

STRUTT'S PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
held on 2 April 2019 at S. Mary's Parish Centre, Darley Lane

Unable to reconcile as the AGM 2020 was cancelled because of Covid

Present were 28 members, including Cllr Jack Stanton, Cllr Martin Repton for the first part of the meeting and PCSO Sophie Charles for the first part of the informal discussion).

1. Welcome

Belinda Elliott-Dawes was in the chair, and welcomed the members of the Association and visitors and invited Cllr Repton to address the meeting briefly. He explained that he was feeling unwell so had come for the beginning of the meeting to express his on-going interest in the work of the Association and the concerns of its members, but that he would have to leave early for his health's sake, and to minimise the risk of infection.

2. Kings Crescent Development update

Belinda Elliott-Dawes said that Stuart Bennett was not able to be present to update the AGM on progress, but had let the Secretary, Clive Lemmon, know that he hoped to be able to arrange another site visit now that the work is so far advanced. Clive Lemmon will communicate arrangements to the SPRA membership, electronically, when a date has been finalised.

Belinda Elliott-Dawes said that the Kings Crescent development had kindly agreed to sponsor the large flower bed at the Five Lamps junction.

3. Alleviation of Sewer Odours in SPRA area

Neither Chris. Mulligan nor Matthew Hall from Severn Trent were able to attend the meeting, but Clive Lemmon read out the following update from the latter:

The dosing rig design is complete and an order has been placed with our supplier

A new planning application was required which has now been submitted and we expect a response in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Clive Lemmon commented that this represented a delay on the original plans, but nevertheless indicated that Severn Trent were definitely taking action to cure the problem and expressed the hope that planning permission would be granted speedily so that the new dosing rig can be installed.

4. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from the following members: Stuart Bennett, John and Alison Axton, Jane Temple, Mr & Mrs Roy Harrison, Pat Greatorex, Brenda Watson, Alison and John Grimwood, Leah Thalmann.

5. Minutes of the 17 April 2018 AGM

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

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

In response to a question, Cllr Stanton said work would begin on construction of the riverside path through the park very soon. The bridge over the leet would now require rebuilding as it had been damaged. The children's play area would be retained. The scheme was a balance between the need to preserve the park, whilst providing easy access for all members of the public. Cllr Repton commented that the opening ceremony would include a phalanx of wheelchair users demonstrating the new accessibility of the parks.

It was asked if anyone had been fined for habitually leaving wheeled dustbins on the street. Cllr Stanton explained that the newly expanded enforcement teams were tackling the areas where 'bins on streets' were the most serious problem, and that experience so far had shewn that the problem could be substantially reduced by discussion, though fines remained an option for persistent offenders. A new Public Protection Officer (PPO) would soon begin work in the Darley Ward, and this would be the person who could most assist in controlling the 'bins on streets' issue in the SPRA area. The PPO's responsibilities would be Ward-wide and would extend to dog fouling and many other issues as well.

That led to the acute problem of dog fouling in North Street being raised. Cllr Stanton said that enforcement officers in plain clothes could mount a 'dog poo sting operation', with fines being a penalty that was available to them.

The problem of parking on pavements on the west side of North Parade was mentioned (a location with a single yellow line Mon – Sat 8.00 am to 6.00 pm restriction). Cllr Stanton explained that the bye-law prohibiting pavement parking in the City Centre did not extend to North Parade, so such parking was not illegal unless a particular example could be shewn to amount to obstruction. He also offered to ask that a Council Traffic Officer

should inspect the situation at the critical evening time to see the extent and severity of the problem. Anyone noting a particular problem was urged to report it to the City Council, ideally including photographic evidence.

7. Chairman's Report

Belinda Elliott-Dawes delivered her report as follows:

Good evening again Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome and thank you for attending this AGM of The Strutt's Park Residents Association.

My name is Belinda Elliott-Dawes and I am currently the chair of the Association. Our secretary is Clive Lemmon and our treasurer is Matthew Scarborough. Our website is run by Joan Dutton and is paid for by Peter Yates of Strutt's Hair and Beauty Salon in Mackworth Village. Joan also produces the Newsletter. John Austin is our most recent committee member and has taken on the post of attending the Neighbourhood Board on our behalf.

Our non-political Association aims to help residents to access the relevant departments of the Council when needed, and to keep an eye on what is happening in the SPRA area.

The committee has met five times in the year since our last AGM.

In June we monitored progress on the flood defence barrier at the edge of our area and we are pleased to see that it is now finished on our side of the river.

We are currently paying attention to the number of dustbins being left on the pavement all week between collections. The Council have been in touch with the households which tend to do this and we hope that the practice will stop.

We have had feedback from our neighbours regarding the difficulty of exiting Chevin Place and Ruskin Road onto Belper Road due to cars being parked on the corners. This has been reported to the Neighbourhood Board and we look forward to double yellow lines being put in place to make things safer in due course.

In August members of the committee were invited by Civic Voice to take part in a national (non-compulsory) audit of Conservation Areas. There were a number of items to be observed, including waste bins, or lack of, poorly maintained properties and gardens and pavements. This was only an observation exercise, no addresses or names were recorded. We were pleased to find that Strutt's Park is not a 'failing conservation area', though there was, of course some room for improvement in some places. The committee hopes to carry out a further audit in future to help monitor the progress of the conservation area. Residents can obtain a publication from the Council outlining what is allowed, or not, to do to our property in the conservation area.

In October we revisited the Residents' Only Parking option. Although the survey we conducted in Chevin Road resulted in a majority against the option, it was felt that maybe a survey of Otter Street and Arthur Street might be worth the legwork involved. We await neighbours' opinions on this. Maybe some members of the Association would be will to assist in delivering survey sheets?

It was noticed that there is a lack of rubbish bins in our area, especially outside local shops. This has been brought to the attention of the Neighbourhood Board and hopefully it will be rectified.

There have been incidents of fly-tipping on our streets. All incidents have been reported to StreetPride.

We are very pleased that the brown bin collection has now returned to a free service.

In November we circulated our Annual Newsletter with contributions from all committee members, and we thank Joan Dutton for all her hard work producing it.

We are also currently pursuing the possibility of signage for Strutt's Park. Cllr Jack Stanton has put this to the relevant officer on the Council. The Residents' Association committee may be able to contribute some funds to facilitate this.

We welcomed the attention and are thankful for the help given to us by Councillors Stanton and Repton and Council Officer Claire Briggs in response to the concerns we have raised over the last year.

We hope that you will stay for light refreshments, provided by the committee members, after which we will reconvene for an informal open discussion of topics of local concern, with the local councillors, plus a representative from the police present to respond.

If you would like to join, or re-join, the Association, please talk to Matthew Scarborough. The contribution is only £2 per household per year and helps us pay for printing etc.

Thank you for your attention.

8. Treasurer's Report

Matthew Scarborough presented his report (copies of which were available for scrutiny) which shewed that a balance of £377.21 was currently being held by the Association. There remains some money available to apply to appropriate purposes.

9. Election of Committee and Officers

Nominations, in proper form, had been received for Clive Lemmon as Secretary, Matthew Scarborough as Treasurer and Belinda Elliott-Dawes, Joan Dutton and John Austin as committee members, and these were duly elected for the forthcoming year. Clive Lemmon asked if any member present was interested in joining the committee as two vacancies existed, but no names were put forward.

10. Any other business

Diana Proudfoot, brandishing a 'Helping hand' litter picker, explained that they regularly went about the area (often on Sunday afternoons) collecting litter and commended the practice, asking others if they would also like to become involved. Cllrs Stanton and Repton both expressed a willingness to take part themselves and said that litter picking tools could be supplied by the City Council to facilitate this. Cllr Repton said that anyone interested in taking part should E-mail him to agree a time and place.

Cllr Stanton said that he was pressing the Council to provide refuse bins in the parks that were more adequate to the task than those currently provided, which were often overwhelmed.

Derek Limer commended the landscaping and new paths that had now been provided on the sites disrupted by the *Our City, Our River* flood defence works. Others commented that there was a need to plant trees to replace those that had been felled, especially those that had been memorials. Cllr Repton would pass on the meeting's thanks to the Council Officer concerned, Sarah Banks, and would also press for the tree planting to be done.

The poor state of the surfacing of the south end of Darley Grove was raised and Cllr Stanton said he would find out the status of the road, which was thought to be unadopted.

Regarding residents' only parking schemes, the view was expressed that their introduction in Arthur Street and Otter Street would only serve to displace the problem elsewhere, such as South Drive, where issues with inconsiderate parking were already a problem.

The City Council were thanked for arranging periodic bulk waste collections, and the helpfulness of the staff at the Raynesway Waste Recycling Centre was commended.

Refreshments

Informal discussion

In response to a query, Members were told to report problems concerning parking on double yellow lines to the City Council. Moving traffic issues are matters for the Police.

When asked, PCSO Sophie Charles said that the main issues in criminal behaviour in the area were thefts from motor vehicles. Often there was no sign of break-in, so residents were warned once again to make sure they left their parked vehicles locked. There had also been some thefts from sheds. The Police's stock of shed alarms has now been exhausted, but it may be possible still to obtain them from Neighbourhood Watch.

There have been repeated cases of youngsters smoking 'weed' in the vicinity of Handyside Bridge, and round the South Drive entrance to Derwent Park, often at dusk. All such sightings should be reported using the 101 telephone number. In cases where the smokers may have driven to the location, giving details of the vehicle registration number would engage the interest of the team following up on drug-driving incidents, which may lead to a quicker Police response.

A resident with only on-street parking available for their electric car asked if the City Council would be providing any charging points for public use that were not located in fee-payable car parks. Cllr Stanton said that any such provision was likely only to be made if there was Central Government funding for a national scheme.

Addressing the question of new signage for the Strutt's Park area, Cllr Stanton said that the City Council's Conservation Officer provision was now reduced to only one part time post, occupied by Chloe Oswald, and that severely hampered their ability to respond quickly to conservation-related enquiries. Cllr Stanton offered to take up one particular case that was mentioned in the meeting.

It was remarked that S. Alkmund's Green is becoming overgrown again and requires clearing up. Phil Harris said that he knew of a commercial organisation that was looking for community outreach opportunities that might be suited to such a job. The Community Payback team had done work there in the past. The Strutt's Park Community Group is using the Green quite regularly as a 'play-out' area. Cllr Stanton said that some Section 106 money might be available for capital expenditure on the Green, but that what was needed was for a sub-group to be set up to oversee work on the Green. Clive Lemmon was reluctant for the SPRA to be in the lead on the establishment of the sub-group, partly because the Green lies outside the conservation area, and partly because of the past history.

There was a general discussion on the poor state of the pavements throughout the area. It was suggested that restoring blue brick paving to the area would be very desirable (as has been done in West Avenue), but Cllr Stanton said that funding for such work would be very difficult to obtain as Council budgets continue to be squeezed and statutory provision needs have to be met first. It was suggested that local residents might be prepared to pay for the work on their own fronts. Other members said they would prefer to have the pavement surfaces properly repaired to obviate the trip hazards, and that was more important than the appearance.

Cllr Stanton thanked the committee for their work on behalf of the Association.

Closure

Belinda Elliott-Dawes closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.