

Canbury and Riverside Association (CARA)

Draft Minutes of the AGM 2024/2025 held at Canbury Pavilion

Thursday 16th October 2025 at 7pm

Welcome: Richard Mobbs, Chair for the meeting, welcomed everyone, and introduced the post-AGM speaker, Jason Debney, Co-ordinator, Thames Landscape Strategy, who would give a talk on Riverbank Re-naturalisation and Local Flood Plains.

Apologies had been received from CARA Committee members Sharon Langer and Peter Higgins and CARA members Kate Tebb, Jonathan Rollason, Anneke Ferrier, Amanda Otway, Mike Seigel and Wendy Seigel.

Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM, 17th October 2024: There were no matters arising from the minutes of the AGM for the previous year. Those minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Accounts: Charles Roscorla presented his report. The Association's income for the financial year 2024/2025 was £4,701, £1,290 higher than 2023/2024. The increase in income was due to the increase in the membership fee from £5 to £10 a year together with one specific donation and the sponsorship of newsletters by Greenwoods Residential.

Expenditure for the year was £4,556, which was £1,619 higher than the previous year, as CARA produced four newsletters, set aside contributions towards trees for the Friends of Canbury Gardens and equipment for Friends of Canbury Bandstand and made a payment towards the projector for Canbury Pavilion.

Membership was 211 fully paid members, around a quarter of households in the CARA area, being a decrease of only 18 members on last year, despite the increase in the membership subscription.

The report and accounts were approved unanimously.

CARA through 2024/2025: Kelly Page presented CARA highlights from the past year: Canbury Gardeners was thriving, there had been a Christmas Drinks party, the Summer BBQ, and the financial and people support for the Bandstand concerts. Beyond CARA, there had been some great events such as the Dragon Boat Races and the Saxon Fayre.

CARA continued to be active on the planning front, particularly the Kingsgate and Canbury Car Park development which included a walk around the affected roads for residents wanting more details. This was organised in conjunction with North Kingston Forum and Kelly was very happy to share the news that Transport for London had rejected the proposal.

The Bingo Hall development, which could also affect traffic, was on hold again. CARA was being consulted regarding the lifting of the listed building order, so that the fire-damaged cinema could be taken down and the site completely redeveloped.

CARA continued to be active and vocal in various local interest groups, such as Thames Landscape Strategy, Canbury Gardens Working Party, the Police Panel, Friends of Canbury Gardens and Friends of Canbury Bandstand.

CARA newsletters had shared local news, with 900 households receiving the hard copy of the newsletter. Kelly thanked Peter Greenwood for his sponsorship and support. There also had been the monthly CARA eNews, with committee members taking turns to edit them.

Kelly thanked some stand-out people: Trevor Willis for his work in the gardens, notably the Community Payback team, organising recycling bins and gardening; Len Cowking, Sue Thomas and others for their work in the nature area and the gardens overall; also, the pavilion trustees for letting CARA use the very good location for meetings.

Finally, CARA committee had been glad to welcome Peter Higgins as a new member and would welcome interested potential members to try one of our committee meetings so they could see what takes place.

A Summer of Bandstands concerts: Deborah Higgins gave a description of the Friends of Canbury Bandstand (FoCB), created 8 years ago and totally the responsibility of community volunteers. Each summer, there were concerts on a Sunday afternoon. This year, 13 concerts had taken place. The finances were managed separately from CARA and run on a break-even basis. FoCB thanked CARA for a financial donation to buy trolleys for moving chairs from the Community Garden to the space around the bandstand.

Linking CARA and (FoCB): Deborah Higgins, from both CARA and FoCB, told the AGM that FoCB and CARA committee members were convinced that a more formal link between the two organisations would be of mutual benefit. FoCB focused on presenting concerts in the Gardens for everyone's enjoyment. CARA worked on broader aspects of the Gardens, supporting the maintenance and development of the gardens, riverbank and wildlife, as well as organising a variety of events.

Both groups could benefit from more established ties, with each enhancing the reach of the other through publicity and the ability to support each other when required. The two groups would keep their current aims and objectives, as well as their separate structures, but to ensure a close liaison between groups there would be at least one individual with membership of both management committees.

Resolution 1: That CARA establishes a formal link with FoCB: Unanimously accepted.

Resolution 2: To adopt appropriate revisions to CARA Constitution: 15th edition revised and edited: Unanimously accepted.

Election or re-election of CARA Committee Members:

There were no new nominations, but all of the following, existing Committee Members were standing for re-election: Clare Francis, Peter Higgins, Sharon Langer, Richard Mobbs, Kelly Page, John Parrish, Liz Poole and Charles Roscorla.

With no objections, all were re-elected unopposed.

Kelly Page told the AGM how some committee members had worked for CARA for many years, and they would welcome new members. Richard Mobbs asked any CARA member willing to join the committee to contact him.

The Chair brought the AGM business to a close.

Post-AGM talk: Richard Mobbs introduced Jason Debney of the Thames Landscape Strategy, who gave an absorbing talk about Riverbank Re-naturalisation, Local Flood Plains and the future effect of climate change on flood risk in the area.