

MINUTES – MAPPERLEY PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 26th April 2023

Venue: Magdala Tennis Club

1. Apologies

Doug Black, Phil Glanfield, Irene Morley

2. Minutes of last meeting held on 18th May 2022

Agreed as a true record.

3. Chair's Report

Sue Clague (SC) welcomed attendees and thanked them for attending. She also thanked our local councillor Kerry Hayman-Harrison (KH-H) and also two representatives from Nottingham Police, Aiden Cook (AC) and Betty Shone (BS) for joining the meeting. She hoped that by these public bodies attend the meeting, we could agree some positive actions in relation to current community issues.

SC announced she will step down as Chair at the end of her next tenure (if re-elected today), as she has given 10 years' service and feels the time is right to transfer responsibility. The Committee is therefore looking for new members to take forward the critical work of the Association.

SC summarised her highlights of 2022/23:

- The Association's Queen's Jubilee party on the cricket ground. Amazing turnout despite the inclement weather. A real community event, organised by the community, for the community.
- The Association's Christmas party, held at Homemade on Forest Recreation Ground, which had the best turn out in years and we raised £200 for the Stump Up appeal.
- The Stump Up campaign which has successfully led to the planting of 40 new trees across the area.
- An encouraging increase in membership and successful implementation of the revised membership fee agreed at last year's AGM. SC recognised the hard work of Leena Kore Schroder (LKS) in ensuring membership is up to date and paid up! We now have 337 paid up members of the Association. SC reminded attendees that the membership is now £10.
- The Association continues to fund the planting on the Lucknow Drive roundabout and we are very grateful to the residents who keep it looking so beautiful and also take charge of the composting.

4. Treasurer's Report

Howard Davies (HD) summarised the annual the accounts which attendees were provided with a copy of. The salient points were:

- The 2022 accounts have been examined by our independent examiner, Richard Bonnelo and they show an excess of expenditure over income of £654. As a result of this our accumulated funds at the start of 2023 stood at £20,504 of which £3,300 is held specifically for the Stump Up campaign and £973 is held on behalf of the Gardening Group.

- Subscription income for 2022 was £1,739 up from £1,111 in 2021.
- We made a charitable donation from the net proceeds of the newsletter this year - £100 to the Nottinghamshire Hospitals Trust, in memory of Hayley Johal, who ran M&J and was a great supporter of the MPRA and the Mapperley Park Community.
- Our big expenditure this year was on the Jubilee event. £2,186 in total.
- Other expenditure this year has included £176 for insurance, £63 for the AGM, £75 for the website, and £320 for maintenance of the planters on Mapperley Hall Drive roundabout. The Christmas party was an income generator rather than cost as in previous years.

HD presented a proposal to add a clause in the Association's Constitution to allow the Committee to agree donations to local charities from any income from the newsletter where this is felt appropriate.

This was discussed at length and the consensus was to add this to the Constitution, noting it is not a given that the Association will donate every year. SC provided assurance that these donations will never be from membership fees, which are preserved for the work to represent our local community.

5. Tree Report

David Podesta (DP) gave an update on the Stump Up campaign.

He was pleased to report that over 40 stumps have been cleared and new trees planted.

Local residents were consulted on the roads where stumps were removed and trees planted. David personally walked the area with Alex Begg from the council and agreed the placement of the new trees. Most of the trees were replacements of stumps, but some were moved for the benefit of residents, for example, where the stump was encroaching on driveways.

DP explained that funding was secured through a variety of sources: the Council secured £10k from the government's levelling up campaign, this was to be match funded by the Residents' Association, to which we have had 13 generous donations of £300 each from residents of Mapperley Park.

This project has led to improved relations between the Association and the Council – a real example of how having a dedicated partnership project with the Council can lead to real results for the benefit of the community.

DP asked residents to help during the summer months with watering. The Council will water but residents supporting this too will hopefully give the trees a good start.

He updated that the final stage of the current planting tranche is for the Council to return and tidy up the beds and add tree mulch. DP confirmed that residents are also free to tidy up the sites themselves if they wish and he encouraged anyone who has a house close to a new tree to plant some flowers around it.

Jen Guiver (JG) raised a question from Irene Morley of Tavistock Drive which had been sent to her in advance via the Facebook page. Irene wanted to know if there is anything the Residents' Association can do to tackle the enormous badly maintained trees on Tavistock Drive, as well as the damage to the pavements on this road due to the large roots. KH-H from the Council agreed to raise this with the relevant department and report back.

ACTION: Kerry Hayman-Harrison

This led to a discussion about leaf clearance on the same road. At least two residents have fallen this year on Tavistock due to leaf build up. Kerry said that this is why the council are doing extra leaf collections for Mapperley Park. Residents said this was helpful but not enough. Residents were keen for a partnership approach with the Council to actually clear the leaves, not just an extra collection.

Sue asked for a volunteer to take forward the coordination of a better response to this ahead of Autumn 2023 as an Association representative to liaise with the council. Ellen Turner (ET) agreed to take this forward. Residents were clear that effort needed to focus on the area of most need, mainly Tavistock Drive.

ACTION: Ellen Turner to represent the Association in securing a better response to leaves on Tavistock Drive ahead of Autumn 2023.

Residents raised their anger about the new tree which was vandalised on Lucknow Avenue. DP said that Alex Begg from the council had alerted this to the Police as a criminal act. The Police representative present agreed to see whether this had been followed up and report back so that at least the community knew it had been reported.

ACTION: Nottinghamshire Police to report back on the action taken following the vandalism of the new tree on Lucknow Avenue.

6. Membership Report

LKS reported that we now have 341 members. She thanked all paid up members.

SC raised a question on behalf of a resident who couldn't attend. They wanted to know if the Association could consider sending out emails to paid up members with any key news such as attaching the newsletter, extra tree collections and the AGM dates, for example.

There was a discussion about the practicalities of this, including GDPR rules and how the Committee would cope with the workload associated with this. Leena said she could potentially take this on as membership secretary. The Committee will take this away to discuss.

ACTION: Committee to discuss possibility of setting up an Association email distribution list

JG raised an idea to leaflet drop to all households to raise awareness of the Residents' Association and the Facebook page.

ACTION: Committee to arrange this leaflet drop in Autumn

7. Social Media Update

Jen Guiver (JG) updated on the page.

She explained that she took over the running of the Facebook page about a year ago and is passionate about this being a platform for the community, with content provided by the community.

There are now 725 members. It was noted this is almost double the number of paid up Association members.

Posts now go live without moderator approval and JG reported she had only had to intervene and remove inappropriate posts or comments on 3 occasions in the last year. These were all occasions

when residents were commenting on alleged crimes in the area and posting doorbell footage, which did not seem appropriate and could compromise any Police investigation.

JG encouraged anyone too add content to keep the conversation rich and informative.

8. Planning Report

Mike Reade (MR) updated on what his role as Planning Officer entails.

The Committee regularly consider planning applications in the conservation area and if they feel Residents' Association input would be helpful, the Committee make a representation on behalf of the neighbourhood.

He explained that he also supports with building regulations and party wall applications.

He urged residents to highlight any new applications of concern to him so he can support with these. Mike reported a good relationship with the planners and explained his expertise in this area. Attendees commented on the value of Mike's involvement and that he seems to have influence at the Council in preserving our conservation area.

9. Election of Officers

SC asked for support for the election of the following:

- Sue Clague as Chair
- Howard Davies as Treasurer
- Leena as Membership Secretary
- Mike Reade as Planning Officer
- David Podesta as Tree Officer
- Jen Guiver as Social Media Secretary

These were proposed and seconded by members in attendance.

A number of residents have volunteered to help with specific items or projects but don't want to be official Committee members. SC and JG agreed to coordinate offers of help outside of the meeting. The areas we hope to get volunteers for are: social events, trees, leaves, antisocial behaviour etc.

ACTION: SC and JG to coordinate residents' offers of help and get in touch.

10. AOB

Update from council – Kerry Hayman-Harrison

Kerry updated on various beat projects in the area. There are regular beats to identify any antisocial behaviour, illegal parking etc. Beats have been increased recently due to increased concerns in the Mansfield Road area.

Kerry advised that the Council are aware of concerns about residents from Tudor House at the end of Ebers Road due to antisocial behaviour. She advised that the people housed here are the responsibility of not just Nottingham City, but also Gedling and Rushcliffe. Concerns were raised by residents that Mapperley Park is shouldering the impact of this temporary accommodation on behalf of 3 Councils. This is not only disappointing for our residents but also those living in this accommodation who are being displaced from their own areas and school catchment areas etc.

Kate Lockhouse offered to draft a letter to the local councillors from those other areas to be sent on behalf of the Committee.

ACTION: Kate to draft letter using Facebook page to gather content from other residents. SC to then send to Council.

Kerry reflected on the recent incident whereby travellers moved on the cricket pitch and was pleased at the swift action to remove them from the site

She reported that Council has clean champions who can support with litter picking equipment.

SC raised that the residents don't get to hear about this good work Kerry has reported and are very concerned about the increasing antisocial behaviour in the area.

Aidan Cook from Nottinghamshire Police confirmed Kerry's report that there is much activity to tackle antisocial behaviour on Mansfield Road. He explained that often it is plain-clothed so residents would not be aware it was taking place. He went on to explain that they recently carried out a multidisciplinary exercise to tackle antisocial behaviour in the Mansfield Road shops area. This involved issuing a 48 hour order to disperse individuals causing issues in the area. In addition, for one individual who is particularly aggressive, the Police are in the process of securing a banning order which will hopefully go through courts shortly.

Police asked residents to report any incidences of antisocial behaviour via 101 or online via the electronic form or via online live chat in order to build a better case around this. This needs to be done every time to build a case. This includes drinking alcohol in public, antisocial behaviour, minor theft etc. This is known as intelligence building.

JG asked for assurance that the staff in the Mansfield Road shops are being supported with this issue. The Police confirmed they were.

ACTION: JG to spread awareness on Facebook of ways to report antisocial behaviour and that the Police welcome as much intelligence as possible which helps inform and support the operations.

A resident asked for an update on the recent incidents involving the Police – bomb scare on Mansfield Road, body on Redcliffe Road and the cordon on Mapperley Road on Good Friday. The Police assured residents that these three incidents are not linked and are not associated with the Tudor House temporary accommodation. Again, a request was made to improve communication when these sort of things occur. It was agreed that the Police would consider whether they can provide updates directly to JG when incidents occur so she can post updates to residents on the Facebook page.

ACTION: JG and Nottinghamshire Police to liaise on improving communication.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.