



EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF 83rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 16th May 2014.
St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Field End Road, Eastcote.

Present: Committee Members:- Ian Brooks, Irene Groom, Karen Spink, Allison Holtorp, Jackie Redrup, Ian Murray, Elizabeth Beggs, Linda Laurie, Chris Groom, Alison Akerman, Keith Barnard, David Harper, Cllr Catherine Dann, Cllr Michael White, Tom Sharkey, Jean Gibson, Nick Denys, approximately 50 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Gawain Cox, Carolyn Derecki, Cllr David Payne, Cllr Raymond Graham, Andrea Gohil, John Randell, Marg Bacon, Lesley Crowcroft, Becky Hagger, Nick Hurd.

IB opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 83rd AGM of the Eastcote Residents Association. IB thanked the church for the use of their facilities and everyone for supporting us during the year.

IB then introduced our speaker for this year Steward Pomeroy from the Colne Valley Park Trust detailing the extent of the park, what areas are covered, the number of Councils involved and the problems this creates, also what they are hoping to do in the future. Questions from the floor followed. CG gave a vote of thanks and presented a donation from ERA to the Trust of £100.

1. Minutes of the 2013 AGM: Agreed with no amendments. Proposed CG Seconded EB.

2. Matters arising from minutes of 2013 meeting, not on the Agenda: There were no matters arising, (several written questions were submitted after the meeting and these were dealt with privately).

3. Chairman's Report: (Ian Brooks)

This is our 83rd Annual General meeting. Our constitution focuses on the "preservation of the amenities and the orderly development of the district by making suggestions"

During the last year your Committee has undertaken a range of activities and interventions aimed at making a contribution to this overall aim.

We meet as a Committee, consisting of 14 volunteers, 10 times a year and we are normally joined by several Councillors and ERA members. The agenda focuses are matters related any new issue raised by a member; Planning; Policing; Transport and Road Safety; Parks, green spaces and conservation; Health and Community Voice; together with normal organisational issues such as finance.

Hopefully you are signed up to a regular email circulation list – from which you will receive our monthly meeting minutes and more importantly relevant news & event details.

On the planning front it is difficult to conclude as a country, and in particular in London, we have a dysfunctional housing market that is preventing the younger generations owning their own house or even renting. It is not surprising therefore there are local tensions regarding planning and this remains a key local issue. Jackie Redrup, our Committee lead on planning, will add some further detail shortly.

On the Policing front there are frustrations related to the limited resources available to neighbourhood policing both in visibility of local bobbies on the beat and also effectiveness of local police ward panels. At a borough level the Police Community Liaison Group has been replaced by a smaller, in terms of members, Safer Neighbourhood Board. One of the priorities of this new group is to see ward panels and dedicated ward officers transparently in place and operating effectively.

On a Transport and Road Safety some concerns have been raised regarding road resurfacing – in particular the Council's prioritisation process. Some of our pavements, including Eastcote Town Centre, are in need of repair. Congestion remains an issue and the construction process for HS2 will make matters worse.

Some excellent work has been done by the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens and in particular in securing a (over £1m) restoration lottery grant. The Committee took the decision to contribute a £1,000 from ERA funds to the public appeal element.

As Christmas approached last year it became apparent that there was a real risk of there being no Christmas lights display in Eastcote. This would have been in stark contrast to the previous year when there was a busy Eastcote Festival together with a much-improved light display. We decided to offer £500 on the condition that the lights were installed. We appreciated that the Council then funded and installed the lights.

The difficulties associated with the lights links to the broader issue of how we enhance the facilities and appeal of Eastcote Town Centre. Eastcote has a great deal of potential to offer a better experience to the shopper, the visitor and local residents who want to meet and greet. The developments in Ruislip Manor and Northwood Hills illustrate what can be accomplished if the Community pulls together.

What has been missing is an Eastcote business forum – something the ERA have been pushing for some time. It is very encouraging to report that an Eastcote Chamber of Commerce is very likely to be formed in June.

I have served on the committee for 7 years, been Vice Chair for a year and Chair for last 2 years & will be standing down today. I will be continuing in a voluntary safety role as Chair of the Hillingdon Safer Neighbourhood Board – complimenting ERA aims.

I would like to conclude by expressing my thanks and sincere appreciation to the Committee members for their support. They are an asset to the association contributing a great deal - individually and collectively - to the local quality of life.

We are fortunate also to have 70+ road stewards who perform sterling work – a big thanks to them. Alison Akerman will report further.

Thank you also to our supportive Councillors noting that Cllr Bruce Baker and David Payne are standing down and Ray Graham is seeking election to another ward.

Finally ladies and gentlemen I would like to say a big thank you to for your support of the association.

Proposed: TH Seconded: CG. JR proposed a vote of thanks to IB for all his hard work during the year as Chairman.

4. Treasurers Report (Alison Holtorp)

Treasurers Report Year Ending 31st March 2014

INCOME

Last year, due to the weather being exceptionally inclement, there was a delay in collecting subscriptions, and so I accrued into last year's accounts, the receipts collected and banked during April 2013. However even after this date, more subscriptions were collected and this has artificially inflated the figures for this year.

This year almost all subscriptions were collected on time and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Road Stewards both past, Karen Spink, and present, Alison Akerman, for all their hard work liaising and setting up the new systems for distribution and banking.

EXPENDITURE

Running costs have as in previous years been kept to a minimum and again I would like to thank the committee members for their continued support by meeting their own costs incurred whilst carrying out their roles.

NET PROFIT

The Association has a net profit of £1762.66 for this year, and at a recent meeting it was felt that the small increase in the printing costs of the newsletter, to allow for the inclusion of colour and colour photographs, may be a way of increasing resident participation.

BALANCE SHEET

The Association is in a healthy financial position having net assets of £15,690.40; of which, £10,000 is to be kept in reserve in case the need arises for a fighting fund.

These monies are held in two accounts, a current account and a savings account; the statements for these accounts have been seen by a non-committee member of ERA, who has kindly agreed to take on this role and the Accounts signed off to that effect.

Proposed: IM Seconded KB.

5. Representatives Reports

Senior Road Steward : (Alison Ackerman)

This is my first report as Senior Road Steward, having assumed the role from Karen Spink last May. Thanks have already been expressed to Karen for all her hard work in the role over 10 years but on behalf of all this must be said again. It is a time consuming but very important role; the duties Karen performed were so much, that we have needed to split the role so we cover this with a real team effort. Although I hold the title of SRS I carry out a liaison and admin role; Alison, Treasurer receives subs either by cash or cheque from Area or Road Stewards or advice of direct banking into HSBC; Carolyn Derecki, Linda Laurie and Andrea Gohil act as distributors to Area Stewards in the North, Mid and South regions. We introduced some new procedures and ended the year with feeling it had gone well. None of which would be the case without our Road Stewards and Area Road Stewards. Profuse thanks to all for the superb achievement in getting all subs for the year ended March '14 paid in by now. We all had to work on achieving this a month earlier this year too as ERA's year end was moved from April to March. We have ended the year with 1945 members; we will carry on working to Karen's target of 2000.

The Spring newsletters were received by Area Stewards for distribution a few weeks earlier than normal so giving Stewards more time to deliver to ensure receipt before this meeting; this extra time is appreciated. We are always seeking new Road Stewards –either for roads where Stewards have had to give up or to try and cover roads where ERA has never had members. It's a nice thing to do if you like a walk and meet new people – you don't have to live in the same road. If you are interested/which to find out more take a look at the vacant list/request a copy and let me know or via the ERA website or any ERA Committee member. We are also urgently seeking a replacement Area Road Steward to liaise with local Road Stewards, to take over from Dympna McDermott (with much thanks to Dympna's excellent support over the years) who covered the area around Aragon and Boleyn Drive, Cleves Way and the Closes around there. Please contact me if you have any questions. Alison Akerman 07771 846754; alison@fsm1.uk.com.

Planning: (Jackie Redrup)

At the AGM, I confine my report to what can be considered the major developments within our area.

However, if any of you wish to discuss individual planning applications, please do contact me personally, either at the end of the meeting of thereafter at any time.

So far as I can ascertain, there is no new information on the major developments, other than that already provided to you via the newsletter and in recent committee meeting minutes.

Briefly, therefore, to recap this information:-

150 Field End Road – Initial House

The Developers, London Square, a local company based in Ickenham, gained planning approval to increase the originally agreed number of flats from 42 to 45. They also obtained permission for alterations to the design of the elevations, other plant related amendments and a small reduction in car parking spaces.

ERA did object on certain aspects of this planning application, as did the Eastcote Village Conservation Area Advisory Panel and, of course, interested residents. Whilst approval was obtained by London Square, we have the small victory that it was granted with 2 provisos that were of particular concern to residents – all windows on the 3rd and 4th floors of the west elevation facing Morford Close have to have obscure glazing and be non-opening and the scheduled green roof, cannot be used as an amenity space. These two conditions do prevent overlooking issues.

Pembroke Park – the Former RAF Site

Sadly, we lost our battle regarding the various additions to properties that have been built on the site contrary to the originally agreed plans. It was a battle particularly hard fought by those most affected in Azalea Walk and we also appreciate the many local residents who signed petitions in support of the cause.

The Esso Garage, High Road Eastcote

The application to build 4 houses on this site remains undecided and I have been unable to find any information as to how this will be progressed.

Finally you are no doubt aware of the Central Government edict last year that allows for single storey rear extensions to be built larger than was previously allowed, without the need for full planning permission. This is a complicated subject, but briefly, Hillingdon Council did apply under the due process, to be exempt from this requirement. It is understood that the Councils application is still to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

6. Election of officers:

Before the nominations were read out IB pointed out that as he was standing down as Chairman he asked if there were any nominations for the post as Chairman from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. IB also pointed out that the ERA constitution had a position for a President and that Chris Groom was suggested. This was Proposed by TH and Seconded by JR, this was carried by a show of hands.

IB then read out the list of nominations for the Committee:

Officers:

Chairman - Vacant

Vice Chairman – Vacant

Treasurer – Alison Holtorp

Senior Road Steward – Alison Akerman

Secretary – Irene Groom

General Committee;

Planning – Jackie Redrup

Health Matters and Community Voice – Elizabeth Beggs

Newsletter – Linda Laurie and David Harper

Web Administrator – Gawain Cox

Unassigned Committee Members; Keith Barnard, Carolyn Derecki, Karen Spink, Ian Murray.

These nominations were proposed by Jeff and Seconded by Tom Sharkey, and agreed by a show of hands.

7. Any other business:

After a short break, questions were taken from the floor regarding the reports and general problems in our area. A lot of questions and comments were regarding the deployable state of the roads and pavements in the Eastcote area and we were all advised to report all problems to the Contact Centre by phone:- Tel 01895 556000

Sylvia Ladyman thanked IB and all the committee for their hard work during the year.

IB thanked LL and her husband for doing the refreshments and brought the meeting to a close wishing everyone a safe journey home,

The meeting finished at 9.30pm

The date of the next ordinary meeting is WEDNESDAY 25th June 2014 at Elsie Fischer Room, St. Lawrence Church, Bridle Road, at 7.30pm

Apologies to Chris/Irene Groom on Telephone No. 0208 866 0985 (answer phone) or by e-mail.