

St Helens Residents' Association

Minutes of AGM

Date: 26th November 2009

Venue: St Helen's Church Hall

Attendance: Clare Singleton (Chair)
Ruth Hillary (Treasurer)

Members of the management committee and some 40 other residents

1. Welcome and Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed residents to the second AGM. Since the last AGM there has been a Christmas party, a well-attended meeting about the advertising towers and a further meeting with input from the local community police team. The Association now has more than 120 households on its database out of approx 750 households from our core area. There will be no membership fee and no amendments to our constitution.

During the past year, the Association has been involved in the following:

- Campaign against the Westway advertising towers – there is a discontinuance notice on the towers which requires the WDT to reapply for permission in 5 years' time when the Association will hope to block their application and there will be a wider consultation process.
- CS attended the recent Westway Development Trust AGM but our candidate was not elected onto the board as a trustee.
- The Placebold site on Latimer Road – we have opposed the addition of a further storey as well as the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate for such an addition. Some 30 residents have written in protest.
- Kitchen Garden initiative – the recent launch was well-attended and many people now have shared plots which are being planted. There is a waiting list for further plots.
- Planning documents we have commented on: air quality, subterranean developments, noise, tall buildings, the local development framework and the draft Core Strategy for the Royal Borough with a particular focus on North Kensington. It has been written into the plan that there will be no more advertising towers in the area.
- Each week NW looks through the RBKC planning list and raises objections, if necessary. We are kept aware of issues within and outside our boundaries and will continue this policy in the coming year.
- We are planning to have a community notice board near our shopping street which will give us a better sense of community.
- The Christmas party will take place on 8th December, organised by HP, and RH has applied for a grant from the Council towards the costs.

2. Treasurer's Report

RH reported that the Association has £99.01 in the bank account, with no debts. We received a grant from the Council for last year's Christmas party. Our expenditure was £460.80 (printing costs, Christmas party, hire of church hall and other miscellaneous costs). Our income from the Christmas raffle was £166 as well as other donations taken during our meetings to cover the cost of hiring the hall.

3. Election of officers and committee members

There have been changes to our committee during the year as one member died and two have moved out of the area and we now have three new members. The following officers were elected or re-elected unopposed for the coming year:

- Chair: Clare Singleton
- Vice-Chair: Henry Peterson
- Treasurer: Ruth Hillary
- Secretary: Alison Kretowicz

as well as the following general committee members:

- Martha Hancock
- Tania Martin
- Jenny Harborne
- Maggie Tyler
- John Cox
- Adrian May
- Nigel Whitbread

and new members:

- Catherine Mannheim
- Lucy Gaiger
- Joe Tatton Brown

4. The history of the St Quintin's Estate

Audrey Jones, a local resident who has lived on the St Quintin's Estate for most of her life, gave a talk on the history of the Estate from the time it was part of the Middlesex Forest with red deer and wild boar through to the present day. Her memories included her time at Oxford Gardens School, the bombing of the Church and surrounding houses in 1944 as well as local objection to a spur road to the M1 in 1967 which would cut right through the Estate and which was later abandoned. For further information on the local history, visit www.openage.co.uk and click on Member's Work.

5. Notting Barns Ward Initiative

Cllr Judith Blakeman reported on the projects already in progress, including the improvements to the bridge in St Mark's Road, improvements to Latimer Road Station and the development of community kitchen gardens. Other

suggestions for the Ward Initiative include hanging gardens of Westway, a pilot farmers' market and improvements to Ladbroke Grove Station.

6. Any Other Business

- Sean Sibley from Notting Hill Housing Trust reported that a new residents group and gardening club would be set up for anyone living in W10 and that they have received funding of £250 per year.
- The Euroshine sign on the corner of Cambridge Gardens and St Helens Gardens has been reported and will be removed.
- The black lettering on the front of the Lichfield Studios will be removed.
- The area in front of No.1 St Helens Gardens is rented by the company Tree Wise Men whose vans are often parked on the zebra crossing, making it dangerous.
- Reminder of the date of the Christmas Party – **8th December** – and any donations to the raffle would be gratefully received.