

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM 2020:
Virtual meeting held via Zoom: 22nd February 2021 at 7.30pm
MINUTES:

In the Chair: Penny D'Souza, who welcomed the dozen participants on line to the CARA AGM. The Agenda had been sent to all CARA members, and the Draft Minutes of the 2019 AGM, the 2019/2020 Treasurer's and Membership Report and the list of Committee Members standing for re-election had been made available to all members, on line (or in hard copy to the few members who don't use email, who were also able to participate by returning a voting paper).

Apologies had been received from Clare Francis and Cllr Maria Netley.

Minutes of the previous CARA AGM, on 15th October 2019, were approved unanimously, proposed by John Parrish and seconded by Charles Roscorla. There were no matters arising.

CARA Highlights 2019/2020 were presented by Penny D'Souza.

Cara's year runs from August to August, and the year from August 2019 to August 2020 was certainly a game of two halves, for obvious reasons.

Autumn 2019 saw CARA in full swing with all our usual activities, including:

- The popular Late Summer BBQ at Riverside Tennis Club, once again blessed with fine weather
- The autumn litterpick, with The Kingston Academy and, on the water, Leander Sea Scouts
- Christmas drinks at Boaters
- Planting of hundreds of spring bulbs along the river

Then Covid struck and so much changed. Our social activities have been put on hold and because of lockdowns and infection control, we weren't able to produce a newsletter until the end of 2020.

However, we were still kept busy:

- Committee meetings continued as scheduled, albeit via Zoom. Our thanks to Sophie Cavanagh for hosting these meetings.
- Canbury Gardens and the river became a focus of permitted outdoor exercise and socialising, visited by many from further afield. The Canbury Gardens Working Party now meets monthly except in the winter months, when we meet once every two months. The two key issues have been litter and use of the Gardens as 'alfresco' toilets. Increased signage and more litter bins were added, and a feasibility study is looking into permanent public toilets in the Gardens, as Boaters had to close.
- The idverde team cut back lots of overgrown bushes, removing opportunities for antisocial behaviour and opening up views across the Gardens to the river.
- Many thanks to Trevor Willis and Len Cowking for spearheading volunteer litterpicks and weeding of the flower beds, and to Canbury Secret for hosting a '2 minute litterpick station' – plans are now in place for a recycling bin for volunteer litterpicks.
- The outdoor multi-gym equipment has been installed
- We have continued to work in partnership with the North Kingston Forum
- We have continued to monitor, alert members by email and comment on local planning applications, including a proposed redevelopment of 84 Lower Ham Road, which was subsequently withdrawn, the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the Barge Dock (the appeal was rejected) and the Kingsgate development (reduced height plans have been submitted).
- We make use of the many local street WhatsApp groups to distribute information on planning and other matters.

We've all been on a technological learning curve this past year, and we're looking to put this to good use, reviewing how CARA communicates and how we can ensure we are current, relevant and inclusive – we'd love to hear from you

We have started to send out regular e-newsletters by email, alerting members to current events, such as a proposed additional storey on 125 Richmond Road (refused).

Personally, I would like to say what a privilege it's been to work with so many enthusiastic, talented, and committed folk both within and beyond CARA – thank you all. We look forward to being able to see each other face-to-face before too long!

Treasurer's and Membership Report.

The Chair invited questions on this report, but there were none. Charles Roscorla was complimented on the clarity of his accounts. Penny D'Souza commented that CARA membership had continued to be high, despite the lack of events to prompt people to join. The accounts were approved unanimously, proposed by Nic Lewisohn and seconded by Richard Mobbs.

Re-election to CARA Committee

The Chair noted that all the previous members of CARA Committee were standing for re-election, except Mike Simpson. Mike was thanked for the work he had done for the Committee. Penny D'Souza, Clare Francis, Nic Lewisohn, Richard Mobbs, Des Noble, Kelly Page, John Parrish, Charles Roscorla and Sophie Cavanagh were re-elected unanimously to CARA Committee, proposed by David Baker and seconded by Jackie Cronheim.

Any Other Business

Responding to a question raised before the meeting about the upper path beside the river Canbury Gardens being shared between cyclists and pedestrians, the Chair clarified that while that was the plan but it hadn't yet happened as there were some formalities to be completed.

John Parrish invited people to attend the North Kingston Form AGM, to be held virtually on Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 7.30pm. He expected there would be some interesting debate about NKF activities.

The Chair thanked everybody for joining the meeting, and brought the AGM to a close.