

# **SANDERSTEAD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the 92<sup>nd</sup> AGM at All Saint's Hall on Thursday 10th May 2018

## **1. Welcome.**

The Chairman Dennis King welcomed 80 members to the AGM especially the Police, our MP Chris Philp and our local councillors.

## **2. Apologies received.**

Cllr Steve O'Connell GLA member, Vice Chairman Jim Gibbons, Treasurer John Kempzell, Carroll and Michael Holmes, Beryl Myers, Michael Turner and Sylvia Moys.

## **3. Minutes of the last AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

These were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

## **4. Police Report.**

PC Dan Revell and PCSO Sam Brooks presented a report on policing in the Sanderstead area. With the enlargement of the Sanderstead Ward they were acquainting themselves with the new roads. Meanwhile, a meeting would be held to discuss the implications of policing in respect of Riddlesdown Collegiate,

Although crime was generally low, vigilance on potential burglary and motor vehicle opportunities was required by residents. The use of Smart Water was a major deterrent reducing burglaries by 90% in some areas.

Meanwhile, the Police were using reassurance visits, social media and CBNWA publications to keep residents advised of potential dangers.

There is likely to be a merger of Croydon, Sutton and Bromley to create a "Super" Police borough, aimed at economies of scale. However, as Croydon was the largest of these three, policing in our area would remain a priority.

Questions on local burglaries, particularly in Court Hill revealed that houses backing onto Parks, Golf Courses and other open land were often targeted.

Vans collecting scrap metal were often suspicious as they could be used for identifying potential houses, and number plates of such vehicles should be reported to the Police.

On the subject of the new 20 MPH speed restrictions, and dangerous overtaking on main roads, the Police did not have the resources to monitor these limits on a regular basis.

## **5. Chris Philp.**

Our MP Chris Philp gave a wide ranging review of the general political and economic situations since last year's General election.

It had been a volatile year with Brexit, the General Election and policies of Donald Trump, plus significant ministerial changes to the fore.

On local issues, there had been a raft of inappropriate local developments, whereas major brown field sites in central Croydon (Post Office, Nestle etc) were being ignored.

A decision on the Purley Skyscraper by the Secretary of State would be known by August 2018.

However, at last the Westfield development in Central Croydon was progressing, which would bring much needed shopper numbers to the Croydon area and boost local confidence (John Lewis has subsequently agreed to be one of the flagship store developments). Extra flats are part of the development which will be fully operational in 4-5 years time.

Other items presented:-

NHS Minor Injury unit at Purley Hospital – this includes X-Ray facilities and was working well.

Croydon University Hospital – a new A&E facility would be completed and operational later in the year.

Southern Railway – the service had been improving with signal upgrading progressing well. A major £1 billion plan for improving East Croydon station and especially the Windmill Junction was close to approval which would dramatically speed journey times.

ASLEF / NUR – ASLEF has agreed a 28% pay rise and are able to work trains without guards on all routes. This leaves the NUR dispute marginalised.

Discussion took place on the decline of the Whitgift Centre and the effect of current retail business rates in comparison with internet company's tax rates.

The Croydon housing target of 1,500 pa was considered too high in relation to Sutton and Bromley.

## **6. Secretary's Report.**

Michael Leach presented his annual report to the meeting. The majority of the year had been concerned with the continuous and sustained pressure from Croydon council to allow major plans for inappropriate infill development.

He presented a schedule showing a considerable and unprecedented number of major developments which are in an advanced planning stage currently. These, with very few exceptions, were passed in spite of considerable numbers of objections.

The current chairman of the Planning Committee, Paul Scott, has passed an alarming number of projects, giving developers free rein on sites across the borough, but particularly targeting infill sites on larger properties which are abundant in Sanderstead.

There is an unethical (but not illegal) system whereby many sites are passed to a wholly-owned council subsidiary company, Brick by Brick, run by Paul Scott's wife Alison Butler, who then engage developers (some of which are used extensively) to progress the plans. Unfortunately, after the recent local elections this situation is likely to persist for the next 4 years.

The Chairman has written to the council on this matter, and we have joined protesters from many other wards- with little success to date.

On other matters we will be erecting new signs for our much loved but little known green space – King's Wood – with indicator signs on relevant approach roads.

We have also been busy with Christmas Lights, Hear Me Speak, and developing Communications with our members via our Magazine, Web Site, and a new direct communication system to be rolled out in the forthcoming year.

Michael Leach thanked our councillors Tim Pollard, Lynne Hale and especially Yvette Hopley for their continued support in the last year.

## **7. Treasurer's Report.**

In the absence of our Treasurer John Kempell, the Chairman presented the Treasurers Report for 2017.

He identified increased Advertising Revenue for the Sanderstead News which covers publication costs, and especially increase subscriptions after a major drive especially in the expanded Sanderstead Ward.

We now have over a 1000 households as members the highest number for many years.

The Accounts were approved by the members, and thanks given to the Auditor Indrani Balachandran.

## **8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee.**

There had not been any new nominations therefore the existing Officers and Committee were elected en block, with the addition of Malcolm Saunders, who was presented to the meeting.

## **9. Chairman's Report and presentation of cheques.**

The Chairman reported on the Hear Me speak Competition and its continued success in encouraging children from 4 local Primary Schools to present to an audience on a specified topic. In this fifth year the competition would take place at St Peter's School in South Croydon.

The chairman presented cheques as follows:-

Neighbourhood Care	£500
8 <sup>th</sup> Hamsey Scout Group	£530
Neighbourhood Watch	£500
SE Cancer Help Centre	£500

The recipients gave brief presentations on the work of their various organisations and their need for financial support in difficult economic times.

## **10 Any Other Business.**

Sanderstead Car Park – Councillor Helen Redfern from Purley and Riddlesdown covers the area opposite the shops near Sanderstead Station which is one of our major concerns.

Councillor Pollard fielded questions on Housing Development, 20 MPH speed limits, Pot holes and other matters of local concern.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman asked all to remember our good friend Joy Gadsby. She was an expert on Local History and Green Issues and had been writing articles for our Magazine for many years. She will be sadly missed.

The Chairman then closed the meeting and thanked Waitrose for their donation of wine and soft drinks which were then enjoyed by the members.