

Knoll Residents Association



Minutes of 40th AGM held at St John's URC, Lynwood Gr on Tuesday 25 November 2014, starting at 7:50pm

1) Speakers and guests

John Stephenson LBB Planning; Ben Ward SE Trains; Insp Toby Noar SE Cluster Local Police Team; Sgt Nick McLaughlin & PCSO Colin Bissett SE LPT Team E Orpington/Petts Wood; Sharon Baldwin Orpington BID; Councillors Kim Botting, Tony Owen & William Huntington-Thresher; Ted Fenwick & Bob Hadley Crofton RA; Chris Harris Petts Wood & District RA; and Reverend Jennifer Millington. Councillors Douglas Auld and Simon Fawthrop joined during the evening following an LBB meeting. Apologies from James Cleverly GLA Member.

2) Opening from Chairman Paul Savage

Paul thanked all KRA members and invited guests & speakers for their attendance.

3) Welcome from Minister Jennifer Millington

Jennifer welcomed everyone to St John's URC and highlighted the notice boards displaying many of the weekly activities happening in this public space plus photographs & snippets from the Church archives. Jennifer gave early notice of the 2015 Fun Day following in the success of the 2012 Beacon Event see <http://stjohnsurc.org.uk/events/event/348/2015/05/16>

4) Minutes of 39th AGM

Agreed¹.

5) Election of committee²

Paul recorded his thanks to retiring members Chris Tait (Road Warden Secretary) & Hilary Robson (Secretary) for their hard work and long-service to the KRA. He welcomed Stacey Taylor and made a plea for new committee members.

6) Treasurer's Report

The accounts to 30 September 2014³ have been audited by Theresa Ansett. The printing costs are higher than 2013 due to the trail quiz printing. The balance sheet remains healthy although sadly subscriptions have fallen again.

7) Election of Honorary Auditor

Theresa Ansett has kindly agreed to continue as auditor⁴.

8) Review of year

Paul highlighted the good working relationship with the local councillors and thanked them for their attendance at a committee meeting earlier in the year. He urged members to complete LBB's on-line survey re services as part of the budget shortfall.

Paul noted that the Committee maintain a view of planning applications in the area and our side of the High Street and object where warranted. He sought the audience's views re concerns about house developments (i.e. where houses have been considerably enlarged) but on a show of hands members attending were divided about 50/50.

9) Planning presentation

John Stephenson talked though his PowerPoint on planning enforcement, including time limits, right of appeal and, the currently popular, untidy site notices. Last year LBB received 601 planning complaints that led to the issue of 67 enforcement notices. Examples cited included a reminder that fencing over 1m in height is illegal if fronting a highway and the restrictions on days/times for construction work noise. Read more at http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/1003/planning_enforcement/142/planning_enforcement

In response to questions from the audience Mr Stephenson explained that any trees that have Tree Protection Orders require permission before they can be cut; that there is clear legislation within building regulations that applies to builders when digging foundations & in construction etc; and that party wall issues are civil matters.

10) SE Trains presentation

Ben Ward opened with the following headlines: franchise has been extended to 24/06/18; 100 new staff for manning gates; longer Canon Street opening hours; better IT; and the extension of the Oyster Card area to include Dartford & Swanley (including travel on HS1). He then delivered his PowerPoint showing why the complete rebuild at London Bridge Station is required. Lines will be 'untangled', tracks realigned to reduce bottlenecks and there will be an increase from 6 to 9 platforms serving SE Trains.

¹ Proposed D Thomas, seconded J Savage

² Proposed B Wilkin, seconded J Millington

³ Agreement of accounts proposed D Thomas, seconded R Humby

⁴ Proposed J Whitehead, seconded C R Burton

Mr Ward outlined the dates of timetable changes and the alternative routes that will be permitted on TfL, DLR etc as part of his presentation and in response to audience questions. Full details of all the changes can be viewed on SE Train's website at <http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/thameslink/thameslinkprogramme/>

11) Local Policing presentation

Insp Toby Noar leads the SE cluster of local policing teams and has responsibility for six wards. The local policing model gives more flexibility than the previous Safer Neighbourhood Team model as team members can be moved across wards as required. The increased resource available as a cluster means some tasks that were previously covered by response teams have to be dealt with but the team's main activity is still patrolling and general police work in the local areas.

Insp Noar went on to describe the changes that will be happening over the next few years to meet the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) 20-20-20 challenge which you can read more about here

http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CDkQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.met.police.uk%2Ffoi%2Fpdfs%2Fpriorities_and_how_we_are_doing%2Fcorporate%2Fone_met_mps_strategy_2013_17.pdf&ei=ATuoVLWQCoyX7QbOvYcGdG&usq=AFQjCNF3O_529r51dJCsYGTzFliX64ep_w

Sgt Nick McLaughlin manages the new Orpington Town Centre Team along with the Petts Wood Team. Premises in the High St have been provided for this team thanks to Orpington BID (though there is no public access at this stage). In response to audience questions Insp Noar reassured all that the move to the High St was not because of a spike in crime but that all high streets have more crimes to deal with because of the opportunities for shoplifting etc.

12) Orpington 1st update

BID manager Sharon Baldwin picked-up on the previous presentation and explained that having a permanent local police presence was one of the initial priorities when the BID formed 18 months ago. Using the premises saves the team time by not having to travel to/from St Mary Cray. The premises also function as an enterprise hub for other businesses to use e.g. for room hire etc.

357 local businesses were balloted and pay towards the BID. There are seven BID directors and the four key areas for improvement are for businesses, customers, access and the look/feel of the town centre. There is a pending meeting following the recent parking review. Research showed that some visitors were ticketed because they simply could not understand the rules. The public toilets were retained with a grant of £20,000 from LBB and funding of £25,000 pa going forward, though it was stressed that they will only remain open if the quality is maintained. There is also a plan to move the toilet for disabled to the back of the mobility shop.

The college is an important part of the town and students from the new hospitality and catering college courses (see <http://www.bromley.ac.uk/subject-area/hospitality-and-catering/>) will be serving and selling to the public from the BR6 Restaurant. This will help secure a better selection of food in the town and BID funding the market move to the High St will give students their first trading platform. BID's other funding includes the additional flowers for the hanging baskets and the Xmas lights.

Local groups etc can have their publicity notices put up on the town noticeboards if they are dropped off at 205-207 High Street. Also let BID know via their website <http://www.orpington1st.co.uk/first/> of any areas in the vicinity that need tidying-up, which can be done by the Community Cleaning Partnership with McDonalds.

Ms Baldwin listed highlights from 2014 including the cycling event and closing of the High Street for last week's Xmas 'switch on'. Looking forward the cinema is on track for opening next year; Starbucks are coming in; and Premier Inn will be in the former Silver Lounge location.

13) Highlights from general audience questions

Orpington Priory and Museum did not receive Lottery funding because LBB could not commit to their side of the funding due to the Council's financial shortfall. The building will become available and would preferably go to a community group. But it may have to be sold as part of the hard decisions LBB are having to make. The status quo is not sustainable and the Museum is likely to move into the Central Library.

Contact number for 'missed' rubbish collections are on LBB's website. For reference it is 0300 303 8658, see also http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/524/household_waste_and_recycling/98/have_we_missed_your_collection

Due to Budget restrictions road cleaning has been reduced to 4-weekly but there is additional leaf clearance up until Xmas.

With thanks to all, the Chairman brought formal proceedings to a close at 9:50pm and welcomed all to view the activity boards re the groups and activities at St John's URC and join the Committee & invited guests for refreshments.