

Minutes: CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM

15th September 2016, 8.00 pm at Canbury Gardens Pavilion

In the Chair: John Parrish, who welcomed the 19 CARA members who had come to the AGM. Apologies had been received from Stuart Devall, Anneke Ferrier, Clare Francis, Jenny Langridge, Alan Petit, Trevor Willis, Peter Wolf and Councillor Hugh Scantlebury.

1. Copies of the agenda, draft minutes of the 2015 AGM, CARA accounts for 2015/16 and the proposed constitution and rules for CARA as a CIO were available for all present. The **minutes of the previous CARA AGM**, on 12th October 2015, were approved, proposed by John Parrish and seconded by Mike Seigel, with no Matters Arising.
2. **Highlights of 2015/16.** John Parrish briefly outlined some of CARA's successes, with membership continuing at record levels.

A fundraising programme had elicited generous donations towards CARA projects from Berkeley Homes and Greene King, with other potential donors identified.

A CARA subgroup had been established - Friends of the Gardens (CARAFoG) - to coordinate CARA projects in the Gardens, and liaise with interested parties. A trial of improved Litterbins was ongoing, and volunteers for the Community Garden set up by Marilyn Mason in the former Gardeners' Yard had already transformed the location. Some Replacement Trees were to be planted in the near future, and consideration was being given to a Sports Pitch.

CARA's lobbying efforts had supported the introduction of new Parking Restrictions north of Bank Lane and restriction to members and reasonable hours of the licence for the Gymn on Sury Basin. Members Discount Cards were obtained for The Boaters Inn, with plans for other local discounts for members in the coming year.

Two very successful social events had been held – the Light Up for the new lights in the Gardens and the Late Summer Barbecue.

3. **Finance and Membership Report.** Charles Roscorla tabled the CARA Accounts, which had been checked by Peter Wolf. He confirmed that the finances were strong, with the loss of £140 due to the policy decision to spend some of CARA's surplus to support CARA projects, for example buying garden tools. The Accounts, proposed by Jonathan Rollason and seconded by Des Noble, were approved unanimously. Charles commented that CARA Membership continued to be high, with 26% of potential households in the CARA area paid up in 2015.
4. **Special Resolution: CARA to become a CIO.** Richard Mobbs presented the proposal for CARA to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). He outlined the benefits, particularly in organising projects and raising funds, and noted that the most significant change from the current arrangements would be that members would have to be individuals, rather than households. In the discussion it was confirmed that there should be at least 6 Trustees of the CIO, and initially they would be willing members of the CARA Committee. It would not be necessary for a member of the managing committee to be a Trustee (but Trustees should be committee members). The resolution "that CARA Committee change CARA into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, using the Constitution and Rules as tabled at the AGM" was passed by unanimous vote.
5. **Election of CARA Committee for 2016/17:** John Parrish read out the names of the current active Committee Members standing for re-election, as follows: Stuart Devall, Penny D'Souza, Clare Francis, Nic Lewisohn, Marilyn Mason, Richard Mobbs, Des Noble, John Parrish, Jonathan Rollason and Charles Roscorla. There were no other nominations. All were re-elected unanimously, proposed by Wendy Seigel and seconded by Martine Roscorla.
6. **AOB:** John Parrish brought up Alan Pettitt's proposal for a defibrillator in Canbury Gardens. The idea will be investigated further by CARA.

Chris Foulkes highlighted the need for CARA to monitor proposals for improved cycle access, as the initial plans round Kingston Station made no allowance for disabled access. It was agreed that CARA would continue to monitor cycling proposals.

Diane Watling thanked CARA for supporting some of North Kingston Forum's early printing costs. Mike Seigel thanked the Committee Members for their work with CARA.

As there was no further business John Parrish drew the AGM proceedings to a close.

Following the AGM refreshments were served, and **Diane Watling** gave an informative talk on the development and functions of **North Kingston Forum**, which provoked an interesting discussion.