

Spring Grove Residents' Association
Summary of the Minutes of the AGM – 26 April 2007, Parish Hall
(Full version available on www.springgrovekingston.co.uk and at 2008 AGM)

PRESENT

Chairman: Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz
Committee members: Gordon Bell, Phil Chapman, Mike Harris, Natascha Logan
Residents: Approximately 15 **Guests:** *Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood team:* Sgt Matthew Smith, PC Sharon Bailey *Kingston University:* Professor David Miles (Pro Vice-chancellor, External Affairs) and Deirdre Ferrier (Communications Officer, New University Project) *Grove Ward Councillors:* Chrissie Hitchcock, Bart Ricketts

1. Apologies for Absence : Ed Davey MP, Councillor Rachel O'Connor, Committee members Deborah Robinson, Amy Rieseborough.

2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM : Approved.

3. Chairman's Report : Community life has continued to thrive with 14 events during the year including plays, musical evenings, a dance night, quizzes, the jumble sale, the barn dance and the barbeque. Together these events raised over £10,500 for charities and local causes. The committee has continued to be active in organizing events, publishing Springboard, running the website, monitoring planning applications and maintaining contact with the Council, university, police and MP. Additionally it has provided input into the character appraisal of the Grove Crescent Conservation Area, raised concerns with the council about the possible effect of 'studentification' in the area, lobbied the council for improvements to the park in Villiers Road and attended the community panel meetings of the Grove Ward Safer Neighbourhood Police team (SNT).

3. Treasurer's Report: Income totalled £634.09 including £243 from the barn Dance, £201 from the jumble sale and £185 advertising receipts from Springboard. Expenditure totalled £483.70. The two largest items were Springboard costs + admin (£256) and annual public liability insurance (£123). On 31 March 2007 the SGRA had an accumulated fund of £796.62. The accounts have been audited.

4. Election of the Committee: All posts unopposed. **Chairman:** Alan Leeds **Treasurer:** Karol Smal **Secretary:** Jackie Steinitz **Committee Members;** Gordon Bell, Deborah Robinson, Phil Chapman, Natasha Logan, Amy Rieseborough, Mike Harris all re-elected. Paul Hemmings joined.

5. Community Policing (Sgt Matt Smith): The Safer Neighbourhood Team now comprises the sergeant, 2 PCs and 4 PCSOs . It holds public meetings 3 times a year in the Parish Hall and will embark on school visits and street briefings. A community panel has been set up to review issues raised and to set priorities. Two PCs on the team are now trained in the usage of speed guns and will be using them in the area. Questions were asked about:

- how the team should be notified about local crimes (A: phone, email or website)
- speeding along Portland Rd and Grove Lane

- who is responsible for dealing with noise and disturbance caused by students and others returning home at night . Sgt Smith talked about monthly meetings with University to identify worst offenders, meetings with the Night Clubs to lay on transport, and asking for special constables to cover the area at key times (about 1 – 3am). David Miles said (i) that university takes disciplinary action right up to expulsion if necessary (ii) it was trying to change patterns of behaviour and improve the provision of bus services at night , (iii) it sought to introduce students and residents to each other, (iv) it had instituted walkabouts to which SGRA were invited, (v) it was working with police, council and clubs to improve the situation.

6. University Issues : Professor David Miles In addition to the points above about student behaviour David Miles talked about:

- the university's building plans (including the John Galsworthy Building on Penryhn Rd campus and a refurbishment of Knights Park)
- its Green Travel Plan.
- the increasing interaction between the University and local organisations and residents

Deirdre Ferrier distributed a number of publications including the Events calendar, literary festival, a list of job vacancies, the annual report and *Source* magazine.

In the Q&A David Miles said that the University will be seeking to expand the number of residential places that it can offer to students and is likely to reconsider Lower Marsh Lane as one of the possible sites for a student village.

7. Website : Please send any suggestions, contributions etc. to Jackie Steinitz.

8. Councillors (Cllrs Chrissie Hitchcock and Bart Ricketts): Chrissie Hitchcock spoke about the 2 night walkabouts she took part in. She said that the Council have been seeking to improve the dispersal of people from the Town Centre at night by working with the cabs and police to ensure that cabs and buses are available to move people away as quickly as possible.

Bart Ricketts answered a number of questions about waste management. Has the level of litter in Kingston centre especially along the riverside increased? (Yes, but RBK have now changed the contract to a daily collection at 4-5pm). What are the plans for residential collections? Can recycled organic waste could be spread on fields as it is in France?. Paul Hemmings, the caretaker of St. Johns school noted that the recycling van at school sometimes took weeks to come. Bart agreed to look into this. A resident said that Villiers Rd was blocked every Saturday and Sunday because of traffic to the dump and asked what could be done.