

SHAKESPEARE NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at 8pm Wed 11 June 2008 at The Shakespeare

1 Welcome & attendance list

Approx 60 people attended the meeting, including all three local councillors.

Apologies were received from Pat O'Leary, Nick Holder, Bron Jones, Agnes Benko, Tom Barber and Diane Dyer.

2 Local policing issues

This item was introduced and chaired by Keith Magnum, who outlined a series of local disturbances, muggings and assaults involving a gang of youths (known as SOS – 'Stand Out Shakespeare') during the previous month. Police responses had sometimes been slow.

For the Stoke Newington Safer Neighbourhood Team, Sgt Sue Wright confirmed a 50% increase in reports of anti-social behaviour locally. The gang involved children and youths mainly between the ages of 11 and 15, four of whom had recently been arrested for carrying knives – though the children had no respect for the police and possibly even gained kudos by being arrested. To date the children arrested had merely been given community orders.

Sgt Wright apologised for staffing issues which had sometimes caused a delay in police response times but urged people to continue to lodge reports: "We can only deal with these young people with your help." The situation was now sufficiently serious for the police to need to apply to Hackney Magistrates for a dispersal order, enabling them to break up groups of more than 2 young people whose behaviour was giving serious cause for concern. The order could be issued for a period between 2 weeks and 2 months, and was capable of being renewed.

In answer to points from the floor, Sgt Wright confirmed that all members of the group had been referred to a youth offending scheme, that police worked closely with local schools and that constructive activity was available to all the children via an adventure playground and a youth club. Other points/questions raised included the need for parental control; the staffing complement of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (a sergeant, two constables and four community support officers); the police shift pattern, and how policing priorities were set (by the Community Advisory Panel).

The reason for the discussion was brought home to everyone present by the account of one local resident who described how his children had been set upon in Butterfield Green by a number of youths using planks of wood as weapons.

3 Minutes and Matters Arising – March general and May committee meeting

Minutes were agreed; no matters arising.

4 Chair's report for 2007-08

In her report, Rachel Murrell chronicled an active period since the inception of the Association two and a half years previously. Membership was growing, much had been achieved; SNRA would continue to work for improvements in the area. Excellent working relationships had been established within the committee, and the Association enjoyed a constructive dialogue with partners such as youth service providers SWAPA and Crib, Milton Gardens Tenants and Residents' Association, Hackney Council and the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The newsletter was still issued on a quarterly basis, alternating between hard and electronic copies.

5 Treasurer's report to y/e Dec 2007

In Nick Holder's absence this was given by the secretary. The year end accounts were countersigned.

6 Butterfield Green and Orchard Update

Maggie Chattaway's report included the news that Orchard noticeboards were now erected and in use, and that Parks Manager Michael Dixon had bid for funds to renew the stream and install a bridge. It was important for adopters to water their trees regularly during the summer.

7 Priorities for the year ahead

Suggestions included

- more tree planting on streets (though noted that Hackney Borough holds a budget for this purpose)
- action to help Allen Road 'come back to life' (Cllr Karen Alcock agreed to urge Council officers to make every effort to let empty business premises)
- support for local charities, especially ones that work with young people (eg Kidz)
- greening and generally improving Shakespeare Walk in the area between SWAPA and the BG courts
- a children-focussed Autumn event
- sporting events generally
- increasing the availability of bins in Allen Road (between The Shakespeare and Milton Grove) to reduce street rubbish

8 Election of officers

Chair: Keith Magnum was elected (Rachel Murrell stood down)

Vice-Chair: Diane Dyer was reelected

Secretary: Rachel Murrell was elected (Phil Jakeman stood down)

Treasurer: Nick Holder was reelected

Newsletter editor: Flora Graham was elected (Rajni Shah stood down)
 Website manager: Flora Graham with Stephen Derbyshire
 Information manager: post was combined with chair's role

Street reps as below:

Street	Current rep	2008-09
Albion Gro	Annette	Annette Simpson
Allen Rd	Annie, Bron	Annie Wilson, Bron Jones
Begrade Rd	Lore	Martina Schwarz
Brighton Rd	Agnes	Agnes Benko, Sarah Vandendriessche
Church Wlk	Pat, Diane	Pat, Diane Dyer, Lol Henderson, Nell Cameron
Clonbrock	Tom	Tom Barber
Londesborough	Vacant	
Milton gro	Maggie, Phil	Maggie Chattaway, Phil Jakeman, Nicholas Ridley-Wilson,
Nevill Rd	Nick	Nick Holder, Mairin Power
Osterly Rd	Vacant	
Palatine	Vacant	Lore Lixenberg
Pr George	Karen	Karen Alcock, Spiros Sophos
Pr May	Flora	Flora Graham and Alistair Fyfe
Shakespeare Wlk	Rachel	Rachel Murrell, Juliet Riddell, Nadine Sharma, Doug Schwarz
Walford Rd	Simon Pugh	John & Janet Taylor to talk to Simon
Wordsworth Rd	Vacant	Fr David Lambert

9 Diary dates

- 15 June – orchard weeding, 2-4 pm
- 2 July – Community Advisory Panel agm, Howard Road Resource Centre, 8 pm

10 Butterfield Green Fair

Rachel warmly thanked the organising committee and everyone who had helped make the recent Fair such a great success. The meeting concluded with a slideshow of Alistair Fyfe's wonderful photographs of the event.

11 AoB

None.

12 Next meeting

Committee, 9 July, SWAPA at 8 pm