

HURST PARK ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM 2018

at the Good Shepherd Church Hall, Mansel Way, Arbury

7.00pm on Sunday 22nd April 2018

Present: Committee - Michael Page (chair), Mary Pountain (secretary), Richard Cushing (treasurer), John Beasley, Luke Tunmer, Hilary Goy. Plus 65 residents of Hurst Park Estate and 5 representatives from other Residents' Associations: (MRRRA, Arbury Road East RA, Histon Road RA & FeCRA).

Introduction and Welcome

Michael Page chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and in particular the representatives from other local Residents' Associations.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: from the committee, Andrew Milbourn and Jane Wheatley, plus 32 from HPE residents.

2. Minutes of AGM of 30th April 2017 – matters arising

The Minutes were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report and accounts

Michael Page read his report:

The last year saw a continuation of the debate surrounding the huge challenges faced by the city in response to the growth agendas being pursued by government, big business, the universities, colleges and property developers. The opportunistic development of student hostels and apartment hotels has left no room for the affordable accommodation so badly needed by those working in our essential public services. All around the city residents and small businesses are having to cope with round after round of consultations for bus corridors and planning applications for blocks of flats. Added to the mix we now have our elected mayor championing an underground metro-bus – more on this later this evening from our guest speaker.

Our own efforts here focussed on City Deal's Milton Road project but other topics also came to the fore including local planning applications (eg the Tivoli at Mitchams Corner) and the issue of commuter parking and the possibility of a controlled parking zone for our streets.

Regarding Milton Road, the powers-that-be were eventually forced to take on board our own plans developed with Milton Rd RA and Camcycle - causing U-turns and delays in the programme. This, together with deeply unpopular proposals for peak-time control points round the city centre and the Cambourne busway precipitated a re-think and rebranding. City Deal became the Greater Cambridge Partnership, and a new team of transport officers was hired. We are currently on our third Transport Director.

So the process has dragged on and on, testing our resolve and that of our partners in the Milton Road Alliance. There are important unresolved issues still to be decided and I would urge you to attend the next LLF meeting promised for early June which will be followed by important decisions to be taken at the Greater Cambridge Partnership executive board in the summer – dates are shown in this agenda and on our website.

We knew that we had the overwhelming support of residents in pursuing our Milton Road mission. But when it came to the possibility of a controlled parking zone for our streets we found opinion to be divided. Once again the council's process for consulting with residents was unsatisfactory and confusing, not helped by two and now, possibly three, changes to the proposed boundaries. We are trying to get clarity on the next steps and also to encourage our local councillors to explore less prescriptive options with residents before they commit to a formal statutory consultation, which is not a very flexible process. All we can say with certainty is that the nearby zone which includes Ascham Road, Gurney Way, Courtney Way and Metcalfe Road has been recommended for statutory consultation and this is likely to

happen in the summer. Regarding the triangle (or irregular rhomboid) of streets including Chesterton Hall Crescent, George Street and Herbert Street, local councillors have had several meetings with residents but no clear plan has yet emerged. If both of these neighbouring schemes go ahead they will undoubtedly have a knock-on effect for the Hurst Park Estate, as will the loss of parking bays on Milton Road when that project is eventually completed. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone informed.

With regard to other matters of concern in the local area, such as policing priorities or council services, these are debated and decisions made at the North Area Committee of the City Council. It meets every three months at a local venue and residents can go along, ask questions and lobby our local councillors. The next opportunity will be on the evening of 21st June.

To finish on a more uplifting note I would like to thank our new neighbour Nicky Webb who moved into Highfield Avenue during the year and raised our spirits at Christmas by organising some hearty and well-attended carol singing. We look forward to that becoming an annual event – and I also want to thank my fellow committee members and all those who have supported HPERA in various ways during the year including other residents’ groups and the Federation of Cambridge Residents’ Associations (FeCRA).

Accounts

Residents have again donated generously, both at the AGM in 2017, and with other contributions. Although activity from City Deal on Milton Road reduced somewhat during the year, we became aware of proposals for Residents’ Controlled Parking Zones. Five newsletters have been printed and distributed, some with colour printing. Abbreviated accounts for the financial year are presented below:

Income & Expenditure	1 January– 31 December			
	2017		2016	
Income	£	£	£	£
Donations	664.25		648.44	
Total Income		664.25		648.44
Expenditure				
Room & Refreshments	108.87		176.41	
Printing & Stationery	264.50		114.79	
Banners (contribution)			39.79	
Website			120.00	
Total Expenditure		(373.37)		(450.99)
Balance – Current year		290.88		197.45
Balance Brought Forward		197.45		
Balance Carried Forward		488.33		197.45

The Association has no membership fee, and relies upon donations for income. The Association operates a Community current account with Barclays Bank plc. Expenditure is authorised by any two of the three officers on the committee. No overdraft facility is sought.

Prepared by Richard Cushing, Treasurer 12th April 2018

4. Election of committee for 2018/19

Gerry Rose proposed that the current committee should be re-elected en-bloc. Seconded by Graham Cox. The meeting voted unanimously to re-elect the entire committee: Michael Page (chair), Mary Pountain (secretary), Richard Cushing (treasurer), John Beasley, Luke Tunmer, Andrew Milbourn, Hilary Goy, Jane Wheatley.

Barbara Thomas has provided some secretarial help during this year and was elected onto the committee by a unanimous vote. Proposed by Daphne Lott, seconded by Riki McDonald

5. Forthcoming events

- City Council Elections 3rd May
- Combined Authority Board 30th May
- Milton Road LLF - TBC
- GCP City Deal Joint Assembly 14th June
- North Area Committee 21st June
- GCP City Deal Executive Board 4th July

Michael suggested that the North Area Committee Meetings were a good opportunity to bring up issues of local concern, such as the motorbikes cutting through the top of Highworth Avenue/Leys Road, and encouraged people to attend.

6. Any other business

Michael mentioned the Tree Excursion, organised by Paul van de Bulk which will take place on Tues 24th April. This will visit various areas with trees in the locality with the Urban Design Consultant, Henry Casement. Rowland Thomas will represent HPERA on this.

A suggestion that Highworth Avenue should have its own street party was made and Rebekah Dolby agreed to organise this.

Michael mentioned that we will be contacting everyone soon about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) rules which come into place on 25 May 2018.

Jo Tunmer and Ruth Sapsed outlined the plans for a community art project to beautify the hoardings outside the now demolished Milton Road Library on Ascham Road.

Matt Rowe, minister of Arbury Road Baptist Church, and a resident of HPA, outlined a joint project with the Church of the Good Shepherd – ‘North Cambridge 4 You’. They are conducting a community survey and working with community leaders and organisations to find out what is positive in the local community and to see where needs could be better met in the North Cambridge area.

7. Close of AGM - Michael Page closed the meeting at 7.31pm.

Before introducing our guest speaker, Michael showed a diagram which showed the complexities that exist with all the decision-making organisations and councils within the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Dr Colin Harris of Cambridge Connect gave a presentation entitled *CAM is coming...is it the answer?* He talked about the potential for a Light Rail solution and outlined the CAM (Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro) favoured by the Mayor of the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority.

This was followed by the consumption of puddings and wine and the opportunity to meet fellow residents, during which Cam House and Garden sold plants in aid of the Residents' Association's funds.