

HURST PARK ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM 2017

at the Good Shepherd Church Hall, Mansel Way, Arbury

7.00pm on Sunday 30th April 2017

Present: Committee - Michael Page (chair), Mary Pountain (secretary), Richard Cushing (treasurer), John Beasley, Luke Tunmer, Andrew Milbourn.

Plus 50 residents of Hurst Park Estate and 7 representatives from other Residents' Associations: Wendy Blythe (FeCRA), Barbara Taylor (MRRA & FeCRA), Maureen Mace (MRRA), Lucy and Graham Edgeley (Arbury Road East RA), Lillian Rundblad (Histon Road RA), Matt Danish (Camcycle).

Introduction and Welcome

Michael Page chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and in particular the 7 representatives from other local Residents' Associations and Camcycle.

1. Apologies for absence

Carol & Barry Jones, David & Jill Eldridge, Sara Payne, Catherine Lemon, Ann Fiddes, Vanessa and James Connolly, Charles Nisbet, Judith Rattenbury, David Robinson, Rosie Lass, Lynne & Mike Kindell, Jane & Geoff Mann, Matt Rowe, Gillian Perkins, Bron Hipkin.

2. Minutes of AGM of 14th April 2016 – matters arising

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

3. Chairman's report and accounts

Michael Page read his report.

At our first AGM last April I was able to highlight the magnificent response from countless residents which had enabled us to put together our submission to City Deal in rebuttal of their plans for Milton Road. That document also put forward various alternative proposals for improving traffic management and the streetscape.

After much lobbying effort and questioning at numerous City Deal meetings the more extreme ideas of the 'Do-Maximum' plan were quietly dropped, but we were still confronted with the deeply unpopular 'Do-Something' option. Next came the formation of the City Deal Local Liaison Forum onto which I, and Charles Nesbit from Milton Rd Res Assn, reluctantly agreed to be co-opted. We were very concerned that our presence on the committee would imply endorsement of the very plans that we were opposing, but at our first meeting we used the opportunity to persuade the councillors on the LLF to agree certain resolutions. These called for an avenue of trees and verges to be maintained, elimination of any double bus-lanes, re-examination of the Highworth Avenue and Union Lane closures and a study for a re-designed roundabout instead of traffic lights. At about the same time the 4000+ Trees and Verges petition was presented by Charles at the County Council in full session.

Then there followed a series of LLF workshops which were really supposed to be about fine-tuning the 'Do-Something' design. During this period we met up with Matt Danish from CamCycle who had recently moved into Arbury Road, and we realised that his ideas were very much in tune with our own. Thanks to his technical drawing skills and previous experience we arrived at a radical new plan for Milton Rd prioritising walking and cycling as well as public transport. We called this

the 'Do-Optimum' alternative and we gave an unannounced Powerpoint presentation to one of the LLF workshops. This forced our alternative ideas on to the agenda and into the official workshop reports. We subsequently agreed with CamCycle and MRRA to refer to our collaboration as the Milton Road Alliance, which now has its own website.

Eventually a formal meeting of the Local Liaison Forum passed a further series of resolutions all based around adoption of the 'Do-Optimum' plan. We were expecting that the Executive Board would consider these at their March meeting, but that was postponed until June, and just two days ago we heard that it is being put back yet again until late July.

In the meantime we have been keeping up the pressure by asking local election candidates a series of questions on this and similar issues. Their responses can be found on the HPERA website. These were also used as the basis for questions at our joint hustings event which took place last Thursday evening.

Your committee continues to monitor other matters of local interest and through our Newsletters we try to keep residents up-to-date and better informed. Seven Newsletters were distributed to all households during the year and I would like to thank our dedicated team of helpers who make this possible.

One of the subjects we have highlighted is that of commuter parking in our streets and I hope that our newsletters have helped to clarify some of the issues involved. I suspect that this could be the hot topic of the year to come. In the meantime we can celebrate one small victory – the Yellow Lines have arrived!

In closing I want to thank the committee for their hard work during a challenging year and to acknowledge the support we have received from across the City via the Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations (FeCRA).

Accounts

The balance in the HPERA account stood at £197.45 on 31 12.16. Since then there have been other expenses. A request for donations was made to cover expenses in the coming months.

The inaugural meeting of the Association held in January 2016, and the first AGM in April 2016, received generous donations. Subsequently residents have made further donations which have allowed us to fund the printing of ten newsletters and to maintain the website. Sharing of costs with Milton Road RA has helped to keep these under control. Abbreviated accounts for the first financial year are presented below:

1 Jan – 31 Dec 2016	Income & Expenditure	
	£	£
Income		
Donations	648.44	
Total Income		648.44
Expenditure		
Room & Refreshments	176.41	
Printing & Stationery	114.79	
Banners (contribution)	39.79	
Website	120.00	
Total Expenditure		(450.99)
Balance Carried Forward		197.45

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

*Prepared by Richard Cushing, Treasurer
2nd March 2017*

4. Election of committee for 2017/18

During the year Jo Tunmer stepped down from the committee and Hilary Goy and Jane Wheatley were co-opted onto the committee.

Vern Farewell proposed that the current committee should be elected en-bloc. Seconded by Daphne Lott.

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 and Jane Wheatley were each elected onto the committee by a unanimous vote.

Hilary Goy - proposed by Ann Fiddes, seconded by Irene Page

Jane Wheatley - proposed by Bron Hipkin, seconded by Catherine Lemon

A request for some secretarial support was made.

5. Resolution

The meeting voted unanimously to accept this resolution which was proposed by Michael Page, and seconded by Riki McDonald.

"This meeting endorses the decision of the committee that HPERA should become a founding member of the Milton Rd Alliance along with Milton Rd RA and CamCycle, and approves the campaign to get City Deal to adopt the 'Do-Optimum' alternative design for Milton Rd."

6. Forthcoming events

- *M. Road Local Liaison Forum 9th May*
- *City Deal Joint Assembly ~~7th June~~ 19th July*
- *City Deal Executive Board ~~15th June~~ 26th July*
- *North Area Committee 22nd June*
- *SpeedWatch*

Michael reminded the meeting of the very recent change of date of the City Deal meetings (due to the forthcoming General Election). These now will fall on 19th and 26th July, which are unfortunately in the school holidays.

He encouraged people to attend the forthcoming Local Liaison Forum meeting on Tuesday 9th May.

SpeedWatch report. Riki McDonald updated the meeting on the SpeedWatch exercise the first of which took place on 21st April 2016. It was found that nearly 50% of drivers were exceeding the speed limit. 24 warning letters were sent out as a result. The police had planned to operate a further speed monitoring exercise with hidden camera, but were unable to do this. Because of the number of builders' vehicles parked on Orchard Avenue which prevent a clear line of sight along the road, it isn't possible to do another SpeedWatch at the moment. Riki reported that Kelley Green, the Labour candidate for this area had contacted to offer a vehicle-activated speed sign, but she has heard no more from her about it.

ACTION: follow this up with Kelley Green

7. Any other business

7a. Andrew gave a vote of thanks to Michael for the hard work he has put in on the Association's behalf.

7b. Michael thanked those who had planted bulbs in the verges, which have made the estate so colourful during the spring.

7c. Riki McDonald spoke about her conversation with the council about the use of glyphosate as a weedkiller around the trees and the edges of the verges. She pointed out that there is a Europe-wide campaign to ban the use of this and urged everyone to sign the EU petition. It already has more than 600,000 signatures so far but it needs 1 million.

Wendy Blythe added that she had come across its use in the Hills Road area, which has also affected nestlings and allotments. She has raised the matter with Anna Smith (Executive Councillor for Streets and Open Spaces) and encouraged us to contact Anna Smith too, as well as Jill Curry (environmental services). She warned against the adoption of verges by residents because of insurance issues.

Wendy talked about the need to promote the vision for Cambridge as a beautiful city.

ACTION: encourage people to sign the petition

ACTION: contact the relevant councillors to stop the use of glyphosate

7d. Steve Bunkhall brought up the issue of parking on verges. Michael suggested that when people have building work done they should get contractors to sign an agreement to respect the verges and pavements.

Richard Cushing suggested that anyone who puts forward a tender for council contracts should have to sign conditions that preserve the verges and pavements.

7e. Wendy Blythe talked about the need to promote the vision for Cambridge as a beautiful city and encouraged people to ensure that the enthusiasm for 'Do Optimum' expressed recently at the hustings is maintained. She suggested we contact Julian Huppert to get his support for the scheme.

ACTION: contact Julian Huppert

8. **Close of AGM** - Michael Page closed the meeting at 7.36pm.

The meeting was followed by a fascinating talk by Rachel Aucott and Jim Smith, both of Orchard Avenue, about their local history research into the Hurst Park Estate.

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.