



Shrewsbury Park Residents' Association

Minutes of the committee meeting held in Room 3, Shrewsbury House at 19.30
19th October 2010

Present:

Robert Million (RM) Chair
Alex Hayesmore (AH) Secretary
Ralph Million (RHM) Treasurer
Sue King (SK)
Martyn Kither (MK)
Chris Higgs (CH)
Liz McDermot (LMD)
George Tutheridge (GT)

Item	Action
1 Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Nicola Dennis	
2 Welcome Robert Million welcomed Sue King to the committee and returning members after the AGM. He also said it been a pleasure to serve on the committee with Sue's mother, Elsie King.	
3 Minutes of last meeting held 18th May 2010 Sue King (SK) was concerned that a letter she sent regarding the 75 th anniversary of the estate hadn't been reported. SK's letter was not reported specifically in the minutes although the 75 th anniversary had been discussed at the previous meeting and an item placed in the newsletter. Alex Hayesmore (Secretary) therefore suggested that this be discussed under the relevant agenda item. The minutes of the last meeting were then agreed and signed by Robert Million (Chair)	
4 Matter arising Other matters arising covered under agenda headings.	
5 Fire Station Mast Since the last Resident's Association (RA) meeting, 3 SHAM meetings have been held. SHAM is grateful for its links with the association and Shrewsbury House. OfCom have replied, saying that they are satisfied with the licenses for equipment on the mast.	CH/GT

Councillor Danny Thorpe has said he has some good news regarding the Mast. The nature of the good news isn't yet known.
SHAM has contacted some solicitors who have given advice on the various courses of action that can be taken.



Item

Action

Fire Station Mast (continued)

Over the summer 400 petitions have been signed and Chris Higgs (CH) has plotted a chart showing where the signatories were.

Liz McDermot (LMD) said that many of the planning notifications would go to residents at the Fire Station, as she was sure many of these were lettings, they may not care as much as longer term owner-occupiers.

A letter is being drafted to the Mayor of London.

The point was again re-iterated that 'Tetra' is transmitting continuously and LMD said that there was evidence of the dangers within the Lancashire Police.

George Tutheridge (GT) still feels that the blight issue is worth pursuing. CH requested help to get more petitions signed.

6 Estate horticultural maintenance

RM reported that the council had now reduced the height of the shrubs and so far there had been two pruning's on the estate this year.

LMD reported that the bed outside [REDACTED] is never attended too. RM has requested this is dealt with via email together with some other non road-side shrub beds, at the time of the meeting there had been no response.

GT reported that litter is an issue and LMD also felt that weeding of the pavements hadn't been undertaken often enough, if at all, or at the correct time of the year. RM was sure weedkiller had been applied earlier in the year.

The issue with Cleansweep and bed maintenance is still with Greenwich Council (LBG). Councillor Fahy feels there is an end in sight with the responsibility for this area of maintenance coming to Parks and Open Spaces.

7 Association Vision

Plum Lane Project

Letters had been sent out to the relevant houses and RM has received 3 replies in support, he would like a higher ratio of support. AH will try to rally more support in Plum Lane, perhaps with residents putting their signature to the letter as this would provide a mandate to undertake the work.

Martyn Kither (MK) added that the council consider no negative response as approval.

Oak Post Estate Entry Treatment

RM has emailed Councillor Barry Taylor regarding help with sourcing the oak posts. GT asked how we envisage these posts; RM explained that they would be a scaled-up version of the original gateposts on the estate.



Item

Action

Oak Post Estate Entry Treatment (continued)

GT was also concerned about graffiti. RM replied that they would be in the middle of shrub beds and would therefore be quite difficult to get to. Although the association would obtain the posts, they would have to be installed by LBG.

LMD felt that the posts should have something written on them.

CH preferred plaques on lamp posts to Oak posts.

GT thought that perhaps some nice signs at the entrances to the estate would be a better idea.

MK and SK felt that there was enough signage and street clutter already.

MK felt that the posts would look great.

RM also argued against signage as this would involve Highways consent at LBG and the posts are a *comparatively* cheap way of marking the boundaries of the estate. He also explained the estate originally featured posts and chains throughout and that this is a restoration of an original feature. Further discussion followed regarding the placement of the posts. Ralph Million (Treasurer) said we should obtain costing for the basic posts first and then consider the other options e.g. Embellishments, alterations or alternatives. This was agreed.

Succession Tree Planting

RM reported that there has been success on this matter. He had written to [REDACTED] at LBG seeking agreement on tree types and planting locations. LBG have agreed and to plant the trees and supply the stakes and ties free of charge because the association is funding the tree purchases. [REDACTED] has supplied RM with a list of suitable suppliers. RM to liaise with suppliers and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will arrange planting with RM. RM to price-up and pursue. RM indicated that the type of tree CH wanted for the cul-de-sac in Bushmoor was more expensive (as per the cul-de-sac in Ashridge) but all felt this was a worthwhile investment in retaining the estate's quality and character.

Street Name Plates

RM reported no further progress so far on this matter. There was a discussion regarding having some re-made. LMD pointed out there would be a maintenance issue. The various options need to be costed, re-makes, renovation, replica's etc. However the committee unanimously agreed this was a good idea to enhance the estate.

8 Association Website

AH reported that he had sought the various permissions for use of logos etc. of the organisations that had replied all had refused. The Metropolitan Police explaining that theirs was an operational logo and no third party would be given permission to use it. AH was therefore in the process of redesigning various pages using images that were in the public domain.

AH



Item

Action

8 Association Website (continued)

CH had many suggestions and had written them down on a print out of the website, he passed this to AH who was very grateful for the suggestions.

CH also felt that we could put more information on the website regarding processes that are being dealt with by the committee for example the street name plates etc.

RM thought that we should add a price guide to the various types of houses on the estate. *(There followed a discussion about property values which will be recorded under any other business)*

SK suggested a page on the website listing properties on the estate that were for sale. AH thought this was a good idea, but would have to think about how to obtain and collate such data. RM was concerned that it would be difficult to keep this up to date. SK also suggested mentioning the website in the next newsletter.

9 Chris and Georges' Suggestions

CH reported on feedback from residents received whilst collecting subs. Main issues were lack of shrub maintenance and many residents don't understand the remit of the association.

LMD thought that perhaps some of the contents of the Welcome Pack should be revised and some of it should be on the website. RM felt that some of the contents could be removed. There followed a discussion on the Welcome Pack. LMD and RM will meet to agree a revised content of the pack.

Four Newsletters a year? RM said that he would produce newsletters at roughly the current frequency and was concerned about losing impact if too frequent. SK volunteered to draft content for inclusion in the next Newsletter. RM thanked SK for this.

Neighbourhood watch? CH and GT felt that it wasn't clear where Len fitted into the association particularly regarding the email mailing list. Len operated the SPNWS on behalf of the association. This was agreed at Len's last AGM as chair. There was much discussion regarding the effectiveness of email lists.

Maintenance of Road and Pavement Surfaces. RM asked CH if he would be willing to take responsibility for bringing these matters to the attention of LBG. CH agreed. RM asked all present to notify CH of any defects they encounter in roads and pavements on the estate. There are issues with people parking their cars in inappropriate places, corners etc. There followed a discussion on the role of the association in such matters. LMD pointed out that the association's aims and objectives are explained in the Welcome Pack. RM clarified the association does not exist to police neighbours by dealing with barking dogs, bonfires etc and felt that, on matters of this nature, more could be achieved neighbour to neighbour.



Item	Action
<p>9 Chris and Georges' Suggestions (continued) The association remit seeks to encourage good neighbourliness. He therefore clarified CH deal only with the defects in roads and pavements. RM requested CH to copy him in to correspondence.</p>	
<p>10 Association Subscriptions RHM reported that subscriptions are in for all streets except Ashridge Crescent, odd numbers. RHM will talk to Nicola Dennis who was to collect for this street as it can't be left very much longer. Approximately £450 had been collected. RHM felt that we should consider raising the subs when one of the projects under meeting agenda item 7 (association vision) begin to come to fruition.</p>	
<p>11 Planning Matters [REDACTED] RM has contacted planning enforcement; there had been no response, so far. LMD reported that someone from Apollo (the company responsible for installing the door) were to get back to LBG to report that the above front door did not meet conservation guidelines. LBG Planning department do not appear to know how many properties on the estate are owned by LBG. CH reported that there has been a 'tradesman' doing the rounds trying to sell a treatment process for roofs that involves spraying with fungicide and then painting the tiles. [REDACTED] SK offered to support RM and LMD at this meeting. CH has given up petitioning as people wouldn't sign. The committee agreed that it is against paving over or partial paving over of front gardens on conservation and environmental grounds.</p>	RM
<p>12 Shrewsbury House RM felt that the association is doing what it can to support Shrewsbury House by promoting it in the Association's Newsletters etc., but at the moment the house, and its grounds including '24-28 Mereworth Drive' have little protection from inappropriate development that would harm the Estate. There was concern over what would happen to the house if it had to be sold with its current local listing status. RM is favour of seeking the Council to get the house upgraded to Grade 2 listing provided there is support for this. The Shrewsbury Park Estate Character Appraisal document produced by the Council had suggested the architectural merits of the house may make it worthy of Grade 2 listing.</p>	
<p>13 Estate 75th Anniversary SK asked if RM had received her letter with various suggestions for the 75th anniversary, including contacting a Laing's Estate in Epping.</p>	AH



Item

Action

Estate 75th Anniversary (continued)

RM confirmed he had received the letter although a follow-up letter had not been received.

RM agreed with a suggestion made by CH via an email, about a bigger press release, perhaps in the 'News Shopper' or Mercury. RM asked SK to assist with this.

14 Any Other Business

During discussion of the website the subject of property prices arose, there was concern that these were being eroded by the changing character of the estate and estate agents pricing properties too low for a quick sale which was undermining the association's objective of preserving the character of the estate.

CH asked what had changed over the past twenty years. Visual harm caused by far more cars and wheelie bins were some of the remarks. There was discussion about property values contributing to the quality of the area. RM reported that many years ago, there was a waiting list for property on the estate. CH felt the association should be encouraging residents to keep their properties looking presentable.

Furze Lodge in Plum Lane is in a dreadful state from fly tipping and graffiti amongst other things. RM will contact LBG to request them to fence off and secure the site.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21.49

Date of next meeting, Wednesday 15th December 2010 in Room 3

Signed:

(Chair)

Date: