

Spring Grove Residents' Association
Minutes of the AGM – 19 May 2014, Parish Hall

PRESENT

Chairman: Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz

Committee members: Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Paul Hemmings, Emma Poole, Pippa Sparks, Dawn Trigg, Phil Chapman, Sean Yeates **Residents:** Approximately 10 + the committee

Guests: *Kingston University:* Sean Woulfe (Director of Estates Delivery and Julia Bond (Director of Estates Development), *MP and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change:* Ed Davey; *Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood team:* Sgt Sean Carpenter, PC Matt Cefai, PCSO Pat Read *Grove Ward Councillor:* Chrissie Hitchcock

1. Apologies for Absence: Mark Horne (Manager, Kingston University Students Union)

2. Proposed New Landmark University Building on Penrhyn Rd: Sean Woulfe and Julia Bond

Kingston University are proposing to build a new building on Penrhyn Rd to replace the 1980s Town House. It will essentially be the front door to the university. A design competition was held and the winners, Grafton Architects, have designed a 6 story building with 'permeable edges'. It is colonnaded on 2 sides, and, inter alia, will include an atrium, auditorium, space for exhibitions, the library, café and teaching spaces. There will be landscaping with a lot of greenery along the Penrhyn Road, at the prow of the site (Grove Crescent/Penrhyn Rd), and in the colonnaded areas. Construction is likely to begin in 2016/7. For more info see <http://www.kingston.ac.uk/campus-planning/new-town-house/> it will still be possible to walk through the site towards the river. On site parking will be very restricted and staff are being encouraged to develop alternative routes to work.

3. Ed Davey Spoke on three topics.

- **School Places:** There has been pressure on school places since 2008. To date £50M has been made available to build a new school (Lime Tree) and to expand existing schools. Four new primary schools are planned in the borough. The increased population of primary school children will have a knock on effect on secondary places later in the decade. A new school is already planned for North Kingston at the North Kingston Centre. Another one may also be necessary. There was a question as to whether appropriate infrastructure to deal with the anticipated increase in population was in place eg at the maternity wards in the hospitals.
- **Rezoning:** There has been some progress on rezoning Kingston and Surbiton stations into Zone 5 (not Zone 6) since ED last spoke to the SGRA. Various key bodies including SW trains and the Dept of Transport have now agreed to support it in principle, but not to pay for it. The Council has funded a study which estimated that there would be £6M of lost revenue to the train companies following rezoning. ED interprets this as Kingston and Surbiton commuters are overpaying by £6M. ED continues to try to persuade the Chancellor to pay for this. There may be an opportunity to rezone when the refranchising takes place.
- **Energy and Climate Change:** Provision of renewable heat from air, ground and water pumps will become increasingly important in the future as the UK reduces its dependence on fossil fuels and moves to renewable sources. There is an innovative example of renewable heat in Kingston; heat from the River Thames will be used to provide a proportion of the heat at Kingston Heights and River Walk developments near Kingston Riverside.

4. Minutes of the 2013 AGM : Approved.

5. Chairman's Report: The committee continued with all its regular activities (organising events such as the barn dance, keeping contact with councillors/ MP/ police/ university, monitoring all planning

applications in the area, delivering Springboard, running the website, Facebook page etc.). It also helped co-organise Springfest last April. Two community events in the near future include the next Spring Grove acoustic night on 31 May and the St John's Pop up kitchen supper night on 7 June.

6. Treasurer's Report: Income totalled £525 from net profits from the barn dance (£400) and advertising receipts from Springboard (£125). Expenditure totalled £457. The two largest items were Springboard costs + admin (£192) and annual public liability insurance (£183). On 31 March 2014 the SGRA had an accumulated fund of £1000, up £68 on the previous year. The accounts have been audited.

7. Election of the Committee/Approval of SGRA representatives on Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Council: All the previous year's committee members were willing to stand for re-election and there were no further volunteers to join the committee despite publishing the positions in Springboard and asking for volunteers at the meeting. The committee for 2014/15 thus remains: **Chairman:** Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz **Committee Members;** Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Phil Harvey, Paul Hemmings, Emma Poole, Pippa Sparks, Dawn Trigg, Sean Yeates. Pippa Spark and Joan McConn were approved as SGRA representatives on Kingston Conservation Area Advisory Council

8. University Issues (from notes written by Mark Horne): MH had sent apologies and notes for the meeting which were presented by Jackie Steinitz. KUSU will be moving from Penrhyn Rd in May 2015 and there are no plans for a bar on site beyond this time. Details about Freshers' week in September will be sent out nearer the time. Licensed trading at university bars ends this summer on 7th June and restarts 13th September. A meeting will be held shortly to discuss late night behaviour attended by Pubwatch, the Police, the University and the Mill Street Residents Association. If a representative from the SGRA wishes to attend contact mark.horne@kingston.ac.uk A new person is being appointed to the community role, starting in June. Volunteering remains at a high level in the university with 788 students currently acting as volunteers (79% female!). If anyone has any volunteering opportunities for students contact volunteering@kingston.ac.uk

9. Proposed Neighbourhood Watch in the Spring Grove area: Jackie Steinitz: The community has been asked to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Spring Grove area by PCSO Pat Read. There are already 300 schemes in the borough (and 150,000 in the UK). The objective of NHW to create a partnership between the local community, police and local authority in order to prevent/deter crime and to provide a quick two-way messaging system whereby residents and police can communicate quickly about concerns, incidents, potential threats/scams etc. The communication chain runs from the Met – Kingston – Grove Ward – Street Co-ordinator – Individual household. Communication chains would generally use email where possible – some NHWs also use twitter. Residents who do not use email can opt to nominate a friend/relative with email or to receive paper print outs. Next steps are to recruit a street co-ordinator for each street in the Spring Grove area to and deliver a flyer to each resident inviting them to join. Note that NHW is independent of the Residents' Association and the mailing list will not be used for anything else. If you are interested in becoming a street co-ordinator please contact Pat Read Pat.M.Read@met.pnn.police.uk

10. Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood Team: (Sgt Sean Carpenter)

SC introduced the Grove Ward SNT which now comprises 1 Sgt, 1 PCs and 1 PCSO. He and PR answered a number of questions about the operation of NHW and about the methods used to communicate (email/Twitter). He confirmed that the 101 number should be used for non-emergency calls while 999 should be used for emergencies (including reports of drug dealing taking place at that moment).

11 Kingston Council: Cllr Chrissie Hitchcock

CH spoke about the Market Place redevelopment. While it has taken longer than expected due to an unexpected gas pipe under the surface she believes that it will be magnificent when complete. RBK is likely to receive £30M for improving cycling in the borough. In the Q&A CH was asked about the status of any planning application on the site of the former dairy at the corner of Villiers Rd/Lower Marsh Lane. She was not aware of any. A resident noted that rumours about it included student housing and a Sainsburys Local.

CH noted that she had always voted against further student housing in the last two years. There was some discussion about potholes. These have been an issue in Villiers Road, but a resident from Bloomfield Rd noted that on the three occasions when he had notified the Council about potholes using the online form they had been repaired within two weeks.

12. AOB

The issue of speeding by Post Office vans along Villiers Rd was raised. The police team noted that they have speed gun there from time to time. One resident raised concerns about the Duke of Buckingham pub and plans to extend the property to include 11 student flats.