



St John's Area Residents' Association – Committee Meeting 8pm on 1st March 2022

Summary of Proceedings

Committee / Team Membership update: Colin Paterson explained that he had been nominated to succeed Peter Hirsch as Chairman following Peter's resignation. That appointment would be provisional until such time as it could be confirmed by the Association in general meeting, and this was agreed by the Committee.

The Membership Secretary and the Committee Member without portfolio indicated their willingness to continue to serve in these roles.

Colin Paterson reported that two Road Representatives were stepping down. The Committee agreed to record its warm thanks for both their contributions over the years. The Committee Member without Portfolio also announced that he would step down as a Road Representative and would work with the Membership Secretary to find a replacement. The Special Interest Representative for planning, and the Special Interest Representative for streets, cleaning and recycling, would both remain in post.

Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 20th September 2021: Agreed.

Expanding Membership: It was agreed that the Association has a valuable role to play. It provides a voice for the local community and helps to engender a community spirit. It also has an important role in disseminating local information. This work will become more important with the imminent reduction of Hillside councillors from three to two. It is therefore important to increase the Membership of the Association so that our work can be as effective as possible. It was agreed that a special effort should be made to attract younger Members.

The Committee Member without portfolio reported that the Membership Secretary was working to measure the number of households in our area and so determine the percentage representation and where it could be improved. With the current number of members around 140, it would not be unreasonable to target an increase to say 250. It was agreed that producing and distributing a leaflet to try to attract new members was worth doing and a low-cost option. Colin Paterson said he had prepared a one-page draft, with the membership form on the back, which he would circulate for comment.

Monitoring: It was noted that the Merton Council's proposed changes to the parking scheme had been abandoned. The Committee was not aware of any current issues on traffic, parking refuse collection or street cleaning.

Planning: A number of local planning issues were discussed including the installation of 15m high floodlights and an artificial pitch at Wimbledon College, the expansion of the All England Lawn Tennis Club onto Wimbledon Park Golf Course and the proposed 12-storey tower to replace St George's House East in the town centre. Colin Paterson had attended the planning committee

meeting for the Wimbledon College development and reported that local residents' objections had been ignored and approval had been pushed through without due consideration or discussion. This and other recent experience showed that the Council were not at all sympathetic to the views of Wimbledon village residents, which posed a real problem for the future.

The AELTC and St George's House East proposals are not within the SJARA area. It was agreed that the Association should continue to take note of developments outside the area if it was considered a matter of interest to residents. For such schemes it would inform members, but not consult with them, in coming to a view to either support or object. Members were free to take their own action if they wished.

The proposed development at St George's House had been approved by Merton Council, but due to its height had been referred to the London Mayor. Colin Paterson understood a decision was going to be made later in the week and so he would issue a short letter the next day objecting to the scheme and summarising the main points. (This letter was subsequently drafted and circulated to the Committee before being submitted to the London Mayor).

Links with other associations, WURA and Wimbledon Forum: There was uncertainty over what the Wimbledon Forum did. It was pointed out that the Apostles Residents Association had a much younger membership with family friendly social activities, which reflected the resident population. This association could possibly provide some ideas for attracting younger members to SJARA. Colin Paterson reported he was gathering contacts and would be in touch with the Wimbledon Forum and other associations in due course.

Safer Neighbourhoods & Neighbourhood Watch: *The Membership Secretary had e-mailed a summary report to the Chairman which unfortunately arrived after the start of the meeting, so was not included/discussed at the time. She reported as follows:*

Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel – The Membership Secretary stated that she had served on the Hillside ward Safer Neighbourhood (HSNP) Panel since SN Panels were introduced end-2006 – not only as SJARA's representative but also as Secretary since 2007 to date and as Chair since 2012. She had resigned with effect from the next AGM, due in April 2022 and regarding which a date is being negotiated with the Hillside Ward Safer Neighbourhood Police Team (HSNT). Although it is hoped to hold a special meeting on the evening of Tuesday 22 March, this has yet to be confirmed.

Prior to joining SJARA, Ridgway Place had its own Residents' Association and once Chaired HSNP. However, although the Committee Member without Portfolio continued to represent Ridgway Place on HSNP, he also resigned recently.

In order to continue SJARA's presence on the SNP, it is important to identify a new representative as soon as possible. The Membership Secretary is happy to discuss what is involved with anyone interested and to forward a copy of the Police Terms of Reference (TOR) which will require signature of anyone joining the SN Panel and submitted to the Hillside ward SN Police Team. Meetings are held quarterly, usually on a Thursday evening and, from here on, most likely at Wimbledon Police Station. It is important, that SNP members attend meetings and do not just rely on information provided.

Neighbourhood Watch – The Membership Secretary is happy to continue as SJARA's Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator and to circulate information to SJARA members who are also welcome to attend the AGM and/or other Merton Neighbourhood Watch events as/when details are announced.

Website: Different ideas were discussed on expanding the functionality of the site. Colin Paterson was not sure a bulletin board would work but there was general support for a news page and publishing a summary of the key points from our meetings, on condition that the names of Committee Members were not disclosed.

Other business: The subject of street parties for the Queen's Jubilee in June was discussed. The Road Representatives would find out which roads had plans. It was also agreed that more awareness should be made of the St John's facilities, for example the availability of the hall and/or the Peter Dixon room for hire.

Meeting dates for 2022, including the AGM: Colin Paterson said he would email some suggested dates.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm