

**STRUTT'S PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**held on 5 April 2013 at S. Mary's Parish Hall, Darley Lane**

**1 & 2. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Margaret and Colin Rosser, David and Carmel Barke, Ian and Sandra Butler, Doreen Evans, Brenda Watson and Millie Holder and Cllr Jack Stanton.

Derek Limer was in the chair, and welcomed 33 members of the Association, Cllr Martin Repton, PS Rob Wilson and PCSO Linda Ball from the Derbyshire Constabulary and Imke Goalby from Derby City Council's Neighbourhoods Team.

**3. Neighbourhood Participation**

Imke Goalby, currently the Partnership Manager for Darley Ward with Derby City Council, explained that Pop Gill will be assuming responsibility for Darley Ward as Neighbourhood Manager in the near future and Ray Gibson will be the main contact as the local Neighbourhood Officer. She went on to describe the functions of the Neighbourhood Board and the Neighbourhood Forum, both chaired by Cllr Repton, the latter being open to the general public and providing, as its name suggests, the forum where residents can raise any topics of local concern. The next meeting of the Forum is on 10 April, and Imke Goalby left a supply of the papers for the meeting, explaining how topics for discussion can be introduced and how, in the 'You said, we did' section progress on topics is reported back. She invited people present to put their names and contact details on the list she left if they wanted to receive future Neighbourhood Forum papers and notification of public consultations. The papers she left also included details of many useful contacts in the City Council, Police and Fire services. Imke Goalby went on to say that E-mail is proving to be the most reliable way of contacting the City Council these days.

The Neighbourhood Board comprises the three ward councillors, representatives of the service providers, members nominated by local community and voluntary groups and individual local residents. Places on the Board are currently up for re-nomination, and the SPRA will be making its nomination shortly (Jude King having represented the SPRA for the past few years). Any individual wishing to be nominated has only to find 10 local people to nominate them for consideration for appointment to the Board, and now is the time to do it!

Imke Goalby encouraged local residents to participate as fully as possible by these means in the running of the neighbourhood. Derek Limer thanked her for taking time to attend the meeting and explain the opportunities that exist for further participation.

**4. Minutes of the 20 March 2012 AGM**

These minutes were noted and approved.

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes**

Members commented on the long list of traffic-related suggestions made at the 2012 meeting and wondered why there seemed to have been so little progress. Derek Limer and Cllr Martin Repton explained that the traffic consultation that had been undertaken in the area revealed no consensus of opinion on what might be done to improve matters. It was pointed out that elsewhere in the city an expensive traffic calming scheme had been introduced a year or two ago, in response to pressure from local residents. Once installed, local residents found they did not like the scheme and demanded that it be removed, all of which cost a lot of money and achieved nothing. After that experience the City Council is unlikely to take any substantial traffic calming action unless it clearly has the overwhelming support of local residents. Some thought a 20 mph speed limit in the residential streets would be a good idea, and Cllr Repton suggested that SPRA representatives bring that before the Neighbourhood Forum and Board for further consideration.

The question of the shortness of the double yellow lines at the Milford Street/Arthur Street junction was raised. Parked cars, complying with the parking restriction, still obstruct the junction, making manoeuvring through the junction difficult. Some people present thought that such obstacles helped to deter through and speeding traffic, and so were to be welcomed. Others observed that extending the double yellow lines would further limit the number of parking spaces available in the area. A show of hands revealed there was some support for raising this matter at the Neighbourhood Board and Forum, at least to obtain traffic expert comment on the matter.

The question of burglaries and other crime in the area was raised when the police representatives were present. Thefts from sheds and burglaries where entry was attempted from back gardens were discussed and the common experience was that the police had responded in an exemplary and prompt manner to the alarms being given, but it was noted that it would be better to avoid the commission of the crime in the first place. PS Rob Wilson said that it was important to make sure that garden sheds were secure, with hinges and padlocks fitted using clutch head screws or domed headed bolts with nuts on the inside. One resident, who had had bicycles stolen twice from his shed, commented that determined thieves came equipped with heavy duty cutting tools that easily saw off ordinary security arrangements. It was observed that criminal entry to back gardens in the terraced streets could be rendered more difficult if outer gates were kept locked. **Derek Limer** undertook to draught a note to be delivered to houses with rear entry from the passage opening into Margaret Street, where the lock that used to be present has now fallen into disuse. **PCSO Linda Ball** said she would supply **Clive Lemmon** with a leaflet the police had produced on improving shed security, for circulation round the area. PS Rob Wilson commented on several recent cases, relating to bicycle theft and other crimes, where the offenders had been apprehended. He went on to say that it was most helpful if local residents would report anything suspicious, dialling **999** in the case of an emergency, or **101** if the matter was less urgent. He pointed out that the police had stop and search powers that allowed them to uncover people equipped with tools to commit crimes, but they could only do that if their attention had been drawn to the suspicious behaviour in the first place.

## 6. Chairman's Report

Derek Limer reported that the committee had met seven times since the 2012 AGM and he thanked members of the committee for making their homes available for meetings. The minutes of the committee meetings are published on the SPRA website and E-mailed to members, and members were encouraged to look at these to keep abreast of developments.

In the year Derek Limer had attended several meetings in connection with the *Our City, Our River* flood defence project. West of the river it is most likely to affect the Duke Street area and he had been involved in meetings with local residents, Councillors and Chris. Williamson, the local MP. The project has a long time to run yet and is far from resolution. Our neighbours in Little Chesters are expressing anxiety at the cost of insuring their houses against the risk of flood.

He went on to comment on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June 2012, and the work of local groups in arranging street parties, some plans for which were unfortunately frustrated by the bad weather on the Sunday of the weekend. He also remarked on the Olympic torch reception ceremony in Darley Park a few weeks later, which had been generally agreed to be a great success, truly a 'once in a lifetime' experience.

Referring to the traffic situation in Strutt's Park, he commented again on Andrew Jones's report at the last AGM and noted that, whatever benefits the *Connecting Derby* scheme might have brought to the area, the weeks of closure of the Five Lamps junction for road works last summer and the current restrictions on S. Alkmund's Way for bridgeworks had both put very heavy pressure on the area as drivers sought alternative routes.

He welcomed the cooperation the SPRA had had with other local groups, the recently formed Strutt's Park Community Group (focussing on organising events for the area, following on from a successful Jubilee Street Party), the River Street Community Group and its work on S. Alkmund's Green and the Friends of Derby Open Spaces, mentioning especially the last named's programme of summer events, including the opening of the hydrangea collection and musical events on the restored terrace in Darley Park. SPRA also works closely with our neighbours across the river in the Little Chesters Residents' Association.

Derek Limer thanked Jude King and Bob Knight for their participation on the SPRA's behalf in the Darley Ward Neighbourhood Board. He commented on the need to refresh the SPRA website, and looked forward to a time when it could link more effectively with the websites of the other local groups. He expressed regret that the Neighbourhood Watch, once so vibrant in the area, had become somewhat moribund and hoped that it might be possible to reinvigorate it.

An autumn newsletter had been circulated to all SPRA members, giving an update on progress. All those committee members involved in its production and distribution were thanked.

Derek Limer and Clive Lemmon had met Neil Robertson, the City Council's Conservation Officer, for a 'walkabout' round the conservation area in the autumn. That had provided an opportunity to raise particular issues with him, and to gauge his thinking on his priorities for the future. Derek Limer, reminding members of the availability of the Conservation Area Guidance notes, urged people with any development plans to discuss them first with the Conservation Officer. Matters can also be discussed by the SPRA committee, if people would care to raise them.

The new tenant is about to move in to the restored S. Helen's House. Derek Limer commented that there was general relief that this grade I listed building had been restored and brought back into use. He also mentioned the plans of Housing 21 to build flats for the over-55s on the site of the ruins of the Bath Street Mills. Housing 21 has other properties in the City, of which good reports have been heard.

Derek Limer thanked the members of the committee for their work throughout the year.

Clive Lemmon then thanked Derek Limer for all that he had contributed to the work of the SPRA over the past year, a view endorsed by the applause of the meeting.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report**

The Annual Accounts had been circulated by Matthew Scarborough, the treasurer, and these were duly approved.

#### **8. Election of Committee and Officers**

Nominations had been received for Clive Lemmon as Secretary, Matthew Scarborough as Treasurer and Brenda Watson, Jude King, Belinda Elliott, Derek Limer, Ian Thom, Bob Knight and Wendy Churchill as committee members. As the constitution limits the number of ordinary elected committee members to six, but places no limit on the number of members who may be co-opted onto the committee, it was agreed by the meeting that all these first eight be elected and that Wendy Churchill be immediately co-opted onto to the committee for the coming year.

#### **9. Other Community Groups**

Derek Limer had already noted the SPRA's co-operation with other local groups and he invited representatives of those groups present, who so wished, to introduced themselves. Two representatives of the new Strutt's Park Community Group then did that, thanking SPRA for their support and explaining the events they had organised so far and encouraging others to come to them with ideas for things they might do in future.

#### **10. Any other business**

Matthew Scarborough said that SPRA now was on Twitter at SPRADE1.

Derek Limer had brought along copies of the City Council's *Let's Go Wild in Derby* brochure of events for 2013 and encouraged people to take one away with them. He also had a few copies of the Conservation Area Guidance Note, if anyone new to the area did not have a copy.

Derek Limer then invited members to raise, informally, any further matters of concern whilst consuming the light refreshments.

The meeting closed formally at about 8.40 pm.