

**HURST PARK ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**AGM 2023**

7.00pm on Sun 23 April 2023  
Hall, Church of the Good Shepherd

**Attendance:**

Present: members of the committee- Andrew Milbourn (chair), Nicky Webb (secretary), Sophie Musson, Michael Page, Alun Reynolds, Robin Standing, Barbara Thomas, Tony Willoughby plus about 70 residents. Apologies were received from committee member Yung-Chin Oei.

**1. Introduction and Welcome:**

Andrew Milbourn welcomed residents to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of 2022 AGM**

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and will be uploaded to the HPERA website.

**3. Chairman's report**

Andrew Milbourn presented his report to the meeting.

**General context**

He began by recalling the vision and strategy agreed by the committee in previous years: 'to strengthen the community and protect and enhance the physical character of the estate'.

In AM's view, the major issues facing our estate – and the whole city – are as a result of the growth of Cambridge which is seeing a doubling of the population of the wider Cambridge area. By 2040, there will be 170,000 more people in the greater Cambridge area. This creates all sorts of issues for residents, including pressure on infrastructure, overcrowding, and worsening quality of life. He questioned why councillors have agreed to even more growth than central government requires, and why growth is seen as the answer to the housing shortage when it actually means more companies, more jobs, and more people.

He suggested that residents may wish to ask their councillors about this, particularly in the run up to the elections.

**The Committee**

AM introduced the members of the committee, including a proposed new member, Alun Reynolds, who lives in Orchard Avenue.

**Community Engagement**

We've continued to put emphasis on organising events to help strengthen links between residents and to make the estate a nicer place to live. This year these included the **History**

**Trail** (June 2022), **Playing Out** (September 2021 – July 2022), **Carol Singing** (December 2022) **Advent Windows** (December 2022 – Jan 2023). We also had a presence at the well-attended '7 streets' **Street Party** (June 2022) and a group of volunteer gardeners continued to improve and maintain the **community garden** at the bottom of Hurst Park Avenue. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made these activities possible, and also to David Robinson and Rosie Lass who continue to maintain the small roundabout between Leys Road and Highworth Avenue. We decided not to continue to run Playing Out sessions because only a small group of volunteers came forward.

## **Local Environment**

### **Milton Road**

One of our successes has been the improvements we helped secure to the design scheme put forward for Milton Road. Work started in June 2022 and was supposed to take 2 years – but the project is clearly already behind schedule.

Engaging with the construction team has proved difficult and the impact on retailers is already problematic. We are not looking forward to works beginning on the north side of Milton Road, scheduled for December.

We were taken by surprise when work began to remove vegetation from Highworth roundabout as the new design had not been agreed. This led to some residents taking direct action. A plan has now been agreed.

### **Planning issues**

We mostly consider that planning applications for home improvements are not our concern, but sometimes applications are made that seem likely to negatively impact the whole area. One ongoing issue is that of 45 Highworth Ave, where a developer has put in several applications, all so far refused, to build modern houses in the back garden of the existing bungalow, and another house at the front of the plot. We consider this 'back yard development' would have a detrimental impact on neighbours either side and in Hurst Park Avenue, and put pressure on services and traffic, as well as being out of character with the rest of the estate. Many thanks to all those who have objected to the plans. We hope the developer will revise the plans and submit an acceptable proposal.

### **Character statement**

Local architectural historian (and resident) Jeremy Musson has written a character statement about the estate which can be found on the HPERA website. This is intended to articulate the characteristics of the neighbourhood in order to help residents and planners when considering home improvements. This has been well received by planning department.

We are considering the council suggestion that we might apply for a Neighbourhood Plan in order to safeguard the character of the estate.

## **NE Cambridge development**

We continue to monitor and ask questions about plans for the huge proposed North East Cambridge development around Cambridge North station and on the site of the existing sewage works. Recently Cambridge Past, Present and Future has raised concerns that the development as proposed will look like a 'great wall of Cambridge'.

### **Residents' Parking**

Late last year residents were invited to give their feedback to a revised residents' parking scheme which included new proposals such as the removal of on-street parking in Arbury Road. After much chasing for the results of this consultation, a meeting was convened at extremely short notice at which it was announced that because more than 50% of respondents were in favour, the scheme would go ahead. No written information about the exact nature of the new proposals was given, and there was very little detail. The next stage is for a TRO to be drawn up. We are chasing for more information but this will not now be forthcoming until after the local elections.

We are concerned about this issue, particularly about the lack of clarity around the exact nature of the scheme. We will continue to push for shorter operating hours and adequate provision for businesses.

### **Other issues**

We are aware that Lloyds pharmacy is intending to close the branch in Arbury Court and are pressing to ensure that another pharmacy opens on that site.

We continue to press the council to install the community noticeboard for which funding was agreed some time ago. We also hope to pay for a second one elsewhere in the estate.

We are chasing for a speed display in Orchard Avenue to help combat the issue of cars using the estate as a cut-through.

### **Priorities for the next year?**

Andrew asked residents to come forward with ideas for activities, events or issues that they would like us to raise. We need volunteers to make events such as Playing Out happen and to maintain the community garden – please come forward if you can spare some time.

Another suggestion is that we should use the community rooms at the Milton Road library more. Might we hold a series of talks by residents?

## **4. Q&A**

Various questions were asked and observations made on a variety of subjects, including the residents' parking scheme, how we might protect and enhance biodiversity in our neighbourhood, and the dysfunctional nature of local politics.

## **5. Treasurer's report**

Tony Willoughby (treasurer) presented the accounts for the year to 4 April 2023, which showed that there were very few expenses during the year. We currently have funds available of £948.06.

<b>HPERA Accounts - 5th April 2022 - 4th Apr 2023</b>			
	Period	2022-23	2021-22
<b>Income</b>			
	Donations	-	£ 694.57
	Bulb sales	£ 178.00	£ 154.00
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	AGM costs	£ -	£ -
	Printing costs	£ (27.50)	£ (100.48)
	Bulb purchases	£ (170.00)	
	Website costs	-	£ (179.98)
	Net income - current year	£ (19.50)	£ 568.11
	Balance brought forward from previous period	£ 967.56	£ 399.45
	<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>£ 948.06</b>	<b>£ 967.56</b>

## 6. Election of the committee

Alun Reynolds (Orchard Avenue) has agreed to join the committee. Nicky Webb proposed and Michael Page seconded. A vote was held and Alun was unanimously voted onto the committee.

The remaining members of the committee had all agreed to stand for another year. Richard Cushing proposed and Hilary Goy seconded and so all the other members of the committee will remain in post for 2023-4.

*The main business of the AGM concluded at 8.30pm, after which Sam Davies, independent city councillor for Queen Edith's ward, gave an illuminating presentation about local politics in Cambridge. Afterwards residents were invited to share a dessert and talk to neighbours.*