

## SOPWELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on Wednesday 12 July 2006 at Marlborough Club, Old Oak

1. **Present:** Helly Sawyer (Vice Chair), Sandy Norman (Secretary), Chantal Burns, Chris Pudsey, Anne Fenton, Joanne Hodson, Dominic Tang, Ruth Pyke, Jo Andrew, Jack Hill, Rick Taylor, Pamela Marshall, Joyce Hood, Christoph Lutz, Heather Child, Beryl Mitchell, Jill Gipps, Andrew Johnstone, Stuart Wray, Carol Wray, Angela Dyer, Kathryn Harris, Len Lewsey, Steve Peten, Liz Klir, Chris Dailey, Mary Tallett, John Tallett, Peter Wares, Ailsa Burton, Deirdre Morrow, Amber Carroll, Ben Hayes, Rose Ealham, Rob Armstrong, Hannah Sheppard, Ian Grant, Mark James, Paul Law, Janet Smith.
2. **Apologies:** Giles Hanford (Chair), Linda Bateman, David Poor, PC Sharon Foster, PCSO Jill Brown, Jenny Owen, Eileen Harris.
3. **Welcome:** The Vice Chairman welcomed the Association's guests who were Allen Challender, SADC, Maria Cutler, Abbey Line Community Partnerships and Cllr Janet Smith.
4. **Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last AGM of the SRA were approved. This was proposed by Len Lewsey and seconded by Jill Gipps.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes:** It was reported that there were no matters arising from the minutes.
6. **Annual Report:** Sandy Norman presented the Annual Report. The Sopwell Residents Association continues to work hard on behalf of its members. Special thanks were given to Darcy Marlborough and Jo Witt who had now left the committee. Also remembered was Anne Kaloczi who passed away last year, Ann set up the Sopwell Residents Association and will be sorely missed. One general meeting was held last year and two general meetings will be held this year along with this AGM. The first general meeting, held earlier in the year, was well attended and we had an excellent speaker. We issued two newsletters, and would like to thank all who work on producing this newsletter and to the many volunteer distributors. Our website continues to be updated and is a good communication area for residents. Thanks also go to our councillors for their continued help and support throughout the year.

Sopwell Residents Association has been involved in several issues this year including:

- *Litter picks:* The areas picked were Sopwell Priory (including the river Ver) and surrounding areas. As well as 23 bags of rubbish, a Sainsbury's trolley and a suitcase, a canoe and a bubble car were found! Rubbish and fly-tipping offences are constantly reported to the Litter Hotline and the Herts Direct website.
- *Sopwell Green Space Action Plan:* To further the aims of the GAP a grant was applied for from the Awards for All lottery funded programme and in January 2006, the SRA was successful

in obtaining the funding. The amount awarded, £4,403.00, was being used to make improvements to the Sopwell Priory green space.

- *Bulbs.* Thanks to a legacy from the late Anne Kaloczi, and after obtaining permission from the council, the SRA purchased daffodil bulbs to plant around the green spaces in Sopwell. Over 300 bulbs were planted around the area.
- *Planning* The SRA also responded to a consultation on the proposed King Harry Lane housing development and kept a watching brief on other planning proposals.
- *Events* The SRA was also involved in community events which included one held at St Julian's church with the Muslim community and Larks in the Parks held at the Marlborough Club

Those present accepted the report, this was proposed by Pamela Marshall and seconded by Ann Fenton.

7. **Statement of Accounts:** Jill Gipps presented the Annual Statement of Accounts. The Accounts were adopted by those present, and these were proposed by Chris Pudsey and seconded by Joyce Hood.
8. **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, Linda Bateman, Anne Fenton, Jill Gipps, Joanne Hodson, Chris Pudsey, Christoph Lutz, Rick Taylor, Jack Hill. Acceptance of the committee was proposed by Dominic Tang and seconded by Jo Andrew.
9. **Presentation by Allen Challender:** Allen Challender, the Local Litter Enforcement Officer, gave a presentation on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This included speaking about their Client Services Department, A Cleaner District, The Act, The Future followed by a question and discussion session. Within the Client Services Department, they look after refuse collection, kerbside recycling, street cleaning, and abandoned cars to name but a few. This is a busy department taking over 250 calls a day from residents. A Cleaner District Helpline, set up in October 2005, is another way of ensuring that our neighbourhood is kept clean. Call 0845 125800 or email [a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk).
10. **Presentation by Maria Cutler:** Maria Cutler who is the Abbey Line CRP Officer gave an interesting update on the "Abbey Line". This is the shuttle service which runs between St Albans and Watford. The Abbey Line has been selected to become one of the UK's first official "Community Railways". The Community Rail Development Strategy is looking to increase passenger volume and income, manage down the cost of running the line now and in the future, without compromising safety or service and to involve the local community (i.e. Sopwell) more closely in the development of its railway. More information on this can be viewed at [www.abbeyline.org.uk](http://www.abbeyline.org.uk).
11. **Questions and issues were raised from the floor including:** raising the platforms at the Abbey station; safer routes to schools; local development framework; prevention of parking on grass verges; the state of the footpath on Berners Drive; the problem of Travellers who trespass; speeding down Cottonmill Lane and Abbots Avenue.
12. **The meeting closed** at approximately 9.25 pm.