

Ealing Fields Residents' Association

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting
Held on 31st May 2012 at the Log Cabin Children's Centre, Northfield Avenue

1. Introduction and Welcome

Deputy Chair, Roger Jarman, welcomed Councillor Mark Reen, Councillor Phil Taylor, PC John Bennett and Special PC Vanita Dhanji and 25 members of the Association to the AGM held for the first time in the new Children's Centre.

Apologies had been received from: Andrew Dick, Jane Cocking, Carla Andrewes, Helen Johnson, Rita Smith, Rosemary Matter, Lynn West and Councillor David Millican.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM were approved. There were no matters arising

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Keith Marriage, presented the audited income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 30th April 2012. Separate accounts were presented for the Association and for the local history group (a sub-group of EFRA). The balance on the main account was £1519.95 (2011: £1538.25) while the balance on the history group account was £4088.82 (2011: £4007.41). The main source of income was subscriptions and donations (£569.20). The main expenditure was on printing the newsletter and leaflets for campaigns; rent paid to the Log Cabin for meetings; and donations or subscriptions to local campaigns. Keith reported that donations had increased for this year because, after a review of our affiliations, both EPTUG and EANAG needed to be paid for both 2011 and 2012. He also reported that, in future, costs should be reduced by sending out the newsletter by email except in the case of the newsletter before the AGM. It was agreed that Jay Patel be reappointed as Auditor.

4. Membership report/street reps/newsletter/website

Roger reported that we now have 302 members paid up until April 2012 and paid tribute to Jane and Carla for the work they had done in collecting the subscriptions and managing membership details. There is a shortage of street reps and he asked that anyone interested in becoming a street rep speak to him at the end of the evening. The website is to be kept up to date by James. Roger advised that anyone wishing to look at the website need only Google EFRA. It was noted that the newsletter can be accessed through the website.

5. Election of Committee Members

It was noted that Duncan Cameron, Celia Smith, Max Wall and Mary Woods had resigned from the Committee. Roger thanked them for all their work for the Association over many years.

The following Committee members were willing to stand again and it was agreed they be re-elected.

Carla Andrewes (Blondin Avenue), David Ashforth (Bramley Road), Jane Cocking (Convent Gardens), Andrew Dick (Little Ealing Lane), James Guest (Wellington Road), Clive Herring (Bramley Road), Roger Jarman (Dorset Road), Helen Johnson (Wellington Road), Patricia Judd (Laurel House), Keith Marriage (Chandos Avenue), Rosemary Matter (Birkbeck Road), Rita Smith (Ealing Park Gardens), Lynne West (Niagara Avenue). Two Association members put themselves forward as Committee members. They were Wendy Hallam (Hollies Road) and Charmian Ali (Trent Avenue). This leaves four vacancies on the Committee. Members were urged to consider standing for the Committee.

6. Community Safety: the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

John Bennett reported that our Ward has the lowest crime figures in the Ealing area. In reply to a question he advised how domestic burglar alarms work and how the Police respond more quickly if the alarm is connected by a telephone line to the Police. However if there have been several false alarms from a particular address then the Police may not be as fast to respond as they would in other cases. In reply to another question he advised that when a burglary occurs the Police will knock on neighbours' doors to advise residents of a burglary in the adjacent property. But if there is no answer officers may not return. He spoke about a proposal to increase the size of Safer Neighbourhood Teams by reducing the size of 'core' policing but stressed that this proposal might change. In reply to a question he advised that this would mean we would once again have our own Sergeant instead of sharing a Sergeant with Ealing Common. On security issues, his advice was to always close windows when not in a room and to keep garden tools locked away as they could be used to lever windows.

7. Transport and Parking

Roger reported on current issues

- I. EFRA had been influential in keeping some of the safety railings outside Lammas Park and also over the placement and widening of the pedestrian crossing. EFRA had pressed the Council to abandon dual use of the adjacent pavement for cyclists and pedestrians. This was accepted by the Council. Some Association members argued alterations to the road layout meant that cyclists leaving the crossing come close to traffic using that part of Northfield Avenue.
- II. Both Niagara and Blondin Avenues now have pavement parking in part following a five year campaign by the Association.
- III. EFRA had pressed for a number of changes to the Northfield Station forecourt proposals. These included a widening of the crossing itself alongside a narrowing of the relevant carriageway. EFRA remained concerned about the removal of the safety barriers, particularly to the north east of the crossing. The Council had revised plans for the proposed loading bay following lobbying from the Association.

- IV. There is to be a roundabout at the Windmill road/Swyncombe Avenue junction (alongside other improvements). Work on this has been delayed though, primarily because of the difficulties of coordinating a project that involves two Councils (Ealing and Hounslow).
- V. EFRA is pushing to have a roundabout at The Plough Junction. This is being taken up with local Councillors.

8. **Planning/Licensing Issues**

James reported on current issues.

- I. The **Local Development Framework** will decide planning criteria for the next 15 years. The second stage of consultation will start later this year.
 - II. **Cranmer Avenue.** EFRA has opposed the planning application for this site (of the former snooker hall). The plan is for a mixed use development up to the edge of the building line.
 - III. **Julien Road redevelopment.** This is for 3 pairs of four bedroom houses. Although each house has off road parking spaces the Council Planner has ignored our suggestion that the occupants should not be allowed to apply for parking permits on the road. This will mean that there will be less parking available on this road for existing residents.
 - IV. **Hostel at 264 Northfield Avenue.** This still does not comply with the licensing laws. Cllr Reen advised that TFL may take the building back to use themselves.
 - V. **Flats above Sainsbury's Local, Northfield Ave.** In spite of EFRA advising against it the windows in the new development can be opened and thus residents of Derwent Yard Flats could potentially be overlooked and their privacy infringed.
 - VI. **Reynard Mills Development.** The Developers are holding an exhibition at St Faiths Church to publicise their proposals on 13 and 14 June. EFRA opposes the planning application on several grounds including over development and the increased risk of rat running in adjoining streets.
9. **Library.** The new opening hours are: Closed Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. Tuesday and Wednesday 9am – 6pm and Thursday and Friday 9am – 5pm. The library will in effect no longer be open in the evenings.
10. **Heathrow.** There will be another trial of mixed mode operation beginning in July. BAA report that mixed mode operation has proved to be more efficient; lessened pollution; and meant fewer night departures. However there has been an increase in complaints from residents adversely affected by the changes.

11. Open Forum.

- I. There were several complaints about the puddle outside The Plough whenever it rains and also beside the two Julien Road bus stops.
- II. There is also a puddle outside 33 Niagara Avenue where the road was dug up.
- III. It was reported that the sign above the Chicken Spot had now been broken for some time creating an eyesore. The shop owners seemed uninterested. They did not even clear away the part of the sign that fell down onto the road.
- IV. The pavement outside Derwent flats is subsiding and the top of Derwent steps has a dangerous puddle after Sainsbury's built the pavement up to create a ramp into their new store.
- V. Although the cooking oil on the pavement outside the restaurants north of Sainsbury's was cleaned by the Council, it has now returned as the restaurants have started putting their rubbish bags there again.
- VI. Residents of Belsize Avenue were concerned about shoppers using the Sainsbury's Local parking in their street and by taxi drivers parking their cars in their road awaiting fares.