

Ealing Fields Residents' Association

Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting
Held on 22 May 2013 at the Log Cabin, Northfield Avenue

1. Introduction and Welcome

Deputy Chair, Roger Jarman, welcomed Councillor David Millican and Inspector Susan Hayward and some 50 members of the Association to the AGM.

Apologies had been received from: Andrew Dick, Brian Ellis, Hilary Phillips, Lynne West and Councillor Phillip Taylor.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Keith Marriage, presented the audited income and expenditure accounts for year ended 30th April 2013. Keith reported that the accounts were marginally in the red compared to the previous year and that additional membership would alleviate this, while also providing more support for the activities and affiliations. The full accounts were circulated at the meeting. It was agreed that Jay Patel be reappointed as Auditor.

4. Membership report/street reps/newsletter/website

Carla reported that we now have 808 members at 535 addresses representing 25% of the households in the area. There is a shortage of street reps with vacancies in Cranmer Avenue, Lawrence Road, Radbourne Avenue, Windmill Court and Windmill Road. Any volunteers were asked to speak to Carla or to use the website contact information to apply for these roles.

There had been 5 issues of the e-newsletter in the year and the website held useful information and updates. The Committee would welcome any ideas, articles and questions on the content.

5. Election of Committee Members

Carla Andrewes (Blondin Avenue), David Ashforth (Bramley Road), Jane Cocking (Convent Gardens), Andrew Dick (Little Ealing Lane), James Guest (Wellington Road), Clive Herring (Bramley Road), Roger Jarman (Dorset Road), Helen Johnson (Wellington Road), Patricia Judd (Laurel House), Keith Marriage (Chandos Avenue), Rosmarie Matter (Birkbeck Road), Rita Smith (Ealing Park Gardens), Lynne West (Niagara Avenue), Wendy Hallam (Hollies Road) and Charmian Ali (Trent Avenue) were willing to stand for the next year. This leaves four vacancies on the Committee. Members were urged to consider standing for the Committee.

6. Community Safety: the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Inspector Susan Hayward presented a full account of the changes to the Borough policing organisation and the plans for restructuring. Essentially this involves a shared services model that will merge resources across areas with the services coordinated from Ealing Police Station. However there is a need for more staff in order to make the new model work and more officers are due to be appointed by 16th September. In theory this should provide additional police constables with a reduction falling primarily in the CID force.

The statistics for the year within the Borough showed a 7.8% reduction in serious violence and low level crime reduced by 10.5%. Residential robbery showed a small increase of 3.3% but from a low base and general robbery had reduced by 23%.

The low level of incidents in the Ward makes improvements in future performance even more challenging. A question was asked about the clear up ratio and the following figures were given, robbery 18.1%, serious violence 31.4% and theft 7.5%. All but theft had shown improvements year on year.

7. Transport and Parking

Roger reported on current issues and referenced these as ongoing including pedestrian safety at Weymouth Avenue and Bramley Road junction; Hereford road; Northfield Station forecourt improvement; roundabout at Windmill Road and Swyncombe Avenue, potential roundabout at the Plough junction and EPTUG petition on the overcrowding of the Piccadilly line. Roger asked for any comments or issues to be brought to his attention.

Planning/Licensing Issues

James reported on current issues that include the local development framework, Cramner Avenue snooker hall, Julien Road development, the hostel in Northfields Avenue, Reynard Mills development, Chandos Avenue planning application and Get Bike.

It was also reported that the Council, in having to make savings, are proposing to make changes to the operation of Libraries and Leisure by out sourcing these services to a management company. EFRA would maintain a watchful eye on the opening times and quality of service in the local facility.

Rosmarie reported on the potential Heathrow expansion with two consultations since last year, including one covering the amount of night flights and times. A third runway at Heathrow was on the agenda again and the Government has set up a Commission to review.

8. Local Interest Groups

The role of the local History group was outlined and the local history books produced for the Millennium were made available to purchase at the meeting. John Quincy Adams is to be the subject of the next book as he lived off Windmill Road.

The Brentford festival at Blondin Park on 1st September will include a stall for the History group.

The next Ward Forum meeting is scheduled for 27th June at 7.30pm at the Log Cabin and David Millican mentioned the topics to be covered, including parking surveys and zones and other neighbourhood interests.

David Millican reported that the Council had nominated Bramley Gardens for a Green Flag award and that the space would be visited on 31st May at 10.15am as part of the assessment and that residents were welcome to attend to show support.

9. Open Forum

Blondin Park alongside the tube line has an unsightly fence with a building behind on TFL property. A line of trees would shield this from view. David Millican will investigate.

A member raised a question on the alley gating scheme and whether this was still being operated by the Council. Advice was requested on how to get neighbours to respond to requests for permission.

The redevelopment in Julien Road replacing the commercial premises will be going ahead with three sets of semi detached houses.

Parking pressure in Ealing Park Gardens was raised as an issue for the residents. Three years have elapsed since the previous assessment and a new survey is to be conducted in the area.

A question was raised about the potential upgrade of the Piccadilly line as part of the TFL modernisation scheme.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm with thanks to the attendees and participants.