

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HANGER HILL (EAST) RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 2018

7.45PM CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

MINUTES

The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Ward Councillors, Nigel Sumner, Gregory Stafford, Joy Morrissey for attending the meeting. He thanked the Councillors and Safer Neighbourhood team for the work they have done on behalf of residents during the course of the past year.

There were approximately 30 residents present.

1. Chairman's Report:

I last gave a Chairman's Report in 2015 and did not expect to be doing so again in 2018. My predecessor Gurpreet Maini stepped down just before the 2017 AGM due to other commitments. Margaret Martin, our Vice-Chair temporarily took the reins to see us through that meeting and into the election of a new Committee, and as no-one else felt able to take things forward I agreed to be nominated as Chair for 2017-2018. I will say more about this process at the end of this report.

It has been a quiet year for the Association and for your Committee. We have noted the increase in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Ami Kotecha researched this for us and produced a detailed report on this complex area of planning law. We are trying to establish clearly when licensing is and is not required, bearing in mind that the subdivision of detached houses into flats is something which the Conservation Area has hitherto resisted. We have also lodged objections to several applications by local shops either to extend the hours in which they can sell alcohol to take away, or to increase the strength of alcohol sold in this way. Your Committee has done this to support the activity of the local Police Team in preventing street drinking and the litter and pollution which it creates. I would like to thank Bob Gurd and Geoffrey Sumner from the Conservation Panel who have taken the lead in this and in monitoring several other local planning concerns.

There is little to report on the development of the Park Royal Hotel site. The property has changed hands in the last year and while planning permission for the new hotel, granted nearly five years ago, is still valid, we do not know when any work is likely to take place. Lastly we continue to monitor the conditions of roads and pavements and recently have noted the number of orange Mobikes which can cause obstructions. Hopefully this will not prove to be a significant problem. In the last couple of months we have been informed about a review of Conservation Areas and I have asked Bob Gurd to brief you on this later in the meeting.

It has therefore been a quiet year. Your Association is understandably not a high priority for most residents. People are glad that we exist when they need us, perhaps for planning advice or because they are unsure how to contact the Council. On the other hand we are occasionally mildly rebuked for not being more proactive in the neighbourhood. To that end your Committee accepted my modest proposal that we ask you for suggestions on how we might spend £1,000 of the Association's funds for the good of the community. We will decide on this later this evening. I should add that over the next year or so we should see all of our street name signs replaced by new "heritage" style signs in keeping with other parts of the Ward. Council Ward Forum funds are paying for this.

On a personal note I would like to comment on my own role in your Association. I stepped down as Chair in 2015 after six years because of an increase in my work commitments. Three years on they have if anything increased further and I simply cannot offer the kind of proactive leadership of your Association which it needs. I was willing to resume the role of Chair because I believe that bodies like this are the lowest rung of local government and democracy and, albeit sometimes quietly, they play an important role in the wellbeing of our communities.

At present the AGM elects your Committee, and the Committee then elects its officers. If we value our Association we need to be committed to doing what it takes to make it exist, and I therefore wonder whether one way of increasing that wider involvement might be if the Chair were elected directly by the AGM. Candidates would need to state what they could, or by implication could not, do for the local community and it might encourage others who would like to see things done differently to come forward. I should stress that Association decisions are made by your Committee, not one person, but nevertheless it is still a focal role. To make such a change would require a properly notified motion to the AGM, and therefore it cannot be done this year, but I would like to begin a conversation on this subject, here and in the coming months, as a way of considering how we might energise our Association.

Having thanked other Committee members elsewhere in this report, it remains for me also to thank our Secretary Valerie Giles who is stepping down from that role after years of service, our Treasurer Sally Clarkson, and Anthony Lewis who oversees our newsletters.

I welcome your questions and comments on matters covered in this report and on any other estate matters.

2. Estate Matters:

Concern was expressed regarding the dangerous state of pavements. Residents were advised to contact the appropriate department at Ealing Council and at the same time, keep the Councillors informed.

Over the past few years there have been large cuts in Council expenditure and the Planning department has suffered as a result. The amount of enforcements taking place is less than 10 years ago.

A house in Corringway, is believed to have been purchased by a Trust and let out. Resident advised to email Councillor Sumner who will look into the matter.

There had been a fire in Corringway caused by an extractor fan which had caused severe damage to the roof of the house

Concern was expressed regarding the considerable increase in the amount of traffic cutting through Boileau Road and Corringway. The increase is due to an App directing traffic down these roads. The Chairman reported that the Residents' committee had looked at possible ways to reduce the amount of traffic in Boileau Road, which comes down to a question of cost and practicality. Two options looked at were a width restriction and chicanes, but the latter would result in a loss of parking space. However, at present there is no funding to implement either of these options. Something had been done in Connell Crescent to reduce the traffic by making it a no entry at certain times of the day.

Councillor Greg Stafford reported that the Councillors had considered 3 options:

With restriction
Access only at certain times
Make Boileau Road a one way.

Councillor Stafford said that if a good solution could be found, the money would be found for implementation.

Connell Crescent is still getting cars cutting through at high speed and drivers saying that they cannot see the No Entry signs. Jackie Plumb advised to bring to attention of next committee meeting.

The Chairman reported that several years ago when dealing with these issues, a traffic survey had been conducted in Connell Crescent and Boileau Road. Residents had complained of drivers doing in excess of 50 mph. The survey proved that it is not possible to do more than 30 mph. Residents can volunteer to train in the use of a speed camera.

Robert Gurd reported on the Hanger Hill (Haymills Estate) Conservation Advisory Panel on which he and Geoffrey Sumner serve. The Council does not always follow their advice and members of the panel do not comment in that capacity on planning applications if they are personally affected. HHERA has been a Conservation area since 1997. The London Borough of Ealing has 29 Conservation areas. There is guidance on all Conservation areas, including the Haymills Estate, which is due for revision later this year. If residents wish to carry out any work to their property they should consult the Council before doing so.

3. Treasurer's Report:

The receipts and payments account for the year to 31st December 2017 were presented to the meeting.

Excess of receipts over expenditure £137.50.
Donations £140.00

Proposed: Raj Thukral
Seconded: Inder Uppal

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

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

Proposed: Raj Thukral
Seconded: Anthony Lewis

5. Election of 2018/19 Committee:

The following nominations had been received:

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
PLUMB, Jacqueline, Connell Crescent/
REED, Simon Beaufort Road
SUMNER, Geoffrey, Thackeray Court
THUKRAL, Raj, Corringway
UPPAL, Inder, Beaufort Road

According to the Constitution, the committee should consist of a maximum of 11 members. A paper ballot was conducted and the following members elected:

CLARKSON, Sally, Ashbourne Road
GILES, Valerie Marryatt Court, Green Vale
GURD, Robert Beaufort Roadp
KOTECHA, Ami, Beaufort Road
LEWIS, Anthony, Boileau Road
MARTIN, Margaret Gilbert Court, Green Vale
PLUMB, Jacqueline, Connell Crescent/
REED, Simon Beaufort Road
SUMNER, Geoffrey, Thackeray Court
THUKRAL, Raj, Corringway
UPPAL, Inder, Beaufort Road

6. Ideas for spending Association fund money:

Over the years the Residents' Association had managed to accumulate a fairly large amount of money which is very helpful if something serious comes up, e.g. Home Security information a few years ago. Four suggestions were tabled:

Enhancing Hanger Hill Woods
Neighbourhood Summer Party
Planting bulbs in some open spaces
Park bench with HHERA's name inscribed

After putting to the vote, it was agreed that ways of enhancing Hanger Hill Woods would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

7. Any Other Business:

The Police Panel meets three times a year. We are very fortunate in having a local Police team.

Councillor Sumner thanked the Chairman for having been Independent Chairman of the Ward Forum for 10 years.

Edward Cohen extended thanks to the Residents' committee for all the work they have done throughout the year.