

# **Sopwell Residents Association**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2004 in St Julian's Church Hall**

1. **Present:** Sheila Parmenter, Muriel Sutton, Jo Andrew, P. Burt, M. Burt, Jill Gipps, Ted Hill, Helly Sawyer, Andrew Tolmiture, Brian Gibson, Ailsa Burton, Mark Walker, Claire Walker, William Davies, Carolina Davies, Liz Klir, Frances Burrows, Rev Ruth Pyke, Chris Pudsey, PC Paul Beecher, Christoph Lutz, Chantal Burns, Jo Witt, S. Arliss, J. Hudnott, Linda Bateman, L. Murray, R. Douglas, G. Field, Sandy Norman, Giles Hanford, Len Lewsey, D'Arcy Marlborough, Anne Kaloczi, Ann Fenton. Jenny Owen.
2. **Apologies:** Martin Dennys, Cllr Janet Smith, Cllr Dawn Pratley, Cllr Eileen Harris, Kerry Pollard MP.
3. The Chair, Giles Hanford, welcomed residents to their first annual general meeting and introduced the proceedings. The formal part of the meeting would be followed by a presentation from the community policeman and then questions and issues would be taken from the floor.
4. The Annual Report of the Association was received and formally adopted, proposed by Giles Hanford and seconded by D'Arcy Marlborough.
5. The audited statement of the Annual Accounts was received and formally adopted, proposed by Giles Hanford and seconded by D'Arcy Marlborough.
6. The following members were re-elected to the management committee: Chantal Burns, Martin Dennys, Giles Hanford, Len Lewsey, D'Arcy Marlborough, Sandy Norman, Chris Pudsey, Helly Sawyer, Jo Witt. Proposed by William Davies, seconded by Jo Andrew. Linda Bateman expressed a wish to join the committee. A proposal had also been received from Councillor Janet Smith to attend meetings.
7. The Sopwell community policeman, Paul Beecher, gave a short presentation on crime and antisocial behaviour in the area. Apart from the odd burglary and car crime, vandalism and graffiti, youth problems mainly in Mercers Row and Wilshere Avenue, and parking problems in Old London Road, there was very little to complain about. He said that Sopwell was the safest area to live in St Albans although saying that many of the regular criminal activities in other parts of the city were perpetrated by persons living in Sopwell. Regarding graffiti, there was to be a special wall for youths to write on. This will probably be on the youth club building behind Leyland Avenue. Members then asked questions from the floor.

- Speeding in Abbots Avenue (West): He will look into it by speaking to the traffic office at the station and to the Council although it normally takes an accident to change things.
  - Parking in Creighton Avenue was blocking access by service vehicles e.g. ambulances to Martyr Close.
  - Parking on the pavement was also causing problems all over the area. There was not a lot he could do.
8. Questions and suggestions were made from the floor on other environmental issues. Issues identified were:
- Parking in Riverside Road by rail commuters
  - The portaloos at bottom of Doggetts Way: was it still being used? Many thought it was.
  - No access for the disabled to the post office now that it had been moved into Londis. Pavement access up Holywell Hill restricted for people with disabilities.
  - More dropped curbs needed for pushchairs and wheelchair users.
  - Pot holes in Cottonmill Lane: D'Arcy Marlborough said that this was on the Council agenda awaiting approval from the budget.
  - Pot hole in pavement (coned off) at top end of Tavistock Avenue
  - Residents in Butterfield Lane do not receive newsletter
  - Sewage leak in Old Sopwell Gardens: residents believed the problem was still there.
9. The meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm.