

**STRUTT'S PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**held on 5 April 2016 at Derby Rowing Club, Darley Grove**

*The meeting began informally at 7.30 pm with an opportunity for those attending to look at the plans for the proposed speed calming measures in Belper Road. Jon Pumfrey and Aidan Ryrie of the Derby City Council's Traffic and Transportation Department and Cllr Jack Stanton were on hand to answer questions and explain the features of the proposals, which had been worked up by the City Council after a series of meetings of a working party, formed mainly of local residents, with support from Ward Councillors and City Council officers as a result of the Public Meeting held in October 2015, at which had been aired various possibilities for improving the traffic and parking situation in the area. The proposed scheme was out to local consultation at the time of the meeting (with a conclusion date of 18 April 2016), so, as the meeting had been advertised by a mail-drop to almost all the houses in the Strutt's Park Conservation Area, this discussion time was a chance for members of the public to raise any queries they had about the proposal.*

*At 8.00 pm the formal meeting began:*

**1 & 2. Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: John and Alison Axton, Nigel and Stephanie Harvey, Leah Thalman and Diana Proudfoot, Jude King, Brenda Watson and Cllr Martin Repton.

Belinda Elliott-Dawes was in the chair, and welcomed 30 members of the Association and Cllr Jack Stanton.

**3. Minutes of the 23 March 2015 AGM**

These minutes, copies of which were generally available at the meeting, were noted and approved.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

None.

**5. Chairman's Report**

Belinda Elliott-Dawes delivered her report as follows:

*Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, and welcome to the Annual General meeting of the Strutt's Park Residents' Association.*

*My thanks go to our members for their continued interest, and to the committee for hosting meetings in their homes, which helps considerably in keeping down costs.*

*Our committee has been stable over the last couple of years. Our secretary is Clive Lemmon, who manfully juggles his skills between SPRA, Friends of the Museum and St Matthew's Church in Darley Abbey. Our treasurer is Matthew Scarborough, who last year became a parent for the first time with his wife Stephanie, blessed with a son, William. Our diligent representative on the Neighbourhood Board is Robert Knight, and Brenda Watson is also a school governor for Noel Baker School. Rob and Brenda are both old pupils of the same school that I had the pleasure of attending; Henry Cavendish School at Breadsall.*

*Joan Dutton is a long-time resident of Belper Road and has been the instigator and a driving force of our efforts to slow traffic and discourage rat-running in our area.*

*Unfortunately, a long standing member of our committee, Jude King, is presently unwell and has stepped down. We wish her all the very best for her future.*

*We also have a non-committee member, Peter Yates of Strutts Hairdressing Salon, who keeps up our website.*

*All are busy people who give up their time and efforts for the benefit of our lovely part of Derby.*

*My name is Belinda Elliott Dawes, I am currently the Chair of the association, and I have happily lived in Strutt's Park for almost twenty years.*

*It has, and continues to be, a busy year for the Association.*

*The committee has met eight times over the past year, plus several special meetings, more on that later.*

*We had already received £500 from the Neighbourhood Board towards the cost of the park welcome board, to be situated at the southern entrance to Darley Park in Darley Grove, just south of this building. The Friends of Darley Open Spaces contributed the £380 shortfall to cover the full cost.*

*We also reported on the state of the remaining cast iron street name plates in our area. These were subsequently refurbished by the City Council and missing ones replaced by plastic signs.*

*At our last AGM in March 2015, following a lively debate on traffic problems, we started a plan of action. Guided by councillors Martin Repton and Jack Stanton, we have proceeded towards a possible solution. More on that in a moment.*

*In August SPRA contributed £50 to the Rowing Club towards the installation of the defibrillator attached to the outside of this building.*

*In October 2015 the Welcome Board in Darley Park was put in place.*

*We reported that 98 Belper Road, having finally been sold, is now being slowly renovated. The new owners kindly invited neighbours to visit the site.*

*Also in October we hosted a public meeting with David Gartside, Head of Traffic and Transportation at Derby City Council. His advice and guidance were invaluable in enabling us to press forward on the traffic problems in the area.*

*In January of this year we held a meeting of willing people to form a working party to discuss and implement ways of canvassing residents of Belper Road to gauge their opinion on through traffic. Councillors Jack Stanton and Martin Repton joined SPRA members to deliver and collect questionnaires. The positive results of this response were forwarded to David Gartside who was able to suggest what alternatives there are within the constraints of the finances available to the City Council. We felt unable to address parking problems at this time as we have too many cars and not enough tarmac.*

*In February we had a further meeting with councillors Repton and Stanton of the Neighbourhood Board, plus Jon Pumfrey and Aidan Ryrie of the Department of Traffic and Transportation. This was following the approval of funding for traffic slowing measures through Strutt's Park, namely Belper Road.*

*In March a further meeting of the working party was held to approve the consultation documents on the speed calming proposals and to make arrangements for the further distribution of the documents the week commencing March 21<sup>st</sup>. May. I encourage anyone who has yet to reply to the questionnaire to do so by the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. If anyone has mislaid their copy, we have spares available here.*

*The next meeting of the working party is on 27<sup>th</sup> of April.*

*I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given their time and efforts in pursuit of a solution to our traffic problems.*

*As always we are non-political, and aim to stimulate public interest and opinion, and promote a sense of community. We also aim to improve safety and amenities, and the presentation, protection, development and improvement of features of beauty, historic and public interest.*

*We aim to further the welfare and interest of the residents of the Strutt's Park area and to encourage our awareness of the neighbourhood.*

*I encourage anyone to visit our website [www.Strutts.org](http://www.Strutts.org) or put Strutt's Park Residents' Association into your search engine.*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attention.*

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Annual Accounts had been circulated by Matthew Scarborough, the treasurer, and these were duly approved. The largest item of expenditure in the year was the payment for the park 'welcome' board. Matthew Scarborough noted that the membership had increased to 72 households. He thought this primarily due to the increased interest generated by the publicity given to the traffic calming work the SPRA had undertaken during the year.

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

Nominations, in proper form, had been received for Clive Lemmon as Secretary, Matthew Scarborough as Treasurer and Brenda Watson, Belinda Elliott-Dawes, Bob Knight, Joan Dutton and Rosa Dhromericka as committee members, and these were duly elected for the forthcoming year.

## **8. Other Community Groups**

Alison Grimwood, Chair of Friends of Darley Open Spaces (FoDOS), said that the Management Plan for the Open Spaces was now approved and had played a part in Derby City Council being awarded the *Green Flag* in 2015. Work in Darley Park, supported by funding from DerwentWise, has included the felling of certain self-seeded trees and the clearance of undergrowth in some areas of the western bank of the River Derwent to open up some of the iconic views, especially across to the mills at Darley Abbey, which had been lost with the passage of time. There is a balance to be struck between wilderness and over-manicured parkland.

The first park 'welcome' board is now in place, and FoDOS is seeking to raise funds for similar boards to be put up at all the major entrances to the Open Spaces so that visitors are aware of all that is on offer locally. Money is available for the making of a mosaic to go into the open part of the hydrangea garden, and the public's involvement in the making (based on different centres round the park) is actively welcomed. The 2016 Open Day for the hydrangea collection will be on 7 August.

FoDOS has not tried to mount a campaign to secure the continuation of the Darley Park Concert series, recognising the financial situation that has led to its cancellation this year. They do point out, however, that the facilities the park offers, in terms of a natural amphitheatre, will remain, and concerts, in the traditional form or other forms, can be held there again in future.

FoDOS has been engaged in activities to encourage hedgehogs and bees and to revitalise the tree trail in Darley Park.

## **9. Any other business**

Jack Stanton drew the meeting's attention to the work now begun on the major *Our River Our City* flood defence scheme. The felling of trees on the line of the works had caused some local concern, but it was essential if the defences are to be constructed. New trees will be planted once the works are complete. Archeological digs have been carried out at several sites along the line of the works have attracted local interest. They have reminded us that this is an area with a long history of human habitation, and the new flood defence works are aimed at keeping the area habitable long into the future.

He went on to mention the speed calming proposals and to point out that they had been developed because of the level of public interest and supported generated by the work of the SPRA.

The current situation with the planned redevelopment of the Oaklands site in Duffield Road was raised. Clive Lemmon said that the proposal current at the time of the 2015 AGM (to demolish the existing house and construct several modern detached houses in the garden with access from the northern stub of Queen Mary Court) had been withdrawn, but the developer had put forward a revised plan that retained the existing house, converted back into a private dwelling with access from Duffield Road, but which also includes the construction of a new terrace of nine modest dwellings at the western side of the garden, with access from Queen Mary Court. The SPRA had, along with others, objected to this new proposal on the grounds that terraced housing was not in keeping with the nature of this part of the Conservation Area, and that the access from Queen Mary Court was inadequate. Cllr Stanton said that the proposal was currently before the city council planning committee.

Derek Limer drew the meeting's attention to the completion of the Parkland View flats (on the site of the former Bath Street Mill). This development, intended for older residents, comprises a mix of one- and two-bedroomed self-contained flats, with a restaurant and a shop on site, available for rent or shared-ownership purchase. Additional support for residents will be available, at a charge, for those who desire it. There is to be no 'open day' viewing, but anyone wishing to view the flats can arrange with Derby Homes to be taken round.

The decayed state of the building in Duffield Road directly opposite the restored S. Helen's House was raised. This building is now in private ownership and proposals had been submitted for conversion into flats, but no physical progress had been made, other than the removal of some derelict signage. The nearby building at the top of S. Helen's Street, owned by Metropolitan Housing, was also mentioned. Cllr Stanton said that he would make enquiries into the situation of both these buildings, but remarked that the City Council had very limited powers in regard to empty commercial premises, such as these, unlike in the case of empty dwellings, where the Empty Homes legislation had significantly strengthened local authority powers.

## **10. Formal Closure**

Belinda Elliott-Dawes closed the meeting formally at 8.35 pm. Cllr Stanton stayed on to discuss matters that individuals raised with him.