

St Helen's Residents Association

Minutes of AGM

2nd October 2008

St Helens Church Hall

Attendance at the meeting was approximately 30 people.

1. Welcome and brief explanation of Association

Clare Singleton welcomed members to the meeting and summarised the objectives and focus of the Association as being on strategic planning and community relations in our area of North Kensington. She noted that there are no subscriptions planned for the Association, which will be open to all residents living within the defined area and neighbouring streets. Once elected, the Committee is planning to apply for the RKBC Gold Standard for Residents' Associations, including a £500 award, which will provide some funds for the operation of the Association.

Clare noted that, once elected, the Committee is planning to set up sub-groups to focus on specific areas, including:

- Local planning
- Education
- Transport and traffic calming
- Neighbourhood relations
- Social activities
- Strategic planning
- Health

Any member of the Association interested in joining a sub-group should contact the Chair.

2. Election of Officers and Committee members

John Cox took nominations and seconders for the four officers of the Association. The following officers of the Association were elected unopposed:

- Chair: Clare Singleton
- Vice-Chair: Adrian May
- Secretary: Alexa Pellumbi

Treasurer: Ruth Hillary

The following individuals were also elected to serve on the Committee as general members:

Tania Martin
Jenny Harborne
John Cox
Nigel Whitbread
Maggie Tyler
Henry Petersen
Toni Newman
Alex Kretowic
Martha Hancock

3. Adoption of Constitution

The proposed Constitution was formally adopted, with one amendment to the draft Constitution previously circulated: the maximum number of members of the Committee was increased from 12 to 14.

4. North Kensington Plan

Jenny Harborne commented on the North Kensington Plan which is being developed by the Borough. The Local Development Framework document was available in the hall. She noted that the Stage 2 core strategy consultation would close on 10 October and would define planning strategy for the area from 2010-2020.

Jenny outlined the main areas of concern about the plan as it stood and noted the inputs that the Association plans to make to the consultation:

Planning Issues:

- A request for the preservation and enhancement of back-land local amenity sites
- A comment that local planning treatment is inconsistent, with the focus currently on minor domestic issues, rather than on large developments
- A comment that sustainable infrastructure is not included in the current plans and needs to be introduced into the discussion, eg local recycling facilities
- A comment on the site of a proposed secondary school
- A request for the preservation of local nurseries and schools and to maintain the diversity of local shops
- A comment on appropriate development in Latimer Road.

Transport Issues:

- Support for the North Pole Road proposed tube station
- A request for a North-South bus link between N Ken and the Kensington + Chelsea Hospital
- A request for pedestrian and cycle route to Westfield
- A comment that new transport routes to have social/community aspect not restricted to shopping routes

It was agreed that these comments will be submitted to the consultation.

5. Congestion Charge

Adrian May commented on the consultation process on the Western Extension. He noted that the Committee is taking a neutral stance and outlined the options proposed. He encouraged all members of the Association to register their opinion.

More information is available on www.tfl.gov.uk/westernextension

6. Issues arising from Pilgrim Payne Development at Latimer Road

Tania Martin detailed some of the issues faced by a group of residents severely impacted by the redevelopment of a site on Latimer Road. She noted that major developments on the fringes of the conservation area are unrestricted. She noted that the Association could play a strong defensive role in protecting local community amenities and the residential environment. She also noted that it is critical to pay close attention to planning applications and take action at an early stage.

7. Any Other Business

Hugh Fraser made a brief comment on the Transition Town partnership which is being established for North Kensington.