

Tara AGM 3rd April 2019 Held upstairs at the Griffin Bell, 8, Wyvil Rd, SW8 2TH

15 people present

Andrew Rogers
Annie Crombie
Bhavini Menon (Committee)
Celia Bannerman
Deborah Curle (Committee)
Dolina Redjimi (Joint Secretary)
Helen Holmes (Committee)
Helen Carrier

Hocine Redjimi
Indiana Magdalou
John Cubitt
John Tattersfield (Treasurer)
Mike Noy (Chair)
Penny Noy (Joint Secretary)
Sylvia Sumira (Committee)

Apologies: Kitty and Peregrine Bryant, Phinella Henderson, Trish Anderson, Councillor Lucy Caldicott

The meeting began with an introduction from Mike giving the agenda

- Approving last year's AGM meeting minutes
- Secretary's report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of officials and committee
- Setting events for the year
- Other reports
- AOB

Last year's AGM meeting minutes approved

With one or two points of clarification on what actions were outstanding, these were approved.

Secretary's report

There are 22 paid-up members and around 60 on email. The joint secretaries have not chased membership on an individual level, so this has been the ones that people have paid without being prompted, or at events. They propose to make the year start with the AGM, though anyone who has paid recently is welcome to carry over their membership. They have provided sign-up forms at events as well as distributing the TARA business cards. The gmail contacts list has been reorganized but still needs some sorting as there are a number of archive folders which need sorting. They have not this year called committee meetings, but propose to reinstate the brief meetings every few months which used to be held sometimes just before the monthly social. They think this will help with being a prompt to see if things are getting done and if people need help, galvanize action etc. It was noted that they have not been able to send emails when people pay their membership and that this is desirable.

Suggestions during discussion of secretary's report:-bigger membership desirable, ask people for the membership payment by email and have bank transfer possible, give people something when they join.

ACTION: see under Treasurer's report

Treasurer's report

The year began with £1,070.20p, £120 was taken in membership and donations, £30 was paid for plants for Freshview, leaving £1,160.20. There have been a lot of difficulties in trying to get the Nat West Account transferred from the previous Chair, Matt (including paperwork being lost by the bank). This is an ongoing problem and John is unable to do anything directly as the account is not in his name. The meeting agreed that he and Mike should go ahead and open a fresh account with Metrobank and not wait for this to be resolved. Helen H offered to assist if needed.

(Extra point of information whilst writing these notes, all other outgoings have been paid for by individuals, the ticket sales for the Ceilidh did not cover all the costs – thus it will be useful if people can pay membership more easily)

ACTION: Open a new Metrobank account in the name of Tradescant Area Residents Association, with 2 signatories – the Chairman, Mike Noy, and the Treasurer, John Tattersfield. The signing rules to be that both signatories are required for cheques of £500 and over, but a single signatory for amounts under £500. For online banking, both chair and treasurer may operate bank transfers, with email agreement of at least two officers, one of whom is the Treasurer for amounts over £500. (Mike and John T)

ACTION: Contact them after about a month to see how they are getting on and see if any help is needed. (Dolina)

ACTION: Add the bank details in the email signature and change the sign up form when we have them (Penny / Dolina)

Elections

Mike, John, Penny and Dolina were all prepared to continue with their roles unless someone else wanted to take over. They were re-elected.

Bhavini, Deborah, Helen H and Sylvia agreed to continue as committee members and Indiana volunteered to join the committee. There was not an election for these as we can have up to 11 (Note: the Constitution wants a minimum of 7 and 4 places reserved for Lambeth council tenants)

General point about helping with leafleting: Sylvia offered to cover Old South Lambeth Road, also offers of help from Helen H, John C, Bhavini and Deborah.

Note: Helen H is also Street Champion for Meadow Place, but acts as Street Champion for TARA, and attends Neighbourhood Watch, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Save Our Streets meetings on our behalf.

ACTION: Check with the three committee members not at the meeting to see if they want to continue. (Penny)

Events for the Year agreed:

TARA monthly social: first Wednesday of each month, (preceded sometimes by a brief committee meeting when needed – suggested by secretaries).

Spring Freshview – Saturday 6th April (already arranged)

Extra Spring Freshview – when the Veolia grant-funded items are ready – see later notes – probably in May

Street Party – Saturday 22nd June – Note, this is a new date. The meeting had decided it was to be 1st June, but subsequently this had to be changed – agreed by emailing those present at the meeting. (No Vauxhall Fair this year to avoid clashing with, as they are redeveloping the park)

ACTION: Apply for road closure (Mike)

Autumn Freshview – 15th September

Ceilidh – 26th October

ACTION: Book the Wheatsheaf (Mike)

Veolia Community Fund

Helen C put in a bid and was successful (you can put in for up to £2,000 – to satisfy e.g. greening the area). The most impacted is the north end of Tradescant Road and will be planted up with wood barrels (6 large and 6 small). Time scale is about 4 weeks for supplies. Painting scheme was discussed and the colour blue/purple of Tradescantia Virginialis as a possibility. Other colour suggestions welcome. Hopefully the membership will rally round to do a mini Freshview day when things are ready. It was agreed to put a formal thank you to Helen C in these minutes. Thank you very much! (This reported on partly by Helen H and partly by Helen C)

ACTION: Email any colour suggestions to Helen C. (All members)

ACTION: Let Mike know when to have the extra Freshview (Helen C)

Policing / Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) / Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) / Save Our Streets Campaign

TARA is a member of the NHW scheme & sends a rep to the quarterly SNT Oval ward panel meeting at which the Met Police, in consultation with residents, set local policing priorities. Helen H represents us at these.

From NHW, the general advice has been to use common sense in keeping premises secure. For any queries email Helen H.

Your organization can go on the SNT if it is a Resident's Association and on NW, but members of the public can also attend. (Heyford Avenue is not in Stockwell so not represented on this SNT). The main issue continues to be, as before, lack of resources, so that, despite reporting lots of problems, there are not police available. In general Helen said that she is reporting the same things each year. There was discussion about the problem of our allocated officers being taken elsewhere. It was agreed that Helen H should escalate this if possible, seeking a meeting with a more senior officer – the borough commander or superintendent.

ACTION: Seek meeting with more senior police officer re our local team being moved elsewhere when they are needed here (Helen H)

Save Our Streets Campaign covers the triangle between Kennington, Oval, Stockwell, Vauxhall and is working to reduce rat-running. The council is paying to carry out a traffic monitoring exercise. The aim is to get only residential traffic on these roads.

AOB: General discussion re the betting shop, 24 hour opening issues, obligations of the restaurants re outside their premises and people who are intoxicated, reporting crime and witness statements, parking, new hosting for website and thanks to Andrew.

- 24 hour licensing and licensing in general – it would help if shops didn't have this as people make a lot of noise and disturbance in the middle of the night (e.g. with loud car radios). For example, South Lambeth Food and Wine is now open 24 hours, there is a desire to reduce the hours and the terms of the licence (they are currently allowed to sell single units and to sell 'strong' ales (?)). So it is possible to change the duration and terms.
- Obligations of restaurants:
 - Very intoxicated people. According to the licencing act you mustn't serve anything to someone who is intoxicated (i.e. not just if it is alcohol).
 - Pavement outside, they are supposed to keep this clean and provide ashtrays for smokers, but this isn't enforced at the moment
- Witness statements – still useful for people to do these, so, if someone is experiencing a specific problem, such as with the effect of Ladbrokes on the safety of Walberswick Street as discussed at the meeting. There is concern that crime is being attracted to this area from the clubs at Vauxhall. They are interested in 'what is it, where is it and how is it affecting me' – not just in reporting specific incidents. Note, Ladbrokes' staff are not reporting incidents to the police, so the effect that the betting shop is having in this way is not being recorded. There was discussion about trying to get Ladbrokes' licence revoked – this involves the Gaming Commission and is complicated by the staff not reporting incidents, but witness statements can help.
- Reporting crime – the police ask us to report crime that is not an emergency (or after the event) to 101 but the problem appears to be that the 999 team also answer this number and do not have enough staff, hence you cannot get through to 101. However, if a knife is involved the police act immediately on 999.
- Parking. There are changes underway to make metered zones in the parking bays on South Lambeth Road. There was a little discussion on what possible changes to parking in Tradescant Road might be suggested, but not time to go into this.
- The website hosting is in the process of being changed over. A formal thanks to Andrew was requested to be in the minutes to thank him for all his work on the website and with this process of moving over – so valuable and much appreciated.

ACTION: Compose email signature with useful contact information and the new bank details when we have them + email for SNT (Penny and Dolina)