis  
John Field  
Martyn Kither  
Leslie Smith  
Tania Smith  
Michael Wood

76 Residents from the Shrewsbury Park Estate

**In attendance:**

Cllr Barry Taylor  
Cllr Danny Thorpe  
Len Newland, Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator  
Jenny Penn, Shooters Hill Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman (Robert Million) welcomed residents and guests to the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. He then asked each member of the committee to introduce themselves.

Item

**1 Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from committee member Monica Beck, Gill Perrin, Mr & Mrs Cutting, Simon Heywood, Sarah Heywood, George Tutheridge, Elizabeth Tutheridge, and Margaret Bennett.

**2 Minutes of the last AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

The minutes were proposed as a correct record by Emily Bennett and seconded by Len Newland. They were then signed by the Chairman.

**3 Matters arising.**

There were no matters arising.



Item

**4 Chairman's report.**

The Chairman began by thanking the current committee for all its work over the past year, Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts, Len Newland for running the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and local ward Councillor Barry Taylor for his donation towards the cost of the oak entry posts.

He also thanked Chris Higgs and George Tutheridge for their contribution whilst serving on the committee.

In his report he wanted to update the meeting on the status of the various projects within the Association Vision that the committee had been working on.

Oak posts.

Four of the six main posts had now been installed and the Chairman thanked committee members John Field and Martyn Kither for their assistance in staining the posts and mounting the plaques and the Royal Borough's departments for shaping and arranging installation of the posts. The remaining two main posts were still to be installed in Plum Lane. Discussions with the Highways department of the Royal Borough had taken place.

Plum Lane project.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the committee's desire for more households in Plum Lane to register a positive response before proceeding with the creation of a shrub bed between 209 and 215 Plum Lane. A further consultation had therefore taken place and this part of the project had now been completed. A further bed is to be created outside 221 to 223 Plum Lane.

Brinklow Crescent.

The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the planning committee and presented a case against yellow lining around the junction with Brinklow Crescent, and opposite on the Laing Estate side. His argument was successful and the proposal was amended to advisory white lines only at Brinklow Crescent. The committee will continue to pursue the re-instatement of the original kerb lines as voted for at the previous year's AGM.

Succession Tree planting.

Ten specimen trees had been planted across the Estate, all were alive and well. A request had been made for further planting in the Autumn of 2012.

Succession Shrub Planting

At the Associations' request one hundred shrubs were planted across the Estate to fill gaps in the shrubberies. The cost of the shrubs, the compost and the labour was met by Cleansweep. The Association had helped to choose the shrub types and planting locations.



Item

**4 Chairman's report. (continued)**

Shrewsbury House listing status.

The Chairman had written to English Heritage shortly after last year's AGM nominating Shrewsbury House, its outbuildings and grounds for Grade II listing. English Heritage had expressed an interest and were also interested in the WWII bunkers in Ashridge Crescent. The Association had been dealing with a number of follow up enquiries from English Heritage. English Heritage had made a sight visit to Shrewsbury House and Ashridge Crescent and had prepared a report on their recommendations. The Chairman did not know what the recommendations were at the time, but, if able would report on it in the next newsletter.

Conservation Area character appraisal and Management Strategy.

The Chairman outlined the main stages for the consultation, amendment and adoption of the CAMS. The Association had requested the CAMS be updated and adopted as it needed to be in place in order for the planning guidelines to be updated in the future, and because it had existed in draft since 2007. The Association is keen for the planning guidelines to be updated as these are felt to be insufficiently detailed and this was believed to be a contributory factor to inconsistencies in planning decisions. The CAMS would not supersede the 1996 planning guidelines and any updates to the guidelines would be subject to a consultation process of its own. Members of the committee had all seen a preview version of the CAMS and had sent back comments to the Royal Borough. At the end of May the Chairman had attended a Borough planning committee to request the draft CAMS be agreed for formal consultation. The Chairman was pleased to report that it had been agreed and the consultation would commence shortly. He had also obtained assurances that the CAMS did not alter existing or introduce new controls, however public consultation was still required as it was a new document and all twenty Conservation Areas in the Royal Borough would be involved in their own consultations.. The Chairman had requested that each household be consulted individually by letter, even though this was a re-consultation on the CAMS and that a printed version be sent to any household who requested it and the same be available to view at Shrewsbury House.

Shrub bed maintenance.

The committee is delighted with the transformation of the shrub beds. The Royal Borough was working to the agreed programme to good effect and the June maintenance cycle was in progress. The Chairman expressed the view that combined with the recent overall reduction of shrub height that the Association had requested, the Estate was looking refreshed and vibrant with the trees and double hedgerows being huge assets to the area. Agreement had been reached in principle to replace old and tired looking sections of bed and details for this were being discussed.



Item

#### **4 Chairman's report (continued)**

##### Whitelining in Bushmoor Crescent.

The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by a resident in Bushmoor Crescent regarding inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of Shrewsbury House. A consultation letter had been sent out to 30 properties in Bushmoor Crescent asking if residents would be in favour of the Association lobbying The Royal Borough for advisory white lines outside certain addresses. Of the responses received, 11 were in favour, 2 were opposed. It was generally felt due to the overall poor response not to pursue this further, but the situation would continue to be monitored.

##### Queen Elizabeth II, Diamond Jubilee party in Ashridge Crescent.

This had been an enjoyable day and remarkably fortunate with the weather. The Chairman thanked the 75 residents who attended with particular thanks to Liz McDermott, Derek Wells, and the Chairman's niece and nephew for all for their help. The Chairman also thanked the Pearly King and Queen of Royal Greenwich and the London Fire Brigade for their attendance.

##### Residents for re-energising.

The Chairman then reported that 2012 had been a year of notable achievements for the Association; however members of the committee were aware of some discontent amongst residents. No organisation was beyond criticism and there was always scope for improvement, but the committee felt that some of the criticisms in the 're-energise' documents were not reasonable or justified.

However the committee was keen to move forward working together as an 'association of residents'.

He then reported that Monica Beck was standing down from the committee as she was moving out of the area. There were therefore 5 vacancies on the committee and new members were welcome to join to work together as a committee for the preservation and enhancement of the Laings Estate and to make it an even better place to live.

Len Newland (Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator) then stood to speak in support of the current committee, this was met with applause.

Resident (Frances Lennon) spoke about the loss of three committee members who were all 'highly creative'.

The Chairman explained that in order for a committee to function effectively it is assumed that each member of a committee understands the need to abide by the majority decision; the three committee members referred to were unable to do so and had therefore resigned.

A resident expressed concern at the unpleasant nature of the 're-energise' campaign having received a card through her door at 10.00 at night. The Chairman confirmed that unless literature had the house logo at the top and was sent out from the Chairman it was *not* from the Residents' Association.



Item

#### **4 Chairman's report. (continued)**

Another resident said they had found it confusing, intimidating and somewhat personal in nature.

A further resident requested someone from the 're-energise' campaign speak up to explain their behaviour. After several requests from the Chairman for someone from the group to respond, Chris Higgs did so and argued the case for residents undertaking maintenance tasks, before apologising to the meeting for any distress or offence caused.

The Chairman re-iterated the committee's position on the matter of the Association organising residents undertaking roadside horticultural maintenance. There followed some debate, including discussion of health and safety issues. Emily Bennett stated that if people want to do it then they do so at their own risk and that the Association should not be organising this. Len Newland confirmed that the current committee's position on this was no different than all previous committees.

A resident asked about the planning rules. The Chairman explained the consultation process and the purpose of the CAMS document and how the Royal Borough would consult with residents. Cllr Thorpe said everyone should be consulted and he hoped that would be the case. Committee member Tania Smith then explained the process to the meeting as she understood it in her professional capacity as a Town Planner.

A resident explained the difficulty she had in obtaining planning permission for work on her drive. Len Newland suggested approaching the Association for assistance with the application.

A resident asked about the future of Shrewsbury House. Len Newland explained that funding could be cut and that it needs to make more money to continue to meet the needs of the community.

#### **5 Strawberry Tea Update-Liz McDermott**

Liz McDermott reported that after discussion at committee level it had been decided to organise a Strawberry Tea to celebrate the Jubilee and the Olympics. Liz explained some of the difficulties in organising such events, although one or two individuals were often keen for such things it was equally also very difficult to get the level of support needed both in volunteers and ticket sales to make them viable. Liz had placed clipboards in the hallway and asked for volunteers to put their names down for assistance on the day and with baking etc. and thought it would be good if it was as successful as the Millennium Garden Party.



Item

## **5 Strawberry Tea Update (continued)**

A resident (Frances Lennon) said she appreciated the difficulties, but people lead busy lives and often don't read flyers and leaflets that come through the door. Len Newland said that this was the apathy that the committee has to contend with and therefore found it odd that the 're-energise' campaign could claim to be representative of the Estate when making its accusations.

There was some discussion on this point.

## **6 Treasurer's Report**

Ralph Million (Treasurer) reported on the year's accounts.

Subscription collection had been high at 65% of households, although some subs had been collected late the previous year. The AGM raffle had done well in 2011. Ralph explained about two years of Shrewsbury House affiliation fees in the same financial year simply due to the timing of invoices from the house and the closure of the investment account due to low returns. He thanked Trevor Jones for auditing the accounts and asked for questions from the floor.

A resident from Plum Lane and from Mereworth Drive asked about raising the subscriptions as they really liked the oak posts and would like to see them in Plum Lane. The resident from Plum Lane also offered to make a donation.

Another resident thought that voluntary donations were a good idea and another suggested standing orders.

Resident (Emily Bennett) said what a thankless task it was knocking on doors and proposed an increase in subscription rates to £4 per annum. This was seconded by Len Newland. Another resident proposed that if rates were to be raised they be made £5. A motion was proposed on raising subscriptions to £5 and was carried 65 to 4.

Resident (Sue King) asked how much the oak posts had cost in total. The treasurer explained that the costs were inclusive of the work on the posts and the new shrub beds in Plum Lane; it was therefore difficult to provide a figure for the posts alone. Len Newland said there was nothing to be concerned about as the costs would be shown in next year's accounts. Another resident asked what the meeting would rather have money spent on?



Item

**7 Neighbourhood Watch Update-Jenny Penn/Len Newland**

Len Newland introduced Jenny Penn to the meeting and explained about his email list on which there were about 120 addresses. This was useful not just in notifying residents of criminal activities but had some success in re-uniting lost cats and dogs with their owners. Len reported that the crime rate in the area is very low and that there are some changes in the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team, including a new sergeant.

Jenny Penn asked the meeting about its knowledge of emergency telephone numbers and explained the details. Jenny then spoke about some crime reduction methods, including timed security lights and not leaving possessions on display. Jenny demonstrated the fake baked bean tin in which to keep keys or money and explained that Neighbourhood Watch is about the community and the local police are passionate about Neighbourhood Watch. Len Newland added that he passes on information from the local safer neighbourhoods' team via his email list.

**8 Local Councillors-Cllrs Taylor and Thorpe**

Cllr Thorpe spoke positively about working with the Association and there was now a good arrangement in place regarding shrub bed maintenance. He reported that the Royal Borough had campaigned against the old fire station mast but had lost. The Association had requested a 'road show' to be arranged at Shrewsbury House to explain the CAMS. It was a big year for Greenwich with the Olympic games just around the corner and there would inevitably be some disruption, but it was essential that people understand the parking restrictions. He requested if anyone had any questions they contact him or the Association.

Cllr Taylor spoke about the problems with planning applications and assured the meeting he is keeping an eye on planning decisions that were incompatible with the Conservation Area guidelines. There were many questions relating to temporary parking restrictions during the Olympics. The Chairman suggested the committee address these at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their contribution.

**9 Election of Committee**

All current members of the committee agreed to re-stand. Simon Heywood, Chris Higgs, Clive Inglis, Len Newland and George Tutheridge also wished to stand. There were no objections.



Item

## 10 Any Other Business

A resident expressed concern over salting levels during cold weather. The Chairman agreed to talk to the Royal Borough.

A resident thought that the amount of traffic had increased considerably. Cllr Taylor explained there seemed to be the same problem in Red Lion Lane. Another resident agreed that there seemed to have been a change in traffic flow. Committee member Michael Wood thought there had been a change in the sequence of the traffic lights at the junction of Shooters Hill/Well Hall Road/Academy Road. Cllr Taylor offered to get the traffic engineers to look at the junction.

Jenny Penn explained that Eaglesfield Neighbourhood Watch work closely with highways to control traffic in the area. There was a problem on the bend by the golf course with vehicles regularly exceeding 20mph as they leave. But there is now a reluctance to install calming measures as these slow down emergency vehicles.

The Chairman agreed that the committee would look into contacting the relevant authorities to have these matters looked into.

Resident (Jayne Ottite) was concerned that there was only one AGM a year and suggested monthly meetings on a Saturday morning. Resident (Frances Lennon) thought more frequent general meetings would be a good idea. It was agreed that this would be discussed by the committee.

Resident (Emily Bennett) proposed a vote of thanks for the work of the committee.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.38 and a raffle followed.

**Date of next committee meeting, to be confirmed.**

Signed:  
(Chair)

Date: