

SOPWELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Thursday, 7th July 2005 at Mandeville School

- Present:** Giles Hanford (Chair), Sandy Norman (Secretary), Darcy Marlborough (Vice-Chair), Chantal Burns, Amanda Godfrey, Petrina Llewellyn, Chris Pudsey, Anne Fenton, Linda Bateman, Mike Cross, Denis Cross, Jack Hill, Jill Gipps, Len Lewsey, Phillis Deamer, Kathlyn Harris, Kath Robinson, Dom Tang, Joanne Hodson, Cllr Dawn Pratley, Cllr Eileen Harris, Jo Andrew, Angela Dyer, Penny Goodsell, Winifred Stanlake, Brenda Taylor, M. Bierman, Ben Hayes, Robina Shallis, Vera Howard, Elizabeth Barber, Val Langford, Jill Gipps, Andrew Johnstone, Christoph Lutz, Rev. Ruth Pyke, Mr Minar Ali, Stephanie Abberley, Tina McEwan, John Hudnott, David Kaloczi.
- Apologies:** Cllr Janet Smith, Rick and Jennifer Taylor, Jo Witt, Pamela Marshall, Helly Sawyer, Judith Tucker, Jenny Owen, Anne Kaloczi.
- Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed the Association's special guests Amanda Godfrey, Head Teacher of Mandeville School, Petrina Llewellyn, from the Countryside Management Service and Cllr Eileen Harris (Deputy Mayor) who, with David Kaloczi, would be declaring the disabled access bridge at the Sopwell Priory site officially open immediately after the AGM.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last AGM of the SRA were approved. This was proposed by Chris Pudsey and seconded by Darcy Marlborough.
- Annual Report:** Sandy Norman presented the Annual Report and summarised the committee's achievements over the year. Those present accepted the report, proposed by Linda Bateman, seconded by Jack Hill.
- Statement of Accounts:** Len Lewsey (temporary Treasurer) presented the Annual Statement of Accounts, and these were adopted by those present, proposed by Darcy Marlborough and seconded by Chantal Burns.
- Re-election of management committee:** The following members were re-elected to the management committee: Giles Hanford (Chair), Sandy Norman, (Secretary), Darcy Marlborough (Vice-Chair), Chantal Burns, Len Lewsey, Pamela Marshall, Helly Sawyer, Jo Witt, Linda Bateman, Anne Fenton, Jill Gipps, Joanne Hodson, Chris Pudsey, Christoph Lutz, Rick Taylor, Jack Hill.

Judith Tucker, Jenny Owen, and the Rev. Ruth Pyke were co-opted. Acceptance of the committee was proposed by Dominic Tang and seconded by Jo Andrew. It was noted that the current treasurer, Martin Dennys, was stepping down and Jill Gipps would be taking his place.

8. **Presentation by Amanda Godfrey:** Amanda Godfrey said she was pleased to be working with the SRA as she is committed to a policy of integration with the local community. To illustrate this Ms Godfrey advised those present that Mandeville School (with Watling View Special School and Marlborough School) had been one of very few 'pathfinder' schools selected to pioneer an 'extended school' scheme in Hertfordshire, destined to reach out into the community and join forces with other 'agencies' with a view to not only providing better facilities for its pupils but sharing these with the wider community itself. While this group has a temporary name, the 'Cottonmill Extended School Consortia', it is thought this may well be improved upon by the time the plan kicks off in September. Ms Godfrey was also most keen to receive ideas from those present on what facilities they would like to see offered out to the community: from potentially a health centre, to adult-learning courses in ICT to sports and leisure activities, (though as Mandeville is a primary school there are no showers), etc. There was some lively debate regarding the name of Cottonmill, and while some felt it had negative implications, others felt it had strong historical roots worth preserving.. A coordinator was to be appointed shortly to concentrate on the implementation of this new 'Extended School' plan. Those who wish to contact Ms Godfrey with suggestions regarding facilities should drop a note into the school or email her at admin.mandeville@thegrid.org.uk. Their website is at www.mandeville.herts.sch.uk. The Chairman thanked Ms Godfrey for her presentation and for the use of her school for this meeting.

9. **Questions and issues raised from the floor:**

- **Relations with the ward PC** - continuity a problem - PC & CSO to be invited to future SRA meetings
- **Parking on verges** - Cottonmill Lane to be reviewed
- **Speeding in Watling View and Abbots Avenue West** - action needed
- **Overgrown wasteland near offices by Sainsburys** -
- **Disabled access to the local Post office** - work in progress
- **Abbots Avenue shops** - empty shops being converted into flats; others need more custom to keep them going
- **Sopwell Youth Club** - Cllr Pratley is involved and offered to discuss further with youth workers
- **City Centre** - disruptions imminent for road scheme and £2.5m enlargement of M&S

- **Daffodil planting all over Sopwell** - Anne Kaloczi and other committee members actioned this last winter.

10. **The meeting closed** at approximately 8.45 in order that those who wished could join Cllr Harris and David Kaloczi for the bridge opening ceremony at the Sopwell Priory.