

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION , HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 23RD, 2012 AT STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB**

<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	<b>Joint Chairmen</b>	Robert Youngs/Bruce Duff
	<b>Joint Secretary</b>	Pam Crisp
	<b>Treasurer</b>	John Naish
	<b>Committee members</b>	Teresa Read, Eugene Bacot Mike Allsop, John Armstrong
	<b>Councillors</b>	David Porter
	<b>Police</b>	Sgt Jools Calvart, Safer Neighbourhood Team
	<b>Residents</b>	approximately 30 present

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Committee members</b>	Clare Phelps, Charles Owens
<b>Councillors</b>	David Marlow
<b>Resident</b>	Beverley Knott

Bruce Duff, who chaired the meeting, welcomed everyone to the 47<sup>th</sup> AGM of the association.

Bruce asked the meeting to approve the minutes of last year's AGM. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

**Chairman's report – Bruce Duff**

Bruce began by introducing himself and his fellow committee members and thanking everyone for attending.

Our first event was the Friends of Strawberry Hill's Music and Fun day in July which saw us raise £390 to supplement our funds.

We got involved with the Twickenham to Kingston bus campaign which was rejected on cost grounds.

Then there was the aborted Christmas tree decorating event – very disappointing as our survey indicated a lack of interest. We will revisit this in 2012.

Mike Allsop on the committee represents us on the joint SHRA/SMUC neighbourhood consultation body where any points raised by residents can be aired. Up to now it appears that the College responds well

We have regular contact with the Community Police and another committee member Charles Owens is on the Police Liaison Committee for Twickenham. Unfortunately, we the committee have experienced some vandalism by the theft of plants worth over £100 from our planters situated outside Sopa and MKG3000 workshop. These have now been replaced.

Another of our successes has been the development of our Bulletin as a self funding publication thanks very much to the endeavours of past chairman Eugene Bacot and my co-chairman Robert Youngs. It has been acknowledged by members of the Council to be the best local publication in the Borough. Through the year we have highlighted the wide range of small businesses in Strawberry Hill (under the railway arches and on Swan Island) with many receiving orders from local residents. The local clubs, including the Bowls Club, the Golf Club and the British Legion also gained some valuable publicity.

Looking forward we will have the Queen's Jubilee with some street parties being held in June, the well established Music and Fun Day at Strawberry Hill House and the Olympic cycle races which will impinge on our area for 4 days in August. The Council are distributing information sheets on this event so, hopefully, we shall be prepared.

There is also a sad situation to report – we are losing our horse chestnuts through disease and old age, especially those in Wellesley Road. The council have assured us that there will be young trees replacing them.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to keeping you all up to date with all developments.

### **Treasurers Report – John Naish**

This has again been a very good year. Income has held up and our expenses are down as there was no cost for book printing and no donations were made. Our contingency was reduced by the printing costs but there has now been a major improvement in our finances. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Armstrong and seconded by Arthur Tarrant.

John proposed thanks to Carol Ruddock for her first class job in auditing the accounts and recommended her re-election. This was approved, proposed by John Naish, seconded by Frances Yelland.

John then thanked the Golf Club for allowing us to use their venue and recommended the Club to residents as a valuable resource.

### **Planning**

Mike Allsop reported that there had been no issues of significance and then described the sort of major planning items that he looks at on behalf of residents.

### **St Mary's University College**

Mike Allsop said that there had been three meetings with the College over the last year. These are attended by the College Principal Prof Esler and the Vice-Principal responsible for Admin and Finance. Parking and car use is a major issue. A survey of transport used by staff and students is completed each year.

There have been a number of complaints about student behaviour and, whilst there has been an improvement over the last eighteen months, there are still some issues.

The college estate is also discussed particularly the development of the new Sports Hall.

A resident asked if the toilet at the station could be re-opened for use by students. It was acknowledged that this was unlikely but this sort of anti-social behaviour would be monitored where possible by The Safer Neighbourhood team who can issue penalties.

Another resident asked how the issue of neighbourhood friendliness is communicated to students. Mike replied that this is highlighted on the College web-site, on notices and in a letter sent by the Principal to all students.

John Armstrong asked about evening security. Sgt Calvert responded and said that she has monthly meetings with the College. She said the College uses additional security staff and street wardens on Monday and Wednesday when buses take students to night clubs in Kingston. She also pointed out that during Freshers' Week students are told how they are expected to behave. In response to a question Sgt Calvert said that buses go into the college grounds to drop students off when they return from the clubs.

### **Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Sgt Calvert introduced herself as the South and West Twickenham team manager and said that she had been in post for 6 months. She has regular meetings at St Mary's and meets the College Security Team monthly. She said that the College has responded well to requests for a better discipline code for students.

She gave a brief overview of crime statistics in the area: burglary is down 27% on last year, motor crime down 2% and violence down 6%. Damage to cars is up by 6.7% but this is due to one incident. Total Ward crime is down 5.4% on last year.

When asked about number of incidents, Sgt Calvert said that for burglaries the figures were 65 this year against 97 last year.

In response to a comment about speeding cars on Waldegrave Road Sgt Calvert said she would implement measures like speed guns to monitor the problem.

### **Election of SHRA committee**

Election of Bruce Duff as chairman was proposed by Frances Yelland and seconded by Mike Allsop. Re-election of Clare Phelps and Pam Crisp as Joint Secretaries was proposed by June Turner and seconded by Fiona Giuffredi. John Armstrong proposed the re-election of John Naish as Treasurer, seconded by Moira Stuart. Re-election of remaining existing committee members and one new member Cathy Bird was proposed by Ros Armstrong and seconded by Arthur Tarrant.

### **Jubilee/Olympics**

Bruce said that SHRA intended to plant a tree in Radnor Gardens to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

### **Any other business**

Cllr David Porter said that the development of gardens on the old swimming pool site at Twickenham riverside was progressing. He also said that consideration was being given to the provision of some short term parking spaces in Wellesley Parade.

A resident asked about the extension of controlled parking into Strawberry Hill Close. Cllr Porter said he would follow this up.

Arthur Tarrant asked if SHRA was aware of the Windsor Line Passengers association. He said they were proposing a return to 4 trains an hour at Strawberry Hill. John Naish said that the change to the train timings had been made to allow passengers for the Shepperton line to change trains at Teddington.

Robert Youngs reminded residents that Pope's Grotto would be open to visitors on the mornings of June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and urged them to visit.

John Armstrong suggested that the waiting room on the Kingston side of the station should be re-opened as it is no longer being used as a commercial business.

Willie Turner agreed with John's point about the waiting room but said that it would require more staff at the station which was unlikely to happen. He also said that Wellesley Road is dangerous and he suggested parking should only be allowed on one side. A number of people also commented about the danger to traffic at the junction of Pope's Grove, Spencer Road and Pope's Avenue and suggested improvements to road marking and signage.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm