

EASTCOTE RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE 87th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 29th May 2018 AT
St Thomas More Catholic Church, Field End Road, Eastcote

Present: Chairman Alison Holtorp (AH), **Committee Members:** Alison Akerman, Keith Barnard, Deesha Chadha, Carolyn Derecki, Alison Dungworth, Chris Hankin, Ian Murray, David Payne, Malcolm Penny, Arthur Plummer, Mark Phillips, Jackie Redrup, Karen Spink. **Councillors:** Nick Denys, Ian Edwards, Eddy Lavery, Heena Makwana. Olly Shah and 60 local residents.

Apologies for absence: Chris Groom, Irene Groom, David Harper. Councillors: Teji Barnes and Becky Haggar. Mary Wiggington.

AH opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 87th AGM of the Eastcote Residents' Association, thanked the church for the use of their facilities. Thanked Catherine Dann and Michael White, both of whom stood down at the last election, for their many years of public service and wished them well in their future endeavours. AH introduced the Councillors present thanking them for their support attending our meetings and taking up issues with the council on our behalf. Also thanked Deesha Chadha, Carolyn Derecki and Linda Laurie for providing refreshments; particularly Linda, who had stepped in at the last moment.

Presentation

AH introduced Olly Shah, Household Waste and Recycling Manager at Hillingdon Council, who gave an amusing and informative presentation on 'Refuse and Recycling' which was well received. After a very lively discussion, AH thanked Olly for coming to our meeting and expressed the Residents' gratitude for continued weekly collections. After indicating the committee members present AH announced a short refreshment break before the AGM.

AGM

Approval of Minutes AGM 30th May 2017 Proposed by Jackie Redrup, Seconded by Keith Barnard. Approved by a show of hands.

Matters Arising: Nothing not covered in the evening's agenda.

Chairman's Report (Alison Holtorp)

This year has seen many major public consultations requiring a lot of input from various committee members. First there was MOPAC, the Mayors Office on Police and Crime, a London-wide consultation about changes to policing in the Capital. ERA participated not only in this consultation but also responded to the Mayor's Draft London Plan, and the latest Heathrow expansion plans. These not only entailed a lot of reading, as the reports were very long but also required a well-researched response. In both cases we supported the responses from both Hillingdon Council and the Eastcote Conservation Panel. Then, just when we'd had enough, along came the National Planning Framework to which Jackie Redrup responded on behalf of both ERA and the Eastcote Conservation Panel. The Website for NORA, National Organisation of Residents Associations, was found to be very helpful and so the committee has decided that this is an organisation to which we should be affiliated. The housing shortage

was addressed in both planning consultations and meeting these targets may well lead to the London Green Belt coming under attack. Currently there are no threats in our locality, and the L.B. Hillingdon has vowed to consider green belt land to be sacrosanct. It has also been suggested that we affiliate to The London Forum.

Work on the Eastcote Town Centre Improvement Scheme continues. The Paving work has now been completed and 3 new Magnolia trees planted. The bridge works are scheduled to finish by 6th June 2018. You may have noticed some fairly old looking benches have been installed. These are temporary benches whilst the council awaits the new permanent benches. I am meeting with Cllr BH and Cllr EL to review the positioning of street furniture and any snagging issues regarding the work to date. There is no news on the start date for the Rain Gardens. Last year the council paid for the Christmas tree and I'm afraid I do not know what will happen this year. There is very little support from shops.

This year the Residents' Planning Forum arranged talks about 'Designing out crime' during the planning process and about 'Building Control'. HARA had speakers from Healthwatch, the Borough Commander, Fran Beasley CEO LBH and the Safer Neighbourhood Board. The Flood Forum arranged several evening presentations with the Environment Agency and Thames Water. AH attended 2 of these and found that Eastcote was not covered. Since then the EA have included Eastcote as 1 of the 4 areas that they are looking at along the River Pinn.

AH has not had much success in setting up Flood Action Group's, not sure if it is due to lack of interest, or a lack of immediacy. It is surprising how quickly people forget or assume that it was a one off incident unlikely to be repeated. Whilst AH happy to facilitate the formation of these groups, Flood Prevention is not envisaged as a role ERA should take on. AH has however been attending the meetings of the North Ruislip FLAG, because there may be some concerns that holding water back in Park Wood may cause even more to run off eastwards down the roads trying to find Joel Street Ditch. Next week AH meeting with a council officer to walk the Ditch and see if can ascertain what led to the flooding around the tennis courts. AH would like to thank the members of the NRFLAG who, when they see heavy rain don their wellies, and head for the wood to record, not only the path of the watercourses, but, also their direction of flow. This information will be used by the various agencies involved in finding suitable flood prevention measures.

Thames water are investigating local drains for two reasons. One with respect to dealing with the flooding issues in the High Street around the traffic lights and Morford Way area and the other using dye to ascertain sources of pollution in our local waterways. Please take care to ensure any new plumbing, or indeed your existing plumbing is connected to the correct sewer or drain.

In brief, Eastcote Health Centre is one of three newly formed health hubs in the borough, the Croxley link has been canceled and Northolt is still expecting the runway to be resurfaced later this year.

Finally, it has been suggested that monies left over at the end of each year should be donated to local charities. In order for this to happen we need members to nominate any such Charity. This can be done by contacting a member of the committee or a road steward.

Q. Will the charity be voted on? A. Exact process still to be decided. (Note – no charities were nominated on the night)

Proposed by Malcolm Penny, Seconded by Ian Murray.

Treasurer's Report for the year to 31 March 2018 (Alison Dungworth)

Income & Expenditure Account

Income

- Subscriptions are slightly down on last year due to difficulty in recruiting new road stewards. AD thanked the Senior Road Steward, Alison Akerman, and all the Road Stewards for their continued hard work delivering newsletters and collecting subs.
- Donations are significantly down this year because last year ERA received a one-off discretionary payment from HSBC of £250 – in recognition of the challenges we had changing signatories.

Expenditure

Costs have, as in previous years, been kept to a minimum. AD thanked all the committee members for their continued support by meeting most of the costs incurred whilst carrying out their roles. AD requested that if members need to contact a Committee member would they please use email or leave a landline number if at all possible as this will help minimise cost.

- Increased meeting costs - extra Road Stewards Meeting – 3 this year v 2 last year.
- Increase in Affiliation Fees – £15 for registration of new domain name – eastcoteresidents.org.uk
- Increase in Newsletter Costs – still 2 p.a. – More pages in autumn 2017 newsletter. 2,700 are printed.
- Increase in Postage, Printing & Stationary
 - £90 cost of a gazebo – for use at the EHG Summer Picnic, Open House etc.
 - Re-imbusement of photocopying expenses for planning issues.

Reduction in Donations – this year only one to the Royal British Legion for wreath. If you have any suggestions for donations please do bring them to a committee member.

Net Surplus

This year closed with a net surplus of £587 – keen to support local groups by way of a small donation so please do encourage them to apply either by completing a form or attending a monthly committee meeting. This year use some of the surplus will be used on our website if needs be.

Balance Sheet

Finally the Balance Sheet of the ERA continues to be in a healthy financial position. We have two bank accounts, a current account and a savings account, which at the end of the financial year had an aggregate of £18k. The bank statements for these accounts and all paperwork

supporting the income and expenditure have been reviewed by a non-committee member of ERA, who has kindly agreed to take on this role. Thank you to Caroline Reid for carrying out this role. Unfortunately the timing of finalising the accounts and a misunderstanding as to when Caroline was away on holiday means she hasn't yet signed them. Can I ask that the report is provisionally accepted subject to her signature on her return from holiday?

Proposed by Keith Barnard, Seconded by Deesha Chada

Senior Road Steward's Report (Alison Akerman)

The total membership for the year ending March 2018 was 1777, 120 less than the previous year and sadly missing our target of 2000.

AA gave grateful and continuing thanks to the Road Stewards for their great endeavours. It is not encouraging when you knock on doors to have to 'explain who you are', 'what we do' and to be answered with 'not interested' or 'I get to know about things via Twitter'. There are however many out there who are interested in Eastcote as our membership proves! As always ERA would not be in existence without the endeavours of its Road Stewards.

3 Road Stewards stood down this year: Marion Try (Hoylake Gardens), Tricia King (Farthings Close) and Jude Gratton (Azalea Walk) To you all thank you very much for your past support.

9 new Road Stewards came on board during this year, mostly to take over where Stewards had stood down but 3 to cover new roads where we haven't previously had members.

As always more Road Stewards needed so please ask around for more volunteers.

There were 3 Road Stewards events this year

- a very pleasant, sociable Afternoon Tea on 28th June which concluded with a tour and talk by Les Capon around the Eastcote House archaeological dig site that was in progress at the time
- an evening meet on 6th September with a most interesting and thought provoking talk on pollution in the River Pinn given by Paul Busby on behalf of the Friends of River Pinn
- a meeting with Mark Phillips on 9th March when Road Stewards were invited to come and to talk about upgrading our website and enhancing our ways of communicating with our membership and potential new members.

Planning (Jackie Redrup)

Planning has been as busy as ever making it impossible to mention here all the applications where ERA has supported residents and for which ERA have put in submissions to the council.

ERA has made representations detailing concerns and objections on 3 major consultations that have taken place recently. These are a new Draft London Plan, Heathrow's current plans for a third runway and a revised, draft National Planning Policy Framework.

ERA has also been vocal in expressing concerns over 2 particular types of application – the change of office space to residential use, that can be achieved via permitted development rights, which do not require detailed plans to be provided, and the loss of bungalows through applications for their conversion to 2-storey properties.

ERA is keeping a very careful eye on what happens regarding 2 major sites – the United Reform Church in Bridle Road and the Tudor Lodge hotel – both of which may be redeveloped.

ERA continues to work closely with the Eastcote Conservation Panel, and very grateful thanks are due to Lesley Crowcroft for all the help and support she gives.

Policing (Chris Hankin)

This last year has seen a major London-wide consultation about changes to policing in the Capital. ERA participated in the consultation and one of the outcomes was that Ruislip police station was saved from closure. Some of the other changes will come into effect on 6th June. In particular, Hillingdon will become part of a tri-borough Command Unit with Hounslow and Ealing. Whilst this means some savings at the top, Damian Keys, new Ward Sergeant, is optimistic that the changes will be seamless at the Safer Neighbourhood Team level and there will be almost twice as many officers available for response teams. Our area remains a low-crime area with considerably fewer crimes per 1000 households than the Borough as a whole, which, in turn has fewer than London-wide. Burglary, Motor Vehicle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour remain the top crimes in this area and thus the top priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Finally, it is important to report crime otherwise it doesn't get investigated or included in the statistics; if the crime is in progress dial 999, otherwise you can report crime by dialling 101 or using the on-line service at www.met.police.uk.

Transport (Ian Murray)

Metropolitan Line Extension aka Croxley Link is no more and no longer featured in TfL's Business Plan. The work already completed (land /route clearance etc.) will be "preserved". Locally in the Watford area alternative schemes are being discussed such as a guided bus way or a tram/light rail route.

The drainage work between Finchley Road and Baker Street, which causes early cessation of services after 10.00pm on Mondays to Wednesday between Wembley Park and Aldgate is nearing completion and services should return to normal by the year end.

Work has started on the installation of the new signalling system and the Met Line is now controlled from a new Control Centre at Hammersmith. The new system is being installed in stages and not likely to be completed for the Met Line until 2023 mainly because the shared tracks between Rayners Lane and Uxbridge cannot be converted until new Piccadilly Line trains arrive in 2023.

Web Site (Mark Phillips)

ERA is developing a new website, Facebook and Whatsapp presence, and a new email system. Please look out for these over the next month or two as they are implemented. This is not so much about technology but how these tools can be used to help make Eastcote a better community.

If you want to continue to receive information from ERA by email then please sign up using <http://eepurl.com/dkE4-n>

If you are interested in getting involved or just fancy finding out more over a cuppa, pint or G&T then please contact MP.

AH also thanked the rest of the members of the committee who also put in a lot of time and effort supporting Eastcote Residents'.

Elections

No additional nominations had been received.

President: Chris Groom has decided to step down as President.

On their return to the UK and shortly after moving back into Park Farm Chris and Irene Groom were approached by Karen to be Road Stewards. Feeling this would be a great way to become involved in their local community they agreed. Their path to the top started by representing ERA at HARA.

Chris went on to become Chairman from 2006 - 2012 during which time he worked tirelessly to promote Eastcote Residents Association. In recognition of his achievements he was voted to the honorary position of President in 2012 and remained in that role until today. Whilst CG will be continuing as a member and a road steward, and so will continue to be seen at meetings, AH took this opportunity to thank CG on behalf of all residents' for everything he has done in these roles on behalf of Eastcote. Audience applauded.

Auditor: Caroline Reid.

Proposed by Alison Holtorp, Seconded by Jackie Redrup. Approved by a show of hands.

Officers:

Secretary: Irene Groom is stepping down from the committee. Irene became secretary in 2006, a role she has tirelessly carried out until now. IG has kept us organised, booking halls for meetings, making sure the hall was open and everyone welcome. Sending out agenda and reminders of meetings as well as recording and keeping the minutes. IG is also continuing as a member and as a road steward. AH took this opportunity to thank IG on behalf of all residents'. Audience applauded.

Chairman: Alison Holtorp

Vice Chairman: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Alison Dungworth

Senior Road Steward: Alison Akerman

Proposed by Trevor Hyde, Seconded by Ian Murray. Approved by a show of hands.

Committee:

Keith Barnard - Parks and Open Spaces

Deesha Chadha

Carolyn Derecki

Chris Hankin - Police

David Harper - Newsletter Editor

Ian Murray - Transport, Green Belt and Pinner Village Representative

David Payne

Malcolm Penny

Mark Phillips - Website

Arthur Plummer - Newsletter Layout

Jackie Redrup - Planning

Karen Spink

Proposed by Alison Holtorp, Seconded by Trevor Hyde. Approved by a show of hands.

The constitution also allows for the appointment of assistants and sub-committees. AH welcomed Frank Gaughan (helping JR), Melody Gordon (attends Community Voice meetings), Nick Cleverly (cover Northolt liaison meetings) and Denise Cherry (keeps noticeboards smart and up to date).

Any Other Business

None notified.

Date of next meeting: 27th June, 2018.

Open Forum: 30th October 2018.

Summer Picnic in the Park is on Saturday 9th June 2018 in Eastcote House Gardens.

AH thanked all the committee members for their part in making the evening run smoothly and most importantly thanked all the residents' for coming out, for being involved and showing their support.

The meeting closed at 21.30