

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM 2021:
Minutes of the meeting held at Canbury Pavilion on 20th October 2021 at 7.00pm

In the Chair: Penny D'Souza, who welcomed our post-AGM speaker, our MP, Sarah Olney and 27 CARA members.

Apologies had been received from Committee member Sophie Cavanagh.

Tellers: Martine Roscorla and Kelly Page volunteered to count votes if required.

Minutes of the previous CARA AGM, on 22nd February 2021, were approved unanimously, proposed by Des Noble and seconded by Nic Lewisohn. There were no matters arising.

CARA Highlights 2020/2021 were presented by Penny D'Souza.

While the pandemic had curtailed many CARA activities during the year, CARA had continued to meet online, and had used the time to reflect on what CARA should be. Members had provided very helpful input to our thinking, and a special resolution (later in this agenda - to clarify CARA's objectives) reflected this.

It had been possible to deliver only two CARA Newsletters during the year, but since February a "CARA eNews" email had been sent to all our email contacts each month, to provide more regular communication. Occasionally other emails had been sent about more urgent issues, such as proposed planning developments. During periods of lockdown communication with neighbours had been particularly important. CARA had kept links with local street WhatsApp groups, to extend our reach.

CARA had continued to join the monthly online meetings of Canbury Gardens Working Group, where problems of litter and antisocial behaviour continued to dominate the agenda.

Litter picking volunteers had been organised by Trevor Willis and Len Cowking, to help keep tidy Canbury Gardens and the local area. Trevor had also established a 'Canbury Gardeners' group, with its own WhatsApp to organise their regular sessions. Anyone wishing to join these gardeners should contact Kelly Page.

CARA Committee members had maintained links to Leander Sea Scouts and the Thames Landscape Strategy, for their support along the riverside. We helped set up Friends of Canbury Bandstand and to marshal concerts. We maintained close links to North Kingston Forum, and promoted their consultations on the North Kingston Plan, with an extra page in the summer newsletter. Some 15% of responses to that consultation came from CARA residents.

To conclude, the great highlight of the year was the CARA day on Ben Judd's boat. Kingston Academy students provided the memorable musical performances and starred in the presentation of their ideas for revitalising the riverside at John Lewis – which subsequently won the competition.

Treasurer's and Membership Report.

Charles Roscorla presented CARA accounts. He commented that membership numbers, were over 200, the same as the previous year, so subscription income was constant. He thanked members who had given a donation in addition to their subscription. Income was lower than the previous year as we had not been able to hold any income-generating events, but expenses had been even lower, so reserves had increased by some £300.

Charles emphasised that CARA Committee were determined to use some of our reserves to fund projects in our area, and expressed the hope that this would be possible, as the Canbury Gardens Masterplan had recently been formally approved.

The Chair invited questions. Penny complemented Charles on the clarity of his accounts.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Maria Netley and seconded by Penny D'Souza. The accounts were approved unanimously.

Special Resolutions.

The Chair introduced these resolutions. The first was to clarify that the area of riverside beyond the Half Mile Tree is included in "CARA Area" -

It is resolved that the definition of the West and North boundaries of CARA Area be changed
From to the West, the bank of the River Thames, from the Barge Dock to the Half Mile Tree;
to the North, Lower Ham Road, from the Half Mile Tree to the junction with Richmond Road;
To to the West, the bank of the River Thames, from the Barge Dock to the Hawker Centre;
to the North, Lower Ham Road, from the Thames to the junction with Richmond Road;

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The second special resolution was to clarify CARA objectives.

To more accurately define CARA Objectives the relevant wording of CARA Constitution be changed

From "THE CANBURY & RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION IS A NON-POLITICAL ORGANISATION REPRESENTING RESIDENTS IN THE RIVERSIDE AREA OF NORTH KINGSTON UPON THAMES."

To "THE CANBURY & RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION IS A NON-POLITICAL ORGANISATION FOR THE RIVERSIDE AREA OF NORTH KINGSTON UPON THAMES."

and

From "Its AIMS & OBJECTIVES are the protection and enhancement of amenities within The Area for residents and users."

To "Its AIMS & OBJECTIVES are the protection and enhancement of amenities within The Area for residents and users and to support local initiatives and promote community involvement."

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Elections to CARA Committee

The Chair reported that Committee member Des Noble would not be standing for re-election as he would be moving to his native Northern Ireland in a few months. She thanked Des for his work supporting CARA activities.

The Chair, Penny D'Souza, then announced that she had decided it was time she stood down from the Committee. John Parrish interrupted the proceedings to thank Penny for her great contribution to CARA over more than 20 years. Kelly Page presented her with a bouquet of flowers, on behalf of the Committee and members.

The Chair said that the remaining members of the Committee were standing for re-election: Sophie Cavanagh, Clare Francis, Nic Lewisohn, Richard Mobbs, Kelly Page, John Parrish, and Charles Roscorla.

And that there were two CARA members standing for election:

Hugh Scantlebury, nominated by John Parrish, seconded by Richard Mobbs, and

Trevor Willis, nominated by John Parrish, seconded by Kelly Page.

All nine were elected to the Committee unopposed.

Any Other Business

Alan Pettitt spoke of the broadening of the work undertaken by the local team of NHS First Responders, which included a programme to train volunteers to provide initial support for some emergencies. The Chair agreed that CARA would publicise the call for volunteers.

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