

Notes of ARA Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2015 at Alexandra Nurseries

Present

Andy Peake (Acting Chair)

Lucy Smith

Helen Millar

Tim Walby

Tricia Monk

Jane Ching

Invited Members

Neil Coe

Adrian Rotheray

Diane Brown

Apologies

Jess Farrand

Lucy Smith confirmed that she had stood down as Chairperson since the last committee meeting and Andy Peake agreed to chair today's meeting.

Street Lighting and decision meeting

Tim updated the rest of the committee on the present situation. He expressed his disappointment that the decision made at the last committee meeting to survey the whole estate on heritage lighting had not taken place. Concern felt by both the chairperson and some members of the committee had led to actions being halted. E-mail communication with the council and potential suppliers of the lamp posts has notified them we are not in a position to continue within the timescale, initially agreed as end of May 2015. The original lampposts are no longer available. More may become available from the same supplier in the future.

Some of the roads on the estate were leafleted to ascertain whether the funding of £13800 could be raised by donations.

Outcome as follows:

Albert Road residents have pledged a total of £2,050

Edward Road residents have pledged a total of £1,900

Victor Road residents have pledged £275

(Neither Princes Road nor Hardings Lane Residents had yet been surveyed)

Local estate agents Mann and Co. promised £200

The generosity of these pledges was appreciated. However, it was thought we were unlikely to meet the required target of £13800 within the required timescale.

Discussion took place on the actions that had been taken by the chairperson and committee since last autumn when Bromley announced their intention to replace the Estate's lighting. This included a web based survey of residents' views as well as considerable communication with officers at LBB. The original deadline of end of March 2015 was extended to May 2015.

Neil informed those present that the Victorian style lampposts in the alleyway were provided by the council with regeneration monies that were available at that time. He also pointed out that at the time of the estate being designated a conservation area, appropriate replacement lighting in the future would be seen as a priority.

Everyone is disappointed that LBB were not supportive in funding appropriate lighting for the Estate. Andy shared some of his views and concerns that even the modern version Victorian lighting in the alleyway lane do not look in anyway authentic, and would not want to have similar lighting replicated throughout the Estate. He also spoke of the need for formal contracts with the council that would need to be drawn up in relation to liability and maintenance was and concerned regarding such legal and financial responsibilities that might fall to the ARA, a body with little or no financial or legal weight.

Andy also raised question as to how residents saw the role of their Residents Association. It was agreed this needs to be the main item for this year's AGM.

Jane confirmed that her position remained the same as at previous committee meeting and had not been in agreement for ARA to pursue this matter.

Tricia confirmed that the Newsletter informing residents of the present situation will be distributed as soon as possible, although she was not present at the previous meeting, she had had reservations, feeling that some residents would be uncomfortable at being asked for financial contributions.

Adrian spoke of impact of one of LBB new lights outside his cottage. He had asked for the light to be shielded so it would not shine into the bedroom.

Actions

After a discussion, the committee accepted Tim's view that all residents should be given the chance to respond to a specific request for donations. It was agreed that cottages that had not yet received the leaflet he had produced would receive it during the next week. When the outcome was known, it would be conveyed via e-mail to Helen as treasurer of the committee. Tim also agreed to advise Gary Warner, officer at LBB with whom he had liaising, that this was happening and would inform him of the outcome after the Bank Holiday weekend.

Neil supported Tim on this issue, having also recently communicated to the Council his own personal views.

Open Gardens

Adrian and Diane presented their planning for this event so far.

- A poster went out across the estate during the second week of April confirming the date as July 12th, gardens open between 2-4pm or 4-6pm so those opening their gardens also have a chance to view others.
- There have been 8 offers to open gardens so far, without a door to door request.
- On 9th June another flyer will go out to confirm which gardens will open. Final number to be confirmed to either Adrian or Diane or road reps by 15th June, or at the latest, at the AGM on 18th June. This flyer will again ask for

volunteers to help on the day.

- One parent has offered to open her garden as a 'child friendly'.
- Tickets for the event will be sold separately and road reps will need to assist with this.
- After discussion about group tickets etc. it was decided the price to remain £3 per household, but if a number of friends and family join residents extra donations would be welcome.
- Tickets should be sold by 3rd July at latest in order to be aware of response.
- John Ruler, local historian and journalist, will be covering **Open Gardens** for a local lifestyle magazine. An invitation to cover the event has been extended to the News Shopper. Andy will liaise with both.

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• **Events and competitions on the day.**

- **Fancy Dress for children-Garden Fairy, Scarecrows, Elf.**
 - **Best Jam Jar of Flowers- Wild or Garden, Herbs etc. up to age 12yrs**
 - **Pride of an Allotment - Best presented quality produce from local garden or allotment. Can range from veg. fruit, herb, jam, chutney marmalade. (Preserves can be made with locally sourced or grown produce)**
 - **Pride of a Garden - Best single specimen/flower in a vase grown by the competitor locally. This can be from an open or closed garden on the estate or a resident's allotment.**
 - **Prizes and judging discussed and to be confirmed. Rosettes may be able to be made and 'wilko garden windmills' for children's prizes.**
 - **Raffle - to be drawn in the early evening at Alexandra Nurseries.**
 - **Discussed prizes which could include donations of time, advice, expertise as well as any other donations. Wall hanging from Arts and Crafts Fest. could also be included. Also could buy something from Nurseries.**
 - **Residents to bring own bottle/drink to evening gathering at the Nurseries.**
 - **Suggestion that a ribbon could also be cut on Jo's planter that should be in place outside the shed by then.**
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- Committee supported suggestions made and Diane and Adrian thanked for their really good forward planning for this event.

Treasurers Report

Helen presented this month's report. As no recent fund raising events, income down by about 60%, but also expenditure down so account remains at acceptable level. Printing costs have also been down so carry over will be approx. same as last year. Recent £226. 10 expenditure on Insurance cover paid out. Cheaper options should be explored before next years payment due. Helen also recommends that the process of petty cash to pay out expenses should be reviewed. Subs for this year due in June so will support funds. Helen has designed new membership card which was accepted by committee and will deliver to road reps with membership lists.

Kay and Diane Fuller of Albert Road have kindly agreed to Audit Accounts this year for AGM.

Helen will produce approx. 30 copies of her end of year report for the AGM.

AGM

Jane confirmed that Holy Trinity Church hall booked from 7pm-10pm on Thursday 18th June. This allows half hour at each end of meeting for setting up and clearing up. Suggest meeting commence at 7.30pm and ends 9.30pm.

Lucy said some bottles of wine and plastic cups still left after Meet the Neighbours event which can be served at AGM. Jane will also bring soft drink.

Main item on agenda to be future of ARA and residents views on its role and responsibilities. (The outcome of this will inform the present draft TOR for the Association.

As a number of present committee members will be standing down, election of some new members will also be a priority.

Jane and Lucy agreed to draft short report on this past years activities, achievements challenges, and sustainability.

Ian Hayton to be asked for short verbal or written report on Conservation/Planning meetings/developments.

Neighbourhood Watch

Andy reported recent blip in crime in area seems to have abated.

Squatters were removed from the empty police station.

Andy reported broken door on Alex pub that has been secured.

Local crime stats last year showed slight increase in crimes of violence, but decrease in burglaries, car thefts etc.

All crime and anti social behaviour needs to be reported as stats influence policing levels on the Estate.

Meet the Neighbours Event

This went well with aprox. 25 residents enjoying afternoon refreshment at Alexandra Nurseries last Sunday.

Trust Deeds of Estate

Jane passed these to Andy for perusal and his retention. May need consideration of them being secured at bank. New committee to decide on this after AGM.

150th Anniversary of Alexandra Estate

To be a priority for new committee to consider.

Alex pub development

Recent plans accepted by council, but no news from developer and Late Knights Brewery on time scale for reopening/completion of development.

Jane Ching.

