



# Knoll Residents Association

Minutes of 44<sup>th</sup> AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Grove on Tuesday 20 November 2018, at 7:45pm

## 1. Speakers and Guests

Gareth Bacon - GKA member for Bexley and Bromley  
SGT Paul Blewer, PC Taj Mahil, PCSO Colin Bissett  
Councillors: Tony Owen, Simon Fawthrop and Keith Onslow.  
Rev Jennifer Millington- St John's URC  
Ted Fenwick - Secretary, Crofton RA.

## 2. Opening from Chairman Ian Black

The meeting opened with a welcome from the Chair to all KRA members and invited guests to the AGM. He reminded residents that questions should only be posed by current members. Residents were asked to sign an attendance sheet and give their name and address before asking questions.

## 3. Welcome from Reverend Jennifer Millington

Jennifer welcomed everyone to St John's URC saying that the church is glad that it continues to act as a meeting place for groups of different interests and ages. She invited people to the Carol Service on 16 December and to carol singing at Tesco earlier in that week.

## 4. Minutes of 43<sup>rd</sup> AGM

Agreed<sup>1</sup>

## 5. Election of Committee

Nominations have been received from committee members and they were duly elected for a further year.<sup>2</sup> A request was made for new members to join the committee as Janet Whitehead has stood down and Jo Wyton is moving away. Ian hopes that someone new will come forward to be Chair next year.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018, independently examined by Brian Pow, were approved.<sup>3</sup>

## 7. Election of Honorary Auditor

Brian Pow has kindly agreed to continue as independent examiner and was reappointed for a further year.<sup>4</sup>

## 8. Presentation by Sgt Paul Blewer

Sgt Blewer introduced himself as the new officer in charge of our local Safer Neighbourhood Team which is dedicated to tackling the problems and issues of our ward. It continues to be an area of relatively low crime, mostly theft of and from vehicles and burglary. Bromley Police will be merging with Croydon and Sutton, but there will still be a response team operating out of Bromley Police Station. The local Safer Neighbourhood Team can be contacted via their website.

Sgt Blewer gave basic advice to householders about making homes safe: install burglar alarms, ensure doors and windows are locked, leave lights on or have on a timer when away. Keep valuables out of sight, invest in a case for keyless fobs for the car, lock gates and sheds and keep wheelie bins away from gates and fences.

## Questions from the floor

Concern was raised about motorists driving the wrong way down the one-way section of Hillview Road, and also about cars parking on both sides of the road. Patrols will investigate.

A question was asked as to whether there is any evidence of drug dealing, specifically in Tower Road, The Drive and The Avenue where there are hedges and trees and the road is not well lit. In Mayfield Road a resident observed a drug deal taking place between the occupants of two parked cars. Police respond to calls as they can. PC Taj Mahil will speak to other teams to see if they have any information.

## **9. Presentation by Gareth Bacon on The London Plan**

The London Plan is published every few years by the Mayor of London and is the strategic development plan for London. It was open to consultation from November 2017 until March 2018 and is scheduled to be implemented from early 2020. The London Plan has to fit National Planning and Policy Guidelines and Borough Plans have to fit into the London Plan. The Plan has to be examined publicly and a report will be published by July 2019. It will then be submitted to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government who has to approve it. (He is also MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup). It then has to be approved by The London Assembly.

Several aspects have implications for how LBB can respond to planning applications and therefore for the character of where we live.

- There is no dramatic change to the green belt, although back gardens and small sites may be ripe for development. Previously boroughs could refuse permission for such development but that will be difficult once the Plan is approved.
- There is an expectation that the density of housing will increase via extensions, conversions and demolition and re-development.
- There is an emphasis on 1 and 2 bedroomed flats which are not appropriate for families.
- New developments are expected to be car free, unless disabled spaces are requested.
- The target for Bromley is 1,224 new homes each year, so there is pressure to approve new developments. There is a danger of haphazard development, depending on who agree to sell their homes.
- The Plan is seeking to make outer London look more like inner London, an assault on the suburbs.
- Industrial land should not be used for developments, although some areas have many sites lying derelict. This would be one solution to changing the character of existing areas.

It was suggested the residents could write to the Secretary of State expressing their concerns.

### **Questions from the floor**

What happens to the application for part of The Knoll becoming an ASRC? Such applications are not in accordance with the London Plan and will make little difference.

## **10. Update on Orpington High Street**

Sharon Baldwin was unable to attend but sent an update to The Chair.

- Market Square is yet to be completed, currently a year behind schedule
- Public toilets within the Walnuts are now open, with facilities for disabled and those with complex needs
- Retail vacancy is 6% which is lower than the national average

## **11. Highlights from general audience comments**

- Complaint of state of pavements in Broxbourne Road - Cllr Simon Fawthrop will deal with specific issue.
- Tesco Supermarket continues to have an impact on traffic around the War Memorial and there appears to be no solution
- The 7.5 ton restriction in the Knoll is often disregarded - Cllr Tony Owen explained that it is difficult to enforce, despite there being agreed routes for Tesco lorries. It was suggested that photographic evidence was collected by concerned residents.
- Concern raised about parking in the road leading to the station making it dangerous for pedestrians. This is under Network Rail's jurisdiction. Although KRA has contacted Network Rail, there has been no response.
- Cllr Tony Owen mentioned LBB's consultation on road safety and invited responses online.

Thanks were extended to the Councillors for their support for KRA and issues raised by residents.

A request was issued for more residents to become involved, especially by joining the Committee.

A resident offered a vote of thanks to the Committee for all their work over the past year.

With thanks to everyone, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9.10 pm and welcomed everyone to join the committee and invited guests for refreshments.

<sup>1</sup> Proposed D Thomas, seconded J Brown <sup>2</sup> Proposed R Burton, seconded W Swan <sup>3</sup> Proposed B Wilkin, seconded M Biggs <sup>4</sup> Proposed M Harries, seconded RH