

**Minutes of St. Helen's Residents Association Committee Meeting
6 July 2011**

Present: C Singleton, J Harborne, C Mannhein, R Hillary, M Tyler, N Whitbread, A Kretowitz, A May, H Peterson, J Tatton Brown, L Gaiger

In attendance: B Joseph

1. St. Helen's Festival. Everyone agreed it was a big success and well attended. Cllr Blakeman had given the Association £2000 float for the event. Unless we receive other instructions from Cllr Blakeman, we will keep the balance of £1,392.46 in the kitty for next year or some other event. We gathered 150 new email addresses (now at 300 total).
2. Shops. We need to find out the response to the wish list of shops from Cllr Blakeman. There was concern about the Agent handling the letting of Orlando's being very negative to prospective lessees. It was agreed that we would write a letter to the landlord in case he is unaware of this.

There were suggestions of charity shops or pop-up shops to fill the shops in the meantime. Apparently Sarah from St. Helen's café was approached by the landlord of the old hairdresser's shop re taking over the space. She declined but thought a children's club over the holidays could be a good idea.

3. Bassett House application for change of use. Nigel expressed concern over the vagueness of plans re fire escape and other details. Nigel will liaise with Mr. Rentoul and clarify the changes they are suggesting and ensure there will be no change of use for the retail part of the shop. We will not oppose the application if they can ensure this.
4. Towers. Henry and Jenny have been working extremely hard to ensure we are abreast of progress. They are arranging a meeting with Imperial College to find out what their intentions are re the towers. It was agreed that Henry, Jenny, Nigel and Ruth attend the meeting with Imperial on 21 July. After the meeting they propose to invite them on a walkabout to flag up our concerns. It was agreed that at this stage we will not be joining forces with any other protest groups. For the tour we agreed to print posters for residents to put in their windows opposing the Imperial Towers. (Jenny to do posters, Ruth to print, Clare to email to members to print out). It was agreed we will put the posters through doors and leave in the shops as well.

Joe suggested that Clare re-send our email to GLA members, MPs, councilors and other Resident Associations as quite a few said they hadn't seen it.

Ruth has met with the travellers and it seems they have lawyers and funding so they are preparing their case. Once we have the proposals from Imperial we can then plan to link up with other groups and the travellers as a bigger united front

At this time it was agreed that the money needed to fund a planning consultant would be too great until we know more details (we have been getting some free

advice). Ben suggested that PR may be more useful, especially in getting press coverage (and considerably cheaper).

5. 128 Oxford Gardens. Ruth raised concerns over the half-way house. It is not supervised overnight and problems with drug busts etc. have been occurring during evening and early mornings. The Police are not very interested and the Metropolitan Housing Trust is unhelpful. Clare suggested that the immediate neighbours write to the trust again and we could endorse their letter.
6. Westway stables. Lucy informed the members that Sarah Turvey is planning to become a member of the RDA (Riding for the Disabled)
7. Post Boxes. These will be included in the updated local conservation document.
8. Xmas Party. There is a suggestion to use the Bowling Club this year.
9. AGM. The AGM will start at 8.15 on 3 November.
10. AOB.
 - Nigel informed us of a protection order on 2 plane trees at 64 St. Helens Gardens (6months).
 - Residents near the roundabout have been trying to get our support for trees to be planted on it we agreed it would be dangerous and not our area.
 - Zebra Crossing on St.Helen's Gardens. There was a discussion as to how dangerous it is. Oxford Gardens School have asked about a lollipop lady .We agreed they should talk to the Council.