

Southdown Rise Residents' Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7 July 2017

Present: Abbie Mead, Annie McMullan, Bert Buri, Bridget Blore, Edward White, Gren Nation, Jim Grozier, Jo Paver, Julian, Cllr Julie Cattell, Cllr Leo Littman, Maria, Martyn Allen, Mary Smalley, Morgan O'Flarety, Reuben Jancovich, Rob Rosenthal (chair), Sarah Roebuck, Sian, Sylvia Peckham, Tom Stiff.

Apologies: Cllr Kevin Allen, Graham Miles

1. Chair's report

Rob gave a brief report of the previous year. It had been a quiet year for SRRA in general; two prominent activities were the Christmas party and the planning issue on the old allotments behind the Open House pub.

2. Treasurer's Report

Gren reported that SRRA had started the 2016-17 year with £217.03 and finished with £233.90. There is also £163 in the Streets In Bloom account. The report was accepted with thanks. A generous donation had been made by Garrett Electrical of Southdown Avenue for the party.

3. Discussion of priority issues for the coming year

Those present were invited to identify local issues that were of particular concern to them. These fell into six main categories:

- Trees
- Planning issues
- Pavements (rubbish and bins)
- Community spirit (or lack of)
- Environmental concerns
- Graffiti.

Some of these were then discussed in detail. Due to time constraints these discussions were short and not comprehensive.

3.1. Trees

Bridget reported that a tree in Springfield Road had recently been cut down, and was concerned that it should be replaced. Springfield Road is not due any council tree funding for about 2 years. However a new tree can be paid for by SRRA if funds can be raised. New trees need to be protected from cars.

3.2. Planning issues

Sylvia gave a summary of the history of the old allotment site and the adjacent former scaffold yard. (See the SRRA website for details of these sites). It is not clear what the current situation is. Morgan reported that community action had had an impact on a proposed development in the Edburton/St Andrews Road area.

3.3 Pavements and Bins

We are due to get blue recycling wheelie bins in August. One black bin will need to be retained, for glass. There is concern about the obstruction these bins cause, especially to those with limited mobility. Sylvia wondered whether an equality impact assessment had been carried out.

3.4 Community Spirit

Street parties and play streets have been found to be very beneficial in forging a sense of community. The church is organising play streets to coincide with the Saturday market.

We should look to other residents' associations for ideas regarding community activities.

4. Taking Things Further

Rob explained that SRRA offered a forum for people to come together and provide each other with collective strength working on issues that matter to them. Anyone who wants to make some active input to neighbourhood improvement was invited to come along to the next meeting. Official posts of chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary would be decided from that meeting. The following expressed an interest: Abby, Annie, Bridget, Ed, Gren, Jim, Jo, Julie, Rob; but everyone else is welcome too.