

# SOPWELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at Mandeville School, Mandeville Drive

- Present:** Giles Hanford (Chair), Sandy Norman (Secretary), Helly Sawyer (Vice Chair), Chris Pudsey, Anne Fenton, Joanne Tang, Jack Hill, Pamela Marshall, Mark James, R Hoonos, Andrew Johnstone, Linda Bateman, Sandy Walkington, Roger Axworthy, Eileen Harris, Ted Hill, Janet Smith, Roma Mills, Jill Gipps, Nicholas McKenzie, Liz Klir, Paul Law, Val Langford, Pete Langford, Joanna Field, Ken Lane, M Edwards, Wendy Cook, Nicola Hayes, Rob Tanner, Jose Sena and Len Lewsey.
- Apologies:** David Poor, Christoph Lutz, Hannah Riley.
- Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everybody to the AGM along with the Association's guests: Ken Lane, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, Joanna Field, Warden of St Julian's Church, Helen Thorpe, Extended Schools Representative, plus Councillors Eileen Harris and Janet Smith. Apologies were expressed due to the change of AGM venue at such short notice, this was due to the contractors for the Marlborough Club not opening the venue for us. We were grateful to Mandeville School for letting us have the venue at such short notice. The Chairman announced that we currently had two spaces on the committee, and said that if anybody was interested in being on the committee and wanted to know what was involved, to speak to him after the meeting.
- Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last AGM of the SRA were approved. This was proposed by Chris Pudsey and seconded by Jill Gipps.
- Matters arising from the Minutes:** It was reported that there were no matters arising from the minutes.
- Annual Report:** The Secretary, Sandy Norman, presented the Annual Report. The Sopwell Residents Association continues to work hard on behalf of residents. Special thanks were given to Reverend Ruth Pyke, Linda Bateman and Joyce Hood who left the committee during this last twelve months. She reported that there was a continuing good relationship with the ward councillors and again they were thanked for their continuing help and support throughout the year.

Two general meeting were held during the last year and two newsletters were issued. Thanks were given to the many volunteers who help deliver these to each household in Sopwell. The Secretary said that these newsletters should reflect what residents want to see and hear and that residents had a say in what goes in them. Also, residents could say who they wanted to have as speakers at our general meetings. The committee needs guidance from the residents of Sopwell on what it is that residents want us to focus our efforts on.

Another general meeting would be held in September. The website continues to be updated and is a good communication area for residents. It was pointed out that the SRA often received letters and emails from the residents about personal issues, but that in some cases these have to be passed on to our ward councillors or to the Council as the committee are not in a position to answer them.

Late last year, more bulbs were planted by the SRA. The annual litter pick was held in March. This was successful in that we didn't have to pick up as much as last year. The Secretary pointed out that that the land above Homebase has now been cleared after endless correspondence with the owners. The benches have now been installed in the Priory and the Priory was awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award.

Our main community event this year is again Larks in the Parks and Nicola Hayes would be giving further details on this later on

7. Those present accepted the report, this was proposed by Janet Smith and seconded by Chris Pudsey.
8. **Statement of Accounts:** Jill Gipps presented the Annual Statement of Accounts. The Accounts were adopted by those present, and these were proposed by Giles Hanford and seconded by Sandy Norman.
9. **Re-election of management committee:** The following members were re-elected to the management committee: Giles Hanford (Chair), Sandy Norman, (Secretary), Helly Sawyer (Vice-Chair), Chantal Burns, Len Lewsey, Pamela Marshall, Anne Fenton, Jill Gipps, Joanne Tang, Chris Pudsey, Christoph Lutz, Rick Taylor, Jack Hill. Acceptance of the committee was proposed by Rob Tanner and seconded by Linda Bateman.
10. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:** Ken Lane, our representative for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, gave an interesting update on the Scheme. including the OWL Scheme (Online Watch Link), people who are signed up to this Scheme receive emails on updates on potential crimes which are happening around the ward and to take extra care and report anything untoward. He is trying to expand the Scheme throughout through St Albans including the Sopwell ward.
11. **St Julian's Church:** Joanna Field is one of the church wardens and she gave a brief update on the developments/changes which are happening at the church hall, this included updating the kitchen facilities, improvements to the entrance hall and security lighting. There have been many break-ins around churches in St Albans over the last few months, so all these extra measures are important. Anybody who has any thoughts on these or more changes, was asked to please let Joanna know.
12. **Extended Schools Consortium:** Helen Thorpe is the extended schools co-ordinator and is based at Mandeville School. This is a scheme for children which "fills in the gap" between home and school and school and home. This includes breakfast clubs, childcare, varied

menu of activities, parent support and family learning, community access and adult learning, easy access to specialist services. 17 schools so far have had this scheme rolled out and it is working well in Sopwell. The current projects which are currently being undertaken include adult learning centres.

13. **Youth Issues:** Helly Sawyer gave the attendees an update on Youth issues within Sopwell. The Marlborough Club was currently being used on Wednesday evenings from 5.15 pm – 7.15 pm for the ages group of 11 -15 years olds.
14. **Larks in the Park:** Nicola Hayes gave an update on the next Larks in the Park. It was taking place on Sunday 1 July 2007 at the Marlborough Club from 12 noon onwards.
15. **Tree Planting:** Chris Pudsey gave the attendees an update on the Tree Planting and asked people to add to the map of the ward where they would like trees to be planted and these would be looked at on their behalf. All tree planting would need to be passed by the council.
16. **Questions and issues raised from the floor:**
  - **Letter to residents of Wilshere Avenue regarding the parking** – nothing has been heard back, the councillors volunteered to chase and report back to the SRA
17. **The meeting closed** at approximately 9.20 pm.