

# **BRACKENBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

## **Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting 9 July 2007 at the Grove Neighbourhood Centre**

**Attendees – Committee:** Chris Allen (Chairman), Martin Thirlaway (Treasurer), Dante Barbareschi, Stuart Blake, Julia Davidson, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Lesley Spires, Richard Winterton.

**Members:** Harriet Ashworth, John Ashworth, Ann Awakian, Anna Benson Gyles, Anna Callaghan, Anne Cantacuzino, Sherban Cantacuzino, Neville Collins, Samantha Davies, Alan Denney, Isabel Ford, Marguerite Green, Annick Hardwick, Tony Hardwick, Andy Hartland, Jane Hartland, Susan Herbert, Patricia Houlihan, Shirley Lucking, Cllr Harry Phibbs, Susan Richardson, Keith Robinson, Amelia Scott, Judi Shaw, Sophie Stewart, Lucy Thomas, Elizabeth Wright, Michael Wright and three others.

**Guests:** Jenny Gibbon (Godolphin and Latymer School), Sgt Douglas Gold (Ravenscourt Safer Neighbourhood Team), Sgt Paul Goulden (Hammersmith Broadway Safer Neighbourhood Team), Evangeline Karn (Brook Green Association).

**Apologies:** Jo Buchanan, Sarah Fletcher, Consuelo Gonzalez, Claire Harris, Cllr Lucy Ivimy, Caroline Knight, Alice McMillan, Fiona Mansfield, Diana Mather, Patricia Quigley, Teresa Quigley, Johnathan Sunley, Murray Thomas, Helen Thornton, Caroline Trier, Anne Wright.

### **1. Welcome**

Chris Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially guests: Jenny Gibbon, Sgts Dougie Gold and Paul Goulden, and Evangeline Karn.

### **2. Minutes of 2006 AGM**

The Minutes were approved. There were no matters arising.

### **3. Chairman's Report**

Chris Allen said the Association was thriving. He thanked the Committee for all their hard work, especially Rosemary Pettit, the lynch-pin of the Association, and Julia Davidson, the Secretary. He also thanked Martin Thirlaway who was standing down, having served as Treasurer for 18 months, and Neil Studley for his work on the website.

He reported on the Committee's work during the past year and said BRA was a leading example of best practice in graffiti removal, thanks to Toni Raybould and Jane Jales. He concluded by giving notice of the GNC's Summer Fête on 21 July and of Transport for London's meeting on 24 October to consider the tram and Crossrail. Ken Livingstone had said he might abandon plans for the tram if Crossrail goes ahead but BRA should continue to oppose it (through Hammersmith Against The Tram) in case he does not.

Chris referred to a proposal to build a large office complex, cinema and restaurant on the NCP site in Hammersmith Grove. He said Cllr Steve Cowan, who opposed the scheme, was organising a large public meeting about it and he asked if it was members' wish that BRA should host a separate meeting on its own or jointly with the Hammersmith Society. Richard Winterton understood that the application had been held back

and said the developers were obliged to consult the public about the scheme - he was certain that they would not change the scheme as the result of any such meeting. Any meeting must be managed correctly and followed up. Some members criticised the scheme and were told how they could apply for a copy of the developers' brochure. Cllr Harry Phibbs did not think the developers had a hope of getting the scheme through the Planning Committee.

**It was agreed that the Association should host a separate meeting, ideally under the auspices of the Hammersmith Society.**

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Martin Thirlaway presented the Treasurer's report which showed the BRA Accounts for the year to 31 March 2007. There was a small surplus of £328 income over expenditure for the year and he invited suggestions on how the healthy closing balance of £3,938 could be spent. Chris Allen said the Committee would consider expenditure proposals at its next meeting and said there was likely to be some expenditure on the Tree project. There were no questions on the Accounts.

#### **5. Membership Secretary's Report**

Rosemary Pettit presented her report. BRA membership had increased steadily year by year since 2000 and now stood at 395 compared with 344 the previous year (these figures were based on actual members rather than households).

She referred to the network of Street Representatives who were extremely helpful and said anyone willing to be a street rep. should apply to her. She thanked all those who provide her with the e-mail material she circulates among members. 68% of the membership were contactable by e-mail.

#### **6. Activity Reports**

- **Graffiti**: Toni Raybould said the Brackenbury area was 98% clear of graffiti and the Council had been very helpful. In addition Goldhawk Road now had very little graffiti. Cambridge Grove and Leamore Street were setting up their own Residents' Association and she hoped to help them clear their streets and maybe the graffiti on the underpasses. The Council needed some help and we should keep up the good work. Chris Allen said the brevity of Toni's report was eloquent testimony to her work over several years.
- **Neighbourhood Watch**: Lesley Spires said Neighbourhood Watch (NW) had taken off in several areas, especially Hammersmith Broadway Ward. She hoped a Watch would soon start in Perrers Road. She and Toni Raybould, and NW co-ordinators from all over the borough, had attended the H & F NW Inaugural Borough Association meeting which was quite inspiring. She and Toni also represented BRA on the Ward Panels that were run by local residents in close collaboration with their local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Ravenscourt Ward Panel was in its infancy and still sorting out its priorities whereas Hammersmith Broadway was further advanced. She encouraged anyone thinking of setting up a Watch to go ahead and promised to give them moral support.

Toni Raybould said Hammersmith Broadway Ward had NW schemes in Brackenbury Road and Richford Street, and also one covering Agate, Beauclerc, Coulter, Hebron, Marco and Amor Roads. The latter had an e-mail network of 65 to 70 people to whom Sgt Goulden sent monthly messages. A scheme covering Hammersmith Grove from the junction with Trussley Road down to the Broadway had been set up with the very helpful co-operation of the police and another was planned for Iffley Road. The Safer Neighbourhood team had set up a stand in Hebron Road the previous Saturday in order to introduce themselves to residents in

the area and give them an opportunity to air any questions or problems. There would be a similar opportunity at the GNC on Tuesday, 24 July.

She was about to attend the second meeting of Hammersmith Broadway Ward Panel which was a fascinating group of people. If anyone had any questions about Neighbourhood Watch they should contact her or Lesley. For any concerns or issues about crime they should call their local SNT, or in an emergency ring 999.

- **Tree Project:** Rosemary Pettit said the Tree project would make a difference to the appearance of the area and described how it had evolved with the support of Evangeline Karn, Chief Tree Warden of the BGA. The Council had no more money for additional trees but, at the BRA Tree Walk on 21 April, a bargain had been struck with Gavin Simmons, the Council's arboriculturist. He had guaranteed that, for every four of the 16 new trees (already planted) that residents volunteered to water, the Council would plant an additional new tree in the next planting season.

Ten volunteers had committed to water a tree during its first year which would give the area two and a half new trees next season - she hoped that the BRA Committee would agree to fund the remaining half tree. In addition some members had offered to sponsor a tree at a cost of £175 per tree. Iffley Road had two new sponsored trees and next season the Brackenbury area should have eight new sponsored trees, in total, thanks to the generosity of members.

She had hoped to introduce Claire Harris who had one or two ideas for the project but was away at present. There was a plan was to trim the watershoots and small overhanging branches of existing trees and she invited anyone wanting to help with this to contact her.

A tree in Carthew Road had recently been chopped down. Residents thought they had found the culprit but the witness was not co-operative. However Rosemary hoped the presumed culprit would remember his visit from the police. If anyone sees a damaged tree they should report it.

A member said she often slipped on the fallen fruit from a tree in front of her house. Chris Allen said Gavin Simmons was aware of the danger from these trees and was gradually replacing them.

Evangeline Karn said the GLA had recently published a report called *The Chainsaw Massacre* about the preservation and maintenance of trees; she hoped BRA and BGA could meet Gavin to discuss how to further its recommendations.

- **Planning and Licensing:** Richard Winterton said the Committee responds to reports from the Council but also depends on members to tell them if there is a community issue where the Committee might play a part.

BRA had been active in the issue of the Premier West Hotel which, after three attempts, appeared to have dropped its development plans. BRA also supported residents in opposing the Olive Tree's proposal to extend its licensed area and the application was turned down by the Council. He drew members' attention to the Town Hall replacement scheme on which there would be an updating session on 18 July. The previous proposal for this site by Tesco's had been turned down and the Council had now invited tenders.

Richard noted that a number of large schemes were currently proposed for the borough, and whilst the applications needed careful scrutiny, the development interest reflected a welcome dynamism for Hammersmith.

One member enquired about the cinema on the Town Hall site and was told that the brief said a cinema should be retained on the site if 'feasible'. There was disappointment that the cinema, which was such a bonus to the

area, was being run down and there was no requirement to keep it. Cllr Phibbs said the prospect for the existing cinema was pretty bleak but there was the possibility of a new cinema in this scheme or on the NCP site. Richard said that bids were being invited for both retail and residential development options on the Town Hall site. Chris Allen said comments on the NCP scheme could be raised at the meeting BRA proposed to organise. Cllr Phibbs did not think the current proposals for the NCP scheme were likely to get planning permission.

## **7. Rule Changes**

The Association considered changes to Rule 5, the aim being to increase the permitted Committee membership and allow associate members to be co-opted to the Committee. Notice of these changes had been sent to members in advance. The changes were approved by the meeting except that it was decided that the sentence '*a co-opted member may be co-opted again or stand for election*' in the second paragraph should be deleted. **The following wording was approved:**

**The first sentence of Rule 5 should now read:**

**The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee consisting of not less than 6 and no more than 14 full or associate members of the Association.**

**The second paragraph of this rule should now read:**

**The Committee may co-opt not more than four full or associate members of the Association to serve on the Committee until the next AGM. The names of the co-opted members shall be made known to the next General Meeting. All co-opted members shall have the right to vote in the Committee.**

## **8. Subscription for 2007/8**

Rosemary Pettit explained that the proposed increase in the subscription rates, for those not paying by standing order, would be the first since the Association was set up in 1999. The intention was to ease the workload for her and the Treasurer. It was suggested from the floor that payment by standing order should be compulsory but Rosemary said she was happy to try the new proposal for a year. **It was therefore agreed that the annual subscription rates for 2007/8 should be as follows:**

**Those paying by standing order continue to pay £3.00**

**Those not on standing order pay £4.00**

**Concessionary rate £2.00**

## **9. Election of Treasurer and Committee Members**

Rosemary Pettit said Alice Mcmillan was willing to serve as Treasurer in place of Martin Thirlaway. **Her election was proposed by Chris Allen and seconded by Rosemary and agreed by the meeting. However, as Alice had not had time to submit a nomination paper beforehand, it was agreed to check with Murray Thomas (BRA's legal adviser) whether her election was valid. If he said that the meeting had acted *ultra vires* she would be co-opted.**

Chris Allen reported that Julia Davidson had been co-opted to the Committee as Secretary since the last AGM. **The following were elected to the Committee for 2007/8, having been duly proposed and seconded:**

**Christopher Allen, Dante Barbareschi, Stuart Blake, Julia Davidson, Claire Harris, Diana Mather, Rosemary Pettit, Toni Raybould, Lesley Spires, Murray Thomas.**

## **10. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Chris Allen said that there was no applicant for independent examiner. **The matter was handed over to the Committee for resolution.**

## **11. Questions and Issues from the floor**

There were questions on the following:

The gate to the alley running between Carthew Villas and Coulter Road was not properly secured and those living in the houses served by the alley wanted it padlocked but did not know who owned the alley. They were advised to go ahead and lock it, and deal appropriately if any owner emerged subsequently.

With the recent smoking ban the noise level outside The Olive Tree could rise. When could neighbours complain? Sgt Gold said there were four grounds for complaint re. change of licence, one of which was anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance; the threshold test for the latter was quite low. A complaint would probably be successful if there was good evidence – its effect would only be to limit the number of people allowed outside The Olive Tree at one time. Another option would be to try to reach an agreement by holding a meeting of the licensee and residents. Chris Allen said the former option might be unenforceable. He stressed that it is the licencing officer's duty to try and resolve such matters.

The rodent problem in Brackenbury had got worse and this was probably because chemical treatment was no longer put down the sewers. **It was agreed that BRA should look into the matter.**

## **Guest speaker: Jenny Gibbon, Head of Classics and Community Links Co-ordinator at Godolphin and Latymer School**

Jenny Gibbon said she would take up the post of Community Links Co-ordinator in September and explained that Godolphin and Latymer would like to be a good neighbour. She distributed a paper with an outline of the School's already considerable activities connected with the local community, and asked for further suggestions.

As first and foremost an educational institution Godolphin and Latymer runs an Ancient Greek and Roman Breakfast Club for the community with a programme of lectures and outings, and also offers Ancient Greek language classes. They would like to offer lectures on additional subjects and might put some of their courses online. A colleague would like to organise a film club (this last idea was enthusiastically welcomed) and they run a series of public lectures - the next by Andrew Marr on 24 September. Tennis courts, hockey pitches and a hall are let out at cost price.

She explained that the School has a social services team which last year raised over £20,000 for good causes chosen by the girls. It also has a volunteer group (of girls from the Lower Fifth to Sixth) who work in the community in placements in different institutions - among them John Betts Primary School (where they have a German project and are setting up a Minimus Latin project), Jordans Nursery, Gloucester House, Brackenbury School and the Bayonne Nursery - and there are Sixth Formers at the Randolph Beresford Centre in White City. She was grateful to the BRA Committee for introducing her to the GNC; the girls might take part in an elderly reminiscence/local history project with the GNC. They have new placements in Hammersmith Hospital and Stevenage Road Daycare Centre.

Godolphin and Latymer's main link is with Cambridge School where a number of girls help the school daily with their literacy programme; they have just run a visual literacy project and are planning a dance/drama project. The majority of the girls take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the School also offers the International Baccalaureat - both of these have a community service component. Some girls have special projects of their own. Several of the girls say that community service is one of the most rewarding parts of their time at the School. They hold monthly tea parties for the elderly and she asked BRA members to tell her of anyone who might be interested in these. They had been in touch with Gavin Simmons and asked if they could sponsor a tree and were told firmly by him that they had enough to do looking after their own trees.

It had been suggested that the School might open its exhibitions, performances and concerts more widely. She had brought the plans for St John's Vicarage and Church and said the School would like to share the space there with the community as much as possible.

BRA offered to publicise events and services – as it does already – through its members' e-mail links.

## **10. Thanks and close**

Chris Allen thanked Jenny Gibbons for her talk and members for attending. The AGM finished with a glass of wine.