

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HANGER HILL (EAST) RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
WEDNESDAY 17TH MAY 2017
7.45PM CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

MINUTES

The Vice-Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming residents. Approximately 30 people were in attendance, which included Councillors Nigel Sumner, Joy Morrissey, and 3 officers from the Safer Neighbourhood team. Apologies received from Anthony Lewis.

1. Chairman's Report:

The reason I am writing this message as Vice Chairman is because Gurpreet Maini, our Acting Chairman for the last year, has now resigned. We thank him for his contribution to HHERA over the last 3 years and wish him well for the future.

The last Newsletter reported that work had at long last started on the former Park Royal Hotel. Preliminary demolition started in the autumn of 2016 but then stopped, apparently because of the discovery of a previously unknown live electricity supply cable. Work has so far not restarted and enquiries to the agent have elicited no response. We are not clear whether a major problem has arisen, or whether there is a pause before building work proper starts. We will continue to push for an explanation.

Another of the issues we have kept an eye on is traffic congestion in the vicinity of the Holy Family School, Vale Lane. There have been a number of near misses involving parents and children due to parents parking inconsiderately and children crossing the street randomly. The Council originally promised to provide a zebra crossing outside the school, but the money earmarked for it was spent on another project. However, following pressure from Councillor Sumner, money for the crossing has been found from elsewhere and it is hoped that the crossing will be installed later this year.

Inevitably, there have been the usual complaints about the state of the roads and pavements - some work has been completed, but there is still a lot to be done and I can assure you that we do keep reminding the Council that the pavements in particular are dangerous and need to be inspected and repaired regularly. The Council have agreed that bollards could be erected in Connell Crescent in the vicinity of the Premier Inn to stop coaches parking on the pavement, but no money is available. We have therefore invited Premier Inn to pay for the bollards.

The last Newsletter also mentioned that plans to redevelop 9-42 The Broadway, W5 (opposite Ealing Broadway Station) had been "called in" for determination by the Secretary of State following strong criticism from local and national

heritage groups about the loss of the buildings on the site, and of the harm to the Ealing Town Centre conservation area that the development would cause. The inquiry takes place on 9th to 26th May and Save Ealing's Centre, to which your Association is affiliated, is still appealing for funds to finance the cost of retaining a barrister and expert witnesses. Please see "Estate News" for details on how to donate.

Since this time last year the Council changed its recycling system so that it now uses wheelie bins rather than black bags, and green recycling containers which were sorted at the kerbside (except for some flats). Although this has cut down on bags being broken open by foxes and birds, fly tipping has increased. Also, many people are leaving bins out in front of properties, or even in the road, which has spoiled the appearance of the areas. We have encouraged people to put the bins out of sight if possible and ensure that they are not easily available for thieves to climb on and possibly gain entry to the back of the properties. Worse still, the Council has got rid of many street cleaners as an economy measure and streets are only being swept on a six weekly basis, which has led to a general deterioration in cleanliness. We are encouraging people who see dropped litter to report it to the Council. This can be done on line or there is an app called "Lovecleanstreets" where it is possible to report matters of this nature to the Council using your phone or tablet and our experience is that this works very well.

We had a spate of burglaries a few months ago, with entry being gained through back doors and windows. Fortunately the culprits have been apprehended, but it is a reminder that doors and windows, particularly to the rear of your property, should be closed and locked when the house is empty.

Finally, I would like to thank the other members of the committee for their hard work, and in particular Valerie Giles for preparing the minutes of our meetings. As always, we are looking for new blood to join the committee, so, if you are interested to see how we operate, we can arrange for you to sit in on one of our meetings without commitment.

2. Estate Matters:

Councillor Sumner reported that the second part of Corringway and last part of The Ridings are to be resurfaced. Connell Crescent is to be resurfaced completely.

The Safer Neighbourhood team reported on 5-6 burglaries, which had occurred during the last 3 months. Entry is usually gained via the back of properties and their advice to residents is to keep rear windows and doors locked when property is unoccupied.

Thackeray Court has had recent burglaries where locks are sawn off. The officers reported that they are looking into a long-term solution to this.

Mention was made regarding white goods etc being dumped. Residents were advised to send an email to Nigel Sumner and, if possible, give the number of the vehicle responsible for dumping. Alternatively, the Council can be contacted and usually respond quite quickly.

Concern was expressed at the high speed of vehicles. The Police said they are training on how to use speed cameras and would welcome the help of volunteers. If found guilty of speeding in the first instance this would result in 3 points on a license and £100 fine, the second fine would be 6 points on a license and £200 fine. Agreed this would be mentioned in the next newsletter.

3. Treasurer's Report:

The receipts and payments account for the year to 31st December 2016 were presented to the meeting, in a similar format to that of last year.

Excess of receipts over expenditure £336.25

The reason why there is a healthy excess is due to not having to pay for the newsletter to be printed.

Donations £250

Proposed: Raj Thukral
Seconded: Darshak Raja

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Colin Easton has signified his willingness to continue auditing the accounts. Thanks were extended to him.

Proposed: Sally Clarkson
Seconded: Darshak Raja

5. Election of 2017/2018 Committee:

The following were elected:

CLARKSON, Sally, Ashbourne Road
GILES, Valerie Marryatt Court, Green Vale
GURD, Robert Beaufort Road
HOPKINS, Elisabeth Beaufort Close
JERJES, Khalid Chatsworth Road
KOTECHA, Ami, Beaufort Road
LEWIS, Anthony, Boileau Road
MARTIN, Margaret Gilbert Court, Green Vale
REED, Simon Beaufort Road
THUKRAL, Raj, Corringway
UPPAL, Inder, Beaufort Road

6. Presentation - Mr Will French, Chairman of Save Ealing's Centre:

Save Ealing's Centre was formed in 2007 and consists of 25 local groups and Residents' Associations. People living around the Town Centre think it important to have a say on what is going on. The first major activity was in 2009 when there was a big planning inquiry into proposals to redevelop the land in the centre of Ealing by building tower blocks. SEC employed a Barrister to fight this proposal and won.

9-42 The Broadway was approved for redevelopment by the Council in 2016 and opposed by many. Due to the scale of objections, the Secretary of State for Communities called in the application. SEC began a big new campaign with Historic England on its side. A barrister was again required and, in answer to SEC's appeal for donations, £30,000 was received. He expressed thanks to HHERA for their donations. He said that SEC was ready for the inquiry and was then told at the last moment that the developer had cancelled as the site had been sold to British Land (owners of Ealing Broadway Centre).

Ealing developed as a shopping centre with department stores and retailers. Due to the Westfield Centre and Brent Cross, Ealing had to find a new way of attracting people. Ealing was a lovely place with nice architecture and green spaces and it was important that these should be preserved.

In response to questions, Mr French said that SEC did not manage to get escalators at Ealing Broadway station but achieved a much better design with lifts to all platforms. This was important since, following the coming of the railway in 1840, Ealing became one of the first commuter suburbs and became known as the Queen of the Suburbs. The Edwardian architecture is well respected today. Since the Second World War Ealing has lost a lot of its buildings and changes have been accelerating in recent years.

Ealing Council had sold the Town Hall and had plans to redevelop Perceval House. The old Empire cinema site had been taken over by St George with planning permission in place to put up a new cinema at the back of the site. They were likely to seek amendments in order to reduce the number of retail units and increase the number of flats.

Concern was expressed that Haven Green was being used as an overflow for the station. Mr French said that a planning application had been submitted to move the bike rack to the so-called BBC car park at the south of the green.

Councillor Sumner thanked the Residents' Association Committee for their work, Simon Reed, as Chairman of Ward Forum and Robert Gurd and Geoffrey Sumner for their work in respect of the conservation area.

7. A.O.B.

There was no other business.

