

# Colliers Wood Residents Association

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017

#### 1. Welcome

KG welcomed new members and explained that this meeting will include a review of the year. KG tabled a summary of activities and achievements over the past year. Members of the committee were introduced.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Tom Searle, Laxmi Attawar, Nick Draper, Meg Stroh

#### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

Helen raised the point that nobody at the previous meeting had seen the minutes online prior to the meeting. Paper copies have been provided at this meeting, and members should ensure that their email addresses are on the email list.

#### 4. Matters arising

None.

#### 5. Police report

The police report will be circulated with the minutes. Drug offences, theft and handling, and violence against the person are all down. The Safer Neighbourhoods Team can give details of the alleygate scheme if anyone is interested in setting one up. Fiona said that one had been set up near her and has been very successful.

#### 6. Annual report from the Association Chair

KG said that a key role of the committee is to strengthen the organisation, and it is accountable to the Association. In 2014 we ran a workshop to establish how we as a community want the Residents Association to work. Five priorities were defined: health, transport, environment, community space, and education. A major role of the Association is to work closely with our local councillors in order to achieve our objectives.

Health: A Committee member has joined the Patient Participation Group in order to have influence over health provision in the local area. The guardian centre has been proposed as a site for a new GP surgery. The local Clinical Commissioning Group will come to the March meeting to talk about these plans. Tom Walsh said that the new head of the local CCG is keen to work with community groups, and we should do all we can to take part in and influence their planning.

Transport: the Association has developed a good relationship with TfL and a representative has attended two of our meetings. This has enabled us to find solutions to issues, such as the dangerous

junction outside the Carphone Warehouse, and problems with traffic light phasing. We have also raised the issue of getting a rail station at the Robinson Road junction, and this will continue to be pursued. We are looking at the environment we are living in, and the Connecting Colliers Wood project is coming to a conclusion. Flats in the Tower will start to be let in the next two months.

#### Environment:

Tom Walsh thanked Justina, who is Sustainable Merton's first community champion. The aim is to establish these champions in every part of the borough. Colliers Wood is an area of intensification, and the challenge for the community is finding ways to deal with the impact of this. A rail station is needed at the Robinson Road junction, which would be particularly useful for St George's hospital and its large number of visitors and staff. Air quality in the borough is well below European standards, and it is the role of the community champion to let people know about these types of issues and to provide good quality information on activities and innovations.

Community space – the community centre has a lot of activity, and has been registered as a community asset as the Centre is on the Council's disposal register. Merton council are outsourcing park maintenance, and the new management are keen to involve volunteers to a greater degree. Donna reported that she no longer has the time to chair the Parks & Open Spaces committee, and someone to take on this role is needed. This is a good opportunity to take forward plans to work closely with the Council and to bring together local volunteers. An application was submitted to Tesco to set up a community garden, but the plan was shelved because of the withdrawal of permission to use the proposed land.

Education: Singlegate School's catchment area is set up in a way that most schools are and this prevents some people living locally to it from sending their children there. Helen reported that it now admits ninety children per year, but it can't guarantee admission to children from the whole of the Colliers Wood area due to population density. She has worked with Caroline Cooper-Marbiah and developed a plan to propose an admissions priority area for the school, which will mean that distance / radius from the school will not be the only criterion for admission. Many families living on the boundary of the borough cannot go to Wandsworth schools because they have admissions priority areas set up for neighbouring schools on the other side of the borough boundary. Caroline reported that council officers have tried to persuade her that this is not necessary, and she proposed that Helen attends a meeting with council officers to discuss this further. Caroline will arrange this meeting. Tony Redpath will discuss the conditions under which they can and can't be set up and will provide this information to the Committee.

A new website has been set up, and more content is needed, so anyone with ideas are encouraged to put them forward ([folk@cwra.org.uk](mailto:folk@cwra.org.uk))

The Autumn Fair was a great success, and thanks went to Madeline for organising it and to Eddison White for sponsorship. Tony Redpath gave thanks to the Association for sponsoring the Little League coach, which has been funded from the Autumn Fair profits.

Colliers Wood High Street – KG reported that money is available from the council for regeneration work in the High Street. Mark Holmes is the town centre manager responsible for this, and there has been quite a lot of work in the area opposite the underground station. There is a High Street committee run by Mark Holmes, and Kevin and Fiona are members of it. There is a council survey underway at the moment, and residents are encouraged to take part in it.

Kevin thanked the committee members, Eddison White, the web team, Autumn Fair team, people who attend the regular Association meetings, and to our local councillors. Donna thanked Kevin for his hard work with the Association.

Donna gave the **financial report**, which has been audited. £5920 is in the bank account. The local Labour Party has made a donation following a recent raffle. The Autumn Fair made a profit of £570. This will be used to sponsor the Little League girls' team coach.

Donna gave a **report on planning issues**, and said that the Tower has a planning application for five more flats in the existing building; phase 2 of the project has been withdrawn and a revised scheme will be developed with the council. Waterfall Cottages (at the rear of 14 High Street) has an application for a four-storey building. Lidl have submitted an application to increase car parking provision. KG said that we need to raise the issue of transport provision for the vastly-increasing numbers of people living in the area.

#### 7. Changes to the constitution

The following addition to the Association's constitution was proposed:

No committee member shall be paid for their time while acting on behalf of the Residents Association and any expenses incurred over £20 must be preauthorised by the committee, declared at the following full Residents Association meeting and minuted.

The amendment was agreed.

#### 8. Election of Officers for 2017

The following decisions were made by the meeting:

Tom Searle put his name forward for the role of **Chair**, but was not able to attend the meeting. Proposed by Keith Allen and seconded by Helen McAuley.  
Fiona Sydney stood down as **Vice Chair**, but no one was proposed as a replacement at this stage.  
Kevin Godding proposed Donna as **Treasurer**, seconded by Helen McAuley.  
Donna Rutherford proposed Kevin as **committee member**, seconded by Helen.  
Kevin nominated Helen as **committee member**, seconded by Donna.  
Adam Towner stood down as **Secretary**, but no one was proposed as a replacement at this stage.  
Justina was proposed as a **committee member** by Kevin and seconded by Donna.  
**Parks & Open Spaces** committee needs a new Chair.

#### 9. Statement from incoming committee members

No statements were made.

#### 10. Any other business

Caroline reported that a new secondary school will be opening in High Path, with 120 intake. She will report further at the next meeting.

After the meeting a resident said that the Istanbul restaurant is playing loud music late into the night, which is keeping the neighbours living on Wandle Bank awake. Caroline Cooper-Marbiah agreed to take up the issue and we will review progress at the next meeting.