

Steering Group Virtual Meeting, 10 February 2024 Notes

Present; Josephine de Souza (chair), Jennie Sibley (secretary), Jane Joseph (vice chair), Jas Kumar (Neighbourhood Watch), Kirstin Dean (Neighbourhood Watch), Jo Smith (Joint Treasurer and social events), Tess Archibald (Joint Treasurer and social events), Chris Hern (planning brief).

Apologies: Rajan Mendis, Cheryl Young

Non attenders without apologies: Sharan Puri.

1. Approve minutes of last meeting

These were posted on the website and action completed.

Note: item on Letter to Estate Agents to be followed up at next SG meeting.

Action: JdeS and JS

2. Neighbourhood Watch Update

(a) **Ward Panel with police:** Kirstin undertook that between them she and JK would attend ward panel with Police, Councillors and residents representing different parts of the ward. This is relevant to the Neighbourhood watch brief. Recently police had claimed crime October, November December was reducing in Hounslow Heath. However, the ward councillors noted for this period the figures didn't match the number of incidents that they were aware of. They also noted that the serious incident that took place on Parkside Rd was not included in the police data. Neither were car breaks-ins, parcel thefts or burglaries as reported by residents in this part of the ward.

Action: JK and KD

(b) **Cameras:** Camera due to come for the alleyway leading to the station but none for the bend in St Stephens Road that goes up to Tesco's. Views are divided about whether there should be a decoy camera. People who don't want it want a real camera but the RA has never been able to secure one except for a period last year. It was taken away due to insufficient activity recorded on it. Councillors do not support a dummy camera as people know it is a dummy. SG view was that a decoy camera would help. Next steps not decided.

Jehovah Witness building: Person at JW church had stated about 2 years ago that they would be interested in putting a camera on their building overlooking the alley way up to the station. There may be an opportunity for collaboration.

Action: JoS to follow up with a JW representative

Action: Address camera issue at another meeting if no real camera forthcoming from the Council.

3. **Street Cleansing:** Event on 20 January was successful. Jane organised it well in co-ordination with the Council. All litter was cleared except for some hidden at the Tesco's end of St Stephens Road. People appreciated the refreshment at the end. Josephine would have liked to see more

involvement from residents as the people who came were nearly all people who usually turn up to events. There were some people we had not seen before and some brought children. The children seemed to particularly enjoy the communal activity. JK reported that the council, according to its website, is meant to manually clean the streets every 2 weeks but SG members thought this did not happen.

Suggestions to get wider involvement in the future:

Advertise the clean up day on trees as well as Whatsapp Groups

Suggested we visit all households in pairs to make contact with people not on Whatsapp groups to introduce the Association, tell people about events and gauge what type of event they would support, how they want to be contacted and possibly take a petition to sign about Lime bikes – see later item on agenda

SG members to welcome people who move into the street giving the above information.

Action: SG to decide at next meeting a date for community street cleansing.

SG members, in pairs, to visit to all homes in Conservation Area towards the end of April, a script to be devised for us to use when knocking on doors, divide the area between Steering Group members able to do door knocking, possibly targeting families with children.

(SG needs to identify who will devise script and organise house visiting)

All SG members to mention events to neighbours and contacts in the Conservation Area

4. Treasurers' Report:

(a) Net amount of available funds is £373.44p after taking account of items below.

The raffle at the Xmas social raised £72, £20 of it was given to the Church - donation for use of hall. £28.56p is owed to Jo Smith for Xmas cards sent to residents and for catering for litter pick.

JJ reminded everyone that all expenditure needs to be approved by the Steering Group before it is made.

(b) Metro Bank Community Account agreed it should be set up and signatories should be two of Josephine Smith, Tessa Archibald and Josephine de Souza.

Action: JoS to arrange to open Community Account with Metro Bank.

(c) Community improvement/social events grant for the area: Application for the money must be made before 1 March otherwise it will be reallocated/lost. JdeS said we need money to run the Association e.g. Public Liability Insurance, website and other administrative items. **(JdeS has since checked public liability insurance is up to date)**

Action: JoS and TA to make a proposal for £1,000 for an event, possibly with other community benefit uses for money and apply for the grant.

JoS to further investigate any available grants for administrative purposes.

5. **Constitution:** RM is working on draft revision. SG need this item to be concluded soon.
Action: RM to send his draft to CH this week. Then RM and CH to circulate it to SG by 17th February. SG members to comment and ratify by the 1 March.

6. **Planning:** CH said the issue about an arial that had been reported to panning has been resolved.
 JdeS has requested when the tree taken down by 162 St Stephens would be replaced – no response yet.
Action: JdeS to follow up and inform councillors if response not forthcoming

 CH and Sunita are looking at any planning applications that come to the Conservation Area. None have been emailed to us.
Action: CH to do a regular check on planning web page to see if there are planning issues in the conservation area that the Residents' Association should get involved with.

 Sunita has indicated she wants to withdraw from the planning role in 6 months. We need to identify someone to step into the planning brief with CH.
Action: JdeS to look for others to be involved.

7. **Ward Walk updating meeting.** Several issues already discussed in items above. Additional items
 - (a) Extra leaf cleaning during leaf fall was requested due to them becoming a slipping hazard after rain. Some people sweep leaves from the pavement in front of their house and neighbouring houses during leaf fall as leaves fall all the time between Council cleaning. Cllr Chaudhary suggested that this could be co-ordinated with the Council.
Action: SSRA to encourage residents to clear leaves by their houses, possibly making available the orange bags for Council collection of leaves.

 - (b) **Lime bike bay consultation:** Consultation period extended until May. Councillors agree that bays are not well used and their current placement are a hazard to drivers. Cllr Chaudhary emphasised they need weight of numbers of people objecting to make the case for our area when it is reviewed across the borough.
Action: KD is preparing petition to go on WhatsApp groups
SG members to raise with all residents the need to email the councillors about views on Lime bikes (and on all issues of concern in the Conservation Area) as each email only counts as 1 view even if put in by the Residents' Association. Possibly raise this item with paper petition when visiting each house – as mentioned in item above about Street Cleansing.

 - (c) **Regular meetings with Councillors:** After the meeting Cllr Chaudhary suggested that we have regular meetings with Councillors to exchange information and update on issues. Agreed to fix two meetings - in June and September – SG and residents to be invited.

Wednesday evening suits Councillors. Usefulness to be reviewed after September meeting.

It was also suggested we advertise Hounslow Area Committee to residents.

Action: JeS to arrange dates in June and September and send invitation to SG and residents on WhatsApp Groups.

(d) Double Yellow lines on bend of St Stephens that goes up to Tesco's: Councillors agreed it is a dangerous corner. They said they would take this proposal forward. They agreed residents by the bend in the road will be consulted.

Action: Councillors to put this request forward and ensure consultation of residents by the bend.

8. **Website:** JdeS has updated website for computers. Still needs work to read easily on mobiles. JJ's son, will help to provide photos for site.

Discussed using names on the website. Agreed this could be done but to direct communication to the Association via email address.

Action: JdeS to continue to work on website.

9. **Church Volunteers:** The church's future is uncertain. They need volunteers to help maintain its viability e.g. publicising events, with community lunch - JoS willing to bake a cake. It was noted that if the church closed the only community space in the Conservation Area would be lost.

Action: JdeS will attend meeting in March on future of church.

10. **AOB:** No other business was raised

11. **Date of next meeting:** 3 dates were proposed Thursday 4th April, Tuesday 9th April, Wednesday 10th April

Action: JdeS to check with people not present and choose the one most could attend.