

Notes of Alexandra Residents Association AGM held on 24th June 2014.

Lucy Smith as Chairperson welcomed all attendees.

Apologies received and noted from a number of residents on holiday at this time.

Guest Speakers

Lucy welcomed Councillors Peter Fookes and Kevin Brooks both recently elected Labour Councillors as ward representatives to Bromley Council for Penge and Cator Ward.

Lucy also confirmed that other invited guests would now attend later in the meeting from the newly formed community group called 'Penge Tourist Board'.

Approval of 2013 minutes

Although not all attendees had copies of last years minutes, those who did approved them and accepted them as true record of meeting.

Matters Arising

Relevant outstanding issues on agenda for this meeting.

Chairman's Report

A written report was distributed to all attendees and is attached to these notes for information.

Lucy spoke to her report.

Community Events during Year

• Mural Project

Thanks to Jess Farrant for her work in taking this project forward that led to the mural being placed on the wall in the lane at the end of Edward Road and to Councillor John Getgood for participating in its unveiling.

Provided a nice family event involving both adults and children in workshops making the tiles, and seeing the final outcome brightening up the environment.

• Barn Dance

Held in November 2013 and attended by 60 residents and friends.

Enjoyable event for all who attended. Thanks to all residents that assisted in the planning and catering for this event.

• Meet the Neighbours

This was held in March 2014 at the Alexandra Nurseries and provided an opportunity for new residents to meet some of their neighbours in an informal setting. Thanks to Sarah and John for their hospitality and allowing us to use their premises to host this event.

• Yard Sale

This was held in April 2014 and seemed to be successful for most stall holders and made about £80 for the association. This was assisted by Jane Doxey running a refreshment stall in her garden during the afternoon and kind donations of cakes from some of our excellent 'bakers' on the estate. We may have slightly undercharged for refreshments, and will consider pricing for future events.

• Arts/Craft/Music Festival

This is in the planning process but is now confirmed to be held the w/e of 20th September 2014. Please look out for flyers/programme of planned events etc. and a reminder that help as participants/volunteer helpers etc. among residents are what will make this event successful. Please contact either Jane Doxey, at 47 Albert or Jane Ching at 28 Albert for more info. or keep an eye on the web site.

Jane D gave further information regarding the Community Quilt Workshop she will be running at the event, and how interested residents can participate in this.

Lucy reminded residents that we can only continue to run events by strengthening the committee numbers, and residents also making known what type of events they might like to hold/be involved in planning for the coming year.

Open Gardens remains popular and it is hoped this can again be planned for 2014-15, and Taste of the Cottages could also be revisited, but residents with new ideas and a willingness to help organise are always welcome.

- Information about local issues

ARA tries to keep all residents informed of both local emerging issues as well as its activities. During year hard copy information has been distributed via newsletters, porcupine post and event specific flyers. The web site is kept up to date, and thanks to Franco in Victor Road for his help in maintaining this. There is also the opportunity for all residents to receive e-mails from the Association if residents ensure their own e-mail addresses are provided to Lucy for this purpose. Some of ongoing local issues that are ongoing are the redevelopment of the local Alexandra Pub and the emerging plans for Crystal Palace.

Thank you to all residents who assisted this year in us getting the Alex pub approved as a community asset status even though this was approved after its sale, and also to those residents who continue to show interest in the present owners planning applications. Initial application was turned down, and owner has until 6th September to appeal this decision.

If residents have other ideas how we could improve helping people to feel 'informed and connected' please let the committee know.

Residents present felt the quarterly

Newsletter of particular benefit and thanks were given to Shirley Homewood for her continued work in producing this and to Road Reps. for delivering it.

Jess, Matthew and Jo have continued to produce the Porcupine Post 2 x year and to chivvy residents for articles. Jess and Matthew will produce one more copy, and then we will need new volunteers to take over this production role if it is to continue. Many thanks to them for their past and present commitment to this task. Their last magazine has the theme of DIY/Restoration Projects, so please let them have any relevant articles by 30th July.

- Work to Conserve and Enhance Area

Lucy thanked residents who all play their part in enhancing our estate by their continued attention to maintaining their properties within the terms of the Articles related to our Conservation area.

Also thanks to the Community Gardening Group who continue under Anna's leadership to improve and enhance some of the communal areas on the estate. New members are always welcome to the monthly working group which now has refreshments and childcare facilities attached. Some members of the group spoke of the difficulties related to the area of ground by the railway hordings and vets premises. The ownership of the land seems uncertain and has prevented progress. It was felt that concentration on the more manageable communal beds/flower boxes on the estate is a good idea. These are looking lovely. Thanks to Adrian of Victor road for continued planting of the flower boxes in the lane giving all round colour.

Street Lighting

There is continued communication with Bromley Council about their intention to replace street lighting on the estate. Concern as to whether the intended lighting design is appropriate for a conservation area. Heritage style lighting is not an option due to costs. Some discussion took place regarding this.

Refuse Collection and Street Cleaning

Considerable discussion also took place at the meeting regarding the refuse collection service on the estate and also the general issue of what is seen as poor level of street cleaning in general in the Penge area. Some residents feel the bin collection service is of poor quality often leaving an unacceptable level of litter in the street following their rounds. Also method of collecting in one of the roads means the road is often blocked for a lengthy period by pile of bags waiting to be collected at later time.

The Councillors present informed the meeting of a new on line service provided by the borough for residents to report concerns such as these. Website is called 'Fix My Street'. (<http://www.fixmystreet.com/>) It also appears on Bromley Council's homepage and a leaflet on how to use and access this service is being produced. It aims for 'quick responses' to complaints such as these, with specific targets to be met by the relevant departments.

- Involve Residents and represent their interests to council

As well as issues already discussed, ARA is a member of Bromley Federation of Residents Associations. Committee members have taken turns to attend these meetings this year in order to 'keep issues affecting our own area' on the agenda as well as to keep ourselves informed of some borough wide issues.

improving well-being of people of Penge and outreaching into our local community

This year supported local food bank by donations to Living Well organisation based at Holy Trinity Church that supports homeless and vulnerable people. Thankyou to all who donated food and a special thanks to Tom in Albert Road for the hard work and generous donation from his pupils at Ravensbourne School to our Harvest Appeal.

ARA has also donated to St. Christophers Hospice.

We hope by forging links with other local groups and organisations we may strengthen our influence in ensuring our part of the borough makes its voice heard. We would also like to ensure that we are not neglecting any vulnerable people on our estate that might need additional support, so please ensure we remain neighbourly in this respect.

Financial Report

Shirley distributed and presented the annual financial report of ARA which has also been examined by independent examiners.

Annual subs are due for collection in July. 145 households out of a total of 189 on the estate are members of the association. This was felt to be an excellent level of membership and hopefully can be maintained this year.

Report attached for information to these notes.

New Committee Members

Lucy confirmed that new members are urgently needed if the ARA is to remain as active in the coming year as it has been this year. 2 members of the present committee have had to retire during the present year due to personal commitments. Thanks to Jenny and Sarah for their previous support as committee members. Lucy confirmed her willingness to remain as Chairperson if a newly elected committee agree. All thanked her for her great enthusiasm and success as chairperson during past year.

Jane C willing to remain as committee member and taking notes of meetings etc. but stepping back from her present role with Jane D as Social Events Organisers after

the up and coming September event. Jane D also willing to remain a road rep. but no longer available to organise/plan events.

Shirley and Brian expressed willingness to remain in present roles.

Lucy thanked Brian for his continued oversight and management of the Shed and loaning out of equipment.

5 residents present expressed willingness to become involved either as committee members or road reps. (Road reps. will also in future be invited to attend committee meetings). Names were taken and Lucy agreed to invite them to next committee meeting.

- Guest Speakers

Peter Fookes and Kevin Brooks updated on a number of local issues:-

- Alex Pub- confirmed date for appeal as 6th Sept.
- Library- likely to move to its new premises in August (Application for a church meeting house on upper floors being opposed.)
- Kent House Tavern- Planning application being put in for flats and retail .
- Crystal Palace- Still in Consultation phase.
- Kingshall Road-Planning application made for 7 housing units. Confirmed new park in Bailies Place off Kingshall Road is a public park. little publicity around this. May be charges to use tennis courts.
- Penge Police Station- up for sale again
- CAB Penge- building now sold for housing site.
- Penge Festival2014- seen as very successful this year.
- Penge War Memorial to WW1 to be replaced
- Holy Trinity Summer Fair next saturday.
- Problems regarding pigeons in square outside Crooked Billet. Better signage needed to deter culprits feeding the birds.
- Penge Forum meet in Congregational Church. Next meeting July2nd.
- Reminder that 2hrs. free parking is available behind the Blenheim Centre.(Some discussion on issues that may contribute to under use including security)

Penge Tourist Board

Christian and Paul introduced themselves as 2 residents of Penge who would like to see Penge promoted in a more positive light, and have formed themselves as part of a group called Penge Tourist Board.

They have 6 board members of like minded people from diverse professional backgrounds who met through social media and live locally.

They have already developed a Mission Statement that confirms their aims and objectives. This will be available for people to view shortly via their web site that is soon to be up and running.

They are very interested in forming links with other community groups in the area who may also share their objectives, and thanked Lucy for inviting them to the meeting tonight to meet some of the ARA members.

Lucy confirmed that there may be issues where it would be of mutual benefit for our organisations to work together and we look forward to learning more when their web site is up and running.

Meeting closed.

Jane Ching.