

CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM 2018

MINUTES: *as agreed at the AGM 2019*

24th October 2018, 8.00pm at Canbury Gardens Pavilion

In the Chair: Penny D'Souza, who welcomed the 27 CARA members and guests to the AGM.

Copies of the Agenda, the Draft Minutes of the 2017 AGM and the 2018 Treasurer's and Membership Report were available for all present.

Apologies had been received from Filippo Selini.

The **Minutes of the previous CARA AGM**, on 26th October 2017, were **approved**, proposed by Hugh Scantlebury and seconded by Mary Mobbs. There were **no Matters Arising**.

CARA Highlights 2017/2018 were reviewed by John Parrish.

CARA had been involved in so many different things last year, not all could be mentioned.

Members had been alerted to several controversial **planning applications**. CARA had successfully objected to inappropriate development proposals for the **Barge Dock** and **84 Lower Ham Road**. CARA had supported the plans to improve the **entrance to the Riverside tennis club**, which had been completed, and supported the proposed **improvement of the mooring for the Boat Project's new boat**, Thames Discoverer, beside Canbury Gardens. CARA welcomed the **Riverside plan**, although implementation seemed a distant prospect. We had noted that the new **London Plan** doubled the requirement for new housing to be built in the borough – with the prospect of pressure to 'infill' inappropriately. CARA and North Kingston Forum would monitor this closely.

On **parking**, CARA had protested the elimination of scratch **cards for visitor parking** in Controlled Parking Zones, but this remained an issue. CARA had supported the residents of **Albany Park Road** in their quest to retain their **CPZ**. Hopefully this would be resolved successfully at an impending Council meeting.

Canbury Gardens and the riverside had been a major focus for CARA. We supported the development of the "Youth Provision" **sports pitch** (due to be opened on 9th March) and improvements to the playground. We put pressure on the council to halt the **decline in maintenance** of the Gardens. CARA would continue to press for a solution to the **litter problem**, for better **maintenance of the lighting**, for a secure system for the **north end gate** and for improved **signage**. CARA had assisted the council in their bid for major funds to modify the riverside paths, but unfortunately that bid failed. CARA was **seeking funding** for the annual scrub cutting along the riverbank and for gym equipment to complement the sports pitch.

During the year CARA had maintained or established **good connections** with many local bodies including the Council, North Kingston Forum, nearby residents groups FOLAR and TARAK, management at the Boaters Inn and the Secret Café, the rowing and tennis clubs and local police.

CARA Committee had unwound the plans for charitable status, which proved inappropriate.

Successful **CARA social events** had been the barbecue at the Riverside Tennis Club and the Christmas drinks at the Boaters.

And finally – after 2 years of trying – with funding by the pavilion, the rowing club, Boaters and CARA, the public access **defibrillator** had been installed at the Boaters and staff trained to use it.

Discussion of issues raised by the highlights was deferred until 'Any Other Business'.

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Treasurer's and Membership Report. Charles Roscorla spoke to his report, emphasising that **CARA finances were in good shape**. He commented that **membership continued to be high**, with members in 25% of the households in CARA area. **CARA reserves were over £2,600**.

Approval of the report was proposed by Mike Seigel and seconded by Frank Gaisford.

Charles was thanked for his clear and understandable report.

Discussion of the use of CARA reserves was deferred until 'Any Other Business'.

Re-election to CARA Committee of Sophie Cavanagh, Penny D'Souza, Clare Francis, Nic Lewisohn, Richard Mobbs, Des Noble, John Parrish, Charles Roscorla, and Filippo Seleni was proposed by Hugh Scantlebury and seconded by Martine Roscorla.

The Chair commented that the **Committee would welcome new members**.

Committee members were thanked for their work in the past year. Thanks were also given to all the others who give support to CARA, and in particular to Ken Buckle, Toby Hiscock, Kate Tebb, Trevor Willis and Peter Wolf.

Any Other Business

The Chair asked CARA members to let the Committee know of suitable **CARA Project ideas**. About £2,000 from CARA reserves was available to fund a project or projects. To ensure that members' views would influence the choice of project (or projects) the Committee would email members with a shortlist of proposals received, asking them to choose 3, and rank them in order.

There was a positive response to Councillor Netley's suggestion that a small donation from CARA towards the cost of **Gym equipment** to complement the sports pitch would indicate community support for that project (which would help bids for funds from other bodies).

Liz Poole suggested that money could be spent on large **litter bins**, particularly for the north end of the Gardens. The subsequent enthusiastic discussion of the efforts that had been and were being made to overcome the litter problem indicated a desire for more and bigger bins.

The Chair commented that litter would be on the agenda for the **Canbury Gardens Working Party** (a council led group, including representatives from all the main stakeholders in the Gardens). She thanked councillors for their support to re-activate the CGWP, which had been inactive during the recent elections, but she expected would meet again soon to take forward all the key issues affecting the Gardens.

In response to a question about the **expensive new paving at Downhall Road** entrance to the Gardens, it was pointed out that these improvements were funded from 'ring fenced' Section 106 money from developers that had been allocated some time ago.

In response to a question about the **Barge Dock**, the Chair clarified that an application to build nine flats covering the dock had been turned down.

It was reported that the developer wishing to build flats in place of **84 Lower Ham Road** had said that he had planning permission for all of his proposed development except for removal of the grass verge for access. The Chair clarified that there was currently no consent for any development at that site, despite the developer's claims.

Alan Pettitt reported on the work of the **Kingston First Responders**. After commenting on the availability of the public access defibrillator at Boaters, he suggested that he could arrange **first aid training for cardiac arrest**. A number of those present expressed interest, so he agreed to organise training sessions in January, at the Pavilion if available. The Chair thanked Alan and his team, and said that CARA would publicise these first aid training sessions.

The Chair brought the formal AGM proceedings to a close.

Refreshments were served, followed by Mike Seigel's most interesting and entertaining talk on his roles as Kingston's **Town Crier** and **Tipstaff**, which was enjoyed by all present.