



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRAWBERRY HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30pm
STRAWBERRY HILL GOLF CLUB

PRESENT

Chairman	David Cornwell
Vice-chairman	Peter Lamb
Treasurer	Cathy Bird
Committee members	Julia Fiehn Teresa Read Mike Allsop Lyndon Law Claire Tomlins
Ward Councillors	Clare Head, David Marlow
Residents	25+ present

APOLOGIES

Committee members	Pam Crisp (Secretary), Charles Owens, Gill Litherland
Residents	Mike Phelps, June Turner

David Cornwell welcomed everyone to the AGM of SHRA. Minutes of last year's AGM, 27 April 2016, were approved. This was proposed by Robert Young, seconded by Colm O'Keefe and residents voted in favour.

Chairman's report – David Cornwell

David introduced himself as the new chairman, having taken over from Bruce Duff following the previous AGM. He outlined a few events of the year 2016-2017, affecting the association:

- The committee had all attended an 'away-day' in May 2016, during which we discussed our expectations for the coming year and allocated tasks in order to operate more effectively. We identified the need for more social events in the area, and therefore organised a late summer party at the Radnor Gardens Café. [Attendees expressed approval for a repeat this year].
- Tony Beckles Wilson, a past chairman of the association, had sadly died. He had been a local historian, founder of Twickenham Museum, initiator of the Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust, a stalwart of the local area and a great role model for us all.
Clare Phelps had also died, as the result of a tragic accident. She was remembered as a long-serving and hard-working secretary of the association. It was noted that the planter near the MKG garage would be maintained and improved in her memory.
- The changes in ownership of the Post Office occurred in the Autumn. The chairman expressed our relief that the Post Office is still operating, and hoped that all residents were supporting it. The leaving events for the Patels had been covered extensively in the Winter Bulletin.
- The annual carol-singing had changed venue this year as a trial – taking advantage of the facilities at the Radnor Gardens Café. The Christmas tree was erected in Wellesley Parade, as usual. Although somewhat dark at the café, it was felt that the event had been successful and would probably be repeated in the same location this year.

- The New Year brought the start of our turn for the Council's village planning process. This was kick-started by a Leader's Question Time, in January, at the Golf Club, which was packed. The process continued with a drop-in session at the Emmanuel Centre at St James Church and a walkabout (an update on the process to follow later in the meeting).
- The plans for expansion of Saint Mary's University have become the burning issue of the day, and the chairman outlined SHRA's position and activities to date:
 - We first raised concerns about the proposals in the 2016 Summer Bulletin.
 - A meeting was held between a group of committee members and the then SMU pro-vice chancellor, Ruth Kelly, to find out what was happening. This meeting had appeared to be reassuring, but took place before the publication of the Governors' Vision 2025 document.
 - A further meeting took place between SHRA committee members and the responsible SMU staff member, Mark Sudbury. This meeting was less reassuring. We decided to bring forward the publication of the Spring Bulletin and to feature the many concerns expressed by residents at the Leader's Question Time event.
 - Following our concerns about informing residents, it was agreed that the Village Planning Drop-In session would also allow residents to view the SMU proposals.
 - We also strongly encouraged SMU to hold consultation events, the first of which took place on Monday 24 April and the next to be held on 6 May.
 - The chairman strongly encouraged residents to make their views known through the consultation process. SHRA has made our views known to the Council, Tania Mathias (the local MP), Sir Vince Cable and to the University. The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will influence any planning application. After 22 May, SHRA will be making sure that the SPD reflects the concerns of residents, and will work with the Teddington Society, whose area is also affected by the proposals. The Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) has the SMU site on its 'at-risk' list.
- A number of questions and comments followed the chairman's report, all related to the proposed expansion of SMU:
 - It was noted that the comment space on the SMU leaflet was very small and that residents should include additional sheets as necessary, since it was vital that residents' views were heard. Better feedback forms are available on the University website.
 - SHRA was asked whether the committee would be carrying out its own survey. Mike Allsop replied that we had requested views in the Spring Bulletin, but that in addition, we were building an email list in order to keep people informed and we could use this to collect views. Mike also stated that there are two separate questions:
Should the university be expanding at all?
Should building be taking place on the site (Metropolitan Open Land – MOL)?
 - Members of Neighbours Of Saint Mary's University (NOSMU) were present and announced that they were fighting the plans, since it was very clear that there would be a planning application submitted, and that this would involve the building of 11 residential blocks.
 - Cllr. Clare Head addressed the issue of MOL, which, she said, should not be built on unless under exceptional circumstances, as spelt out on the Council website. She raised issues about whether there is a need for expansion since there is clearly less demand for HE places. Also, the University has identified a number of areas for improvement, none of which will be addressed through expansion. She also mentioned the 2010 Deed, which consists of an agreement that, following the building of the Sports Hall, the University would not undertake further development on the MOL.
 - Some discussion followed about whether the 2010 Deed was a legal document, whether it had been rescinded, and if so, by whom. David stated that SHRA would follow this up.

Treasurers Report – Cathy Bird

Cathy thanked John Naish for verifying the accounts. She said that SHRA remains in good financial health and noted that income and expenditure were similar to previous years except that 2015 had been the 50th anniversary of the association and some of the grants and spending had been exceptional. Cathy expressed some concern that income from subscriptions was too low, and that we would need to increase the amount and the number of residents subscribing, since all receive the benefits of membership, whether they pay or not. Income from advertising also needs to rise, and new advertisers will be sought to help fund the three Bulletins each year.

It was suggested by a participant that we encourage residents to sign standing orders, and also that we claim Gift Aid on subscriptions and donations. More information about subscriptions will be included in the Summer Bulletin. There was some discussion about the need for an increase in the legal fees reserve through donations, given the likely requirement to employ a planning consultant in relation to the opposition to the SMU expansion proposals.

David thanked Cathy for her work as Treasurer.

Election of SHRA committee

Following recent changes to the constitution, approved at the previous AGM and recorded in the minutes, it was noted that Mike Allsop, Cathy Bird, Pam Crisp, David Cornwell, Julia Fiehn, Peter Lamb, Lyndon Law, Charles Owens, Teresa Read and Claire Tomlins had been properly nominated to the committee. The following officers were appointed by the committee: David Cornwell as chairman, Peter Lamb as Vice Chairman, Pam Crisp as Secretary, Cathy Bird as Treasurer. Gill Litherland has resigned.

Strawberry Hill Village Plan Update

Nicky Linehan, consultant to the Council on village planning, updated the meeting on the process. She thanked people who had attended the Leader's Question Time event, the drop-in and the walkabout. All had been well attended, and over 100 responses had been received to the questionnaire. These responses will be reflected in the draft SPD, the consultation on which runs from 16 June – 28 July. She outlined the next stages of the process and summarised the comments received, some of which related to broad strategy, and some to detailed suggestions for improvements, including comments on SMU plans, the heart of the village, the footpath along the railway, parking issues, cycle routes, bus routes, and biodiversity. It was noted that two local architects have drawn up (pro-bono) some plans for improvements to the centre of the village, near the station. These plans were on display at the AGM.

An issue which caused considerable discussion, was the enlargement of the community parking zone (CPZ) in Strawberry Hill. The CPZ consultation process is due to be completed by the end of this year, and it was stressed that all should respond. Letters will be sent to every household affected.

David thanked Nicky for her clarity and her time.

Any Other Business

The attention of residents was drawn to some local fund-raising performances for Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust by Giles Abbott.

It was noted that the Strawberry Hill Music and Fun Day will take place on 2 July 2017 at Strawberry Hill House. It was also noted that this being the first Sunday in July, it is also the scheduled date of the Twickenham Green Fete.

Forms were provided for residents to leave their email addresses for future SHRA communications.

Concern was expressed about the unsightly state of bins near the bridal shop.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.