

# St Helen's Residents' Association

---

## Minutes of AGM

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Venue: St Helen's Church Hall

Attendance: Clare Singleton (Chair)  
Henry Peterson (Vice 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 third AGM. Since the last AGM there has been a Christmas party and a well-attended meeting in May when the Kensington Society was invited to talk about campaigning. The Association now has more than 135 members on our mailing list which represents approx 20% of households in our area.

During the past year the Association has been involved as follows:

- We have continued to review the planning applications in our area and to object to anything we consider inappropriate.
- The Chair reported that we have continued to maintain the pressure to mitigate the Westway advertising towers and Ruth Hillary has been elected as a trustee of the Westway Development Trust.
- We will continue to circulate items of interest to our membership.
- We are planning a Christmas party on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at the North Pole pub.
- We have a new notice board, funded by the Ward Initiative, which will be fixed to the wall of the bakery once the building works have finished and where we will advertise meetings and other items of interest in the neighbourhood.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Ruth Hillary reported that the Association has £157.78 in the bank account, with no debts. We received a grant from the Ward Initiative for last year's Christmas party. Our expenditure was for printing leaflets, Christmas party, hire of the Church Hall, Data Protection Act and membership of the Kensington Society. Our income was from the Christmas raffle as well as other donations taken during our meetings to cover the cost of hiring the hall. The Income and Expenditure statement is available on our website ([www.casweb.org/shra](http://www.casweb.org/shra)). We also post on the website Minutes of meetings as well as any letters we send out. Ruth comments that we have a presence on the new Ward Initiative website ([www.nottingbarnslive.com](http://www.nottingbarnslive.com)) .

### **3. Election of officers and committee 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
- Catherine Mannheim
- Lucy Gaiger
- Joe Tatton Brown

### **4. St Helen's parade, Kensington Academy and local developments**

Cllr Judith Blakeman reported that:

- There are problems with the St Helen's parade of shops as landlords have been buying up the shops with the aim of making them smaller so that they are less viable as a business and putting up the rents. They would like to convert them to mainly residential premises with a small shop window. JB reported that there is no intention by the Council to grant permission for a change of use from commercial to residential and stated that a Councillors' Call for Action had been submitted. A petition to the Director of Planning at the Town Hall was circulated during the meeting for residents to note their objection. St Helen's parade is protected within the Local Development Framework. The bollards in front of the shops are deemed unnecessary street furniture and should be removed. It was suggested that planters would improve the look of the shops and deter owners from parking on the forecourt.
- The new Kensington Academy will be built on the site of the Kensington Leisure Centre. A Supplementary Planning Document has been prepared and the dates of meetings when residents can give their views have been circulated. The new Academy is much needed as there is a shortage of secondary education facilities in the Borough. There is, however, vociferous objection from a small core of residents.
- Development of the land beneath the Westway: only one meeting is planned in our area to discuss the issues – a drop-in session on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> November at the Sports Centre. JB stressed the importance of being involved before the document is drafted; this is the time to raise the issue

of the advertising towers and log the fact that we do not want the contract renewed.

- Latimer Road Station improvements: part of the Silchester Estate will be knocked down and 14 people will have to be re-housed. The Monsoon development has given £150,000 towards the improvements which will include a new entrance onto the street and better lighting.
- JB reported that not much is known about the plans to form a “super council” between Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea. It is intended to merge staff in housing, children and family services, libraries and highways but not in the planning or licensing departments.
- JB stated that she would continue to keep our Association updated with anything of interest and encouraged people to sign up to the new Notting Barns website which now has 150 members.

## **5. Update on Woodland planning application**

Henry Peterson reported that:

- The former BBC Worldwide site was purchased some years ago by the Imperial College Healthcare Trust, part of the University of London, to provide student flats, private accommodation, small shops, healthcare and leisure facilities with a square in the centre. Our area was only consulted very late in the process and members of the Association objected to the scale of the master plan and the height of the buildings – we suggested a maximum of 6 or 7 storeys. RBKC also made a strong objection to H&F about the bulky, badly-designed blocks. Imperial College had promised to hold a meeting for our Association but this had never happened.
- The planning has been split into 2 phases and the first phase has already been approved by H&F, which stated that there would not be a significant adverse effect on the conservation area because they claimed that the development would not be visible. It allows for 4 blocks of student housing on the northern part of the site, rising to 10 storeys – 33 metres – in height. The second phase proposes blocks of 22 storeys, even though there are few buildings above 4 or 5 storeys to the west of this development. We suggested producing a photomontage of what this would look like from our area to gather support for our objection to Phase 2. RH pointed out that when our Association objects to a planning application, this only counts as one voice and all members should be encouraged to object individually.
- No decision has yet been taken on the proposed tunnel/bridge to access the new development. A show of hands at the meeting showed two-thirds in favour and one-third against such access.

## **6. Trees on the estate**

Ruth Hillary reported that:

- James Burton at the arboriculture office at the Town Hall has confirmed that a number of diseased trees that have been cut down will be replaced with similar trees between November and March.
- All trees are surveyed on a 3-year cycle; those on clay subsoil are pruned on a 2-year cycle.
- Any contractor that damages a tree will be liable for compensation.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- Suggestion that we should charge an annual subscription – this will be discussed by the Committee.
- Reminder that the date of the Christmas party is **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December** and any donations to the raffle will be gratefully received.