

# Highams

## Residents' Association

Founded in 1955 for the residents of The Highams Estate



### HIGHAMS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the **SIXTY- THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Association held on **THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018** in the Woodford Rugby Club Pavilion, High Road, Woodford Green

#### Present:

Committee members and approx. 30 other members.

#### Apologies:

Chris Twinn, Ian and Shirley Fraser, Nicki Everitt

#### Neighbourhood Watch Presentation from Neighbourhood Police Officers

PCSOs Thomas Appiah (Hatch Lane) and Susan Coughlan (Hale End and Highams Park) explained the current cost-saving measures being rolled out in the police force and gave crime statistics for our area.

They stressed the importance of reporting anything unusual to the police and of securing vehicles and properties.

#### Minutes:

The adoption of the minutes of the sixty-second Annual General Meeting was proposed and carried unanimously. (The minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM are available on the website)

#### Treasurer's Report:

Copies of the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, independently examined by Mr Ivan Carter, were circulated and presented by the Treasurer – Andy Kotas. They showed a satisfactory financial position.

There was a suggestion from the floor that subscriptions should be collected as subscriptions plus donations to encourage people to donate as donations were down from £240 in 2016 to £208 in 2017

#### The Chairman's Report:

The Chairman, David Jennings, welcomed Cliff Dewin to the Committee.

We are lucky enough to have some wonderful and hard-working people on the Committee, I wish to offer a big Thank You to them.

### No 2 The Charter Road

The application for the block of flats at this address is now going to a planning committee meeting which, I am informed, should take place sometime in April. We will of course be speaking out against this proposal (see also below)

### HRA Tea Party, 9th July 2017

We did try to make the 2017 Tea Party, more child friendly. We had several activities for the children, including face painting, cake decorating, and a quiz about the estate. For the adults we had wine or water competition if you guessed right, you got to keep the bottle of wine, surprisingly enough no one wanted to keep the water!

It was a great success, we probably had about 50 people, and plan to do a similar party this year. Please come along if you can. This year it will be held on 1st July in the Rugby Club.

### Cafe in the Highams Park.

As I write this the Cafe in the Park is a work in progress.

We are informed by the Highams Park Planning Group who are behind this project, that the Cafe will serve a dual purpose. Not only will it be a very pleasant facility for the park, it will also serve as a community centre. And will be available for use by any local groups, yoga, dancing, art classes, etc.

The toilets will be available for all users of the park, and include disabled access and baby changing.

The Cafe will be called Humphry's in honour of Sir Humphrey Repton who designed the park and is likely to be opened at the end of April 2018.

### New Gates for the Park.

While we are on the subject of the Park, it is due to get three new gates, See the links below:-

<https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/ten-winning-artists-granted-making-places-funding-breathe-life-waltham-forest%e2%80%99s-neglected>

The Highams Park Gates by Merrett Houmoiler.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pTNH8jS8Q\\_CZ3ofzbyHyoZiSNUiLBkzm?usp=gmail](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pTNH8jS8Q_CZ3ofzbyHyoZiSNUiLBkzm?usp=gmail)

### Conservation Status & Area of Special Character Signs

The Chairman stated that in February residents voted overwhelmingly in favour (76 in favour, 5 against) of trying to gain Conservation Status for The Highams Estate. A meeting is planned with the Council's Planning & Conservation Teams on 23<sup>rd</sup> April to discuss next steps.

A prototype of a sign noting the estate's Area of Special Character to be displayed at all entrances to the estate was shown.

### Planning Applications

The planning officer told of 21 planning applications this year. The only noteworthy one was the revised application for 2 The Charter Road. This is now likely to be going before a Planning Committee in June. Three speaking slots are allocated.

The Chairman will speak against it. Highams Park Planning Group's Gordon Turpin has also agreed to apply to speak. Cllrs Sheree Rackham, Marion Fitzgerald and Tony Bell are also against the application.

### Election of Officers and Committee Members

Chairman: David Jennings.

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Andy Kotas

Membership secretary: Ian Hill

Planning Advisor: Fiona Merrick

Trustees Representative: Jill Carter

Communications: Sinéad Morgan

General: Malcolm Billingsley, Cliff Dewin

*All of the above officers were proposed and seconded and passed unanimously.*

### Appointment of Independent Examiner of Accounts

Mr Ivan Carter of Keynsham Avenue was proposed as examiner of the 2018 accounts and his election was seconded.

### Any Other Business

A member suggested that next time the AGM should be held on a night when the Rugby Club do not have other meetings taking place; as there was a lot of background noise at today's AGM.

A representative of Cllr Sheree Rackham gave notice of two upcoming events; an anti-idling initiative taking place on Monday at the top of The Charter Road from 7:45 am to 8:30 am, and a Mental Health Forum for people who care for those with mental health problems at the Methodist Church on Winchester Road 4-7pm on 21<sup>st</sup> April.

The Chairman stated that once the date of the hearing for 2 The Charter Road is known, he would e-mail residents the contact details of the individual Planning Committee members so that they can send in their objections again.

A member stated that writing rather than e-mailing is better as it "fills out the planning officers' folders."

A member stated that the William Morris Gallery in Lloyd Park was kept open due to public pressure and, in particular, people writing to the Council to express their feelings.

There was a vote of thanks for the Committee. The meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm.