

# Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association

## Notes of the Committee Meeting at 27 Roman Way

Wednesday 7th August – 7.30pm

1. **Present:** Paul Sparks (Chair), Sally Major (Treasurer), Peter Griggs (Secretary), Dorothy Sparks, Belinda Da Silva, Julia Brown, Dominic Tarn.

**Apologies:** Jane Shepherd, Ric Mears, Jerry Miller, Andy Clews.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the last meeting.

Peter said that unfortunately the enquiries from two potential volunteers (a driver and a call-handler) had not progressed to obtaining DBS checks.

All other matters arising were included on the agenda.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Sally reported that the Association has a balance of £1143 in its account.

4. **Secretary's Report**

Peter reported as follows:

- Membership – currently we have 141 member households and that the Summer newsletter will mention the advantages of Association membership with a more concerted promotion planned for the Winter edition.
- Correspondence - Peter referred to the invitation from Uckfield Lions for three volunteers to attend a cream tea in September. Julia and Belinda will be attending with Sally to contact Jane to see if she would like to attend. **ACTION Sally**
- Social media – we now have 596 people following our Facebook page.

5. **Good Neighbour Scheme update**

Dominic and Julia provided feedback from the AiRS' GNS networking evening at Lewes Town Hall. Key points included:

- Reword our flyer to avoid using the word 'lonely'
- Include testimonials in promotion literature
- Expect take-up to improve in year two
- Ensure Social Services provide a SS point of contact when they refer users

Peter advised that he continues to search for an artist to provide the artwork for a GNS postcard. Dominic offered to get a price for printing 2000 postcards **ACTION Dominic**

6. **Surgery Car Service (SCS) update**

Sally advised that the SCS had been busier of late. There was some discussion about whether we should in due course merge the SCS with the GNS.

Paul said that following his and Peter's attendance at the opening of Grants Hill Court consideration is being given to extending the SCS and the GNS to there. He said that many of the displaced residents from Streatfeild House were relocating to Grants Hill Court.

It was agreed that the volunteers should be consulted and if they were agreeable to the extension then Paul and Peter would meet the Manager at Grants Hill Court to put the proposal to her/him.

**ACTION: Peter and Paul**

## 7. New Planter in Browns Lane

Paul said that this initiative had received very favourable feedback at Father John's lunch. Peter advised that plaques had been purchased for this planter and the one outside Tesco Express and that they would be fitted soon. **ACTION Peter**

## 8. AGM – matters arising

The new venue for the AGM, at the Youth Centre, was found to have worked very well. It was felt that the attendance by the Uckfield College main contractor for a Q and A session was particularly useful.

A request was made for a hard surface under the Lest We Forget bench **ACTION Ric** Other matters are included in this agenda.

## 9. Request for a second bench in Browns Lane

Peter referred to this request which had been aired at the AGM and suggested that we seek to fund a second memorial bench but this time commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day in 2020. CPJ Field have pledged £250 towards the cost (approximately £1100).

It was agreed that we proceed with seeking funding and the land owners permission. Peter said it may be possible to get a WW2 fighter or bomber flypast from the Battle of Britain squadron at no additional cost. **ACTION Peter**

## 10. Community event in 2020

There was some discussion about whether we should hold a "Big Lunch" next year. It was agreed that we should plan to and that Peter would draw up a list of the tasks required to organise it and that these would be divided up evenly between the committee members.

**ACTION Peter**

## 11. Any other business

- 1) Paul referred to the climate change emergency and there followed a discussion about encouraging tree planting **ACTION Peter** to contact the Sussex Flow Initiative and possibly the Woodland Trust to see if free or low-cost saplings can be obtained.
- 2) Esteban (past committee member) who now runs Poppins Restaurant has offered to allow us to use the premises as a venue. Paul suggested an afternoon tea maybe? Peter mentioned that Poppins has joined the Shoppers Discount Scheme offering 10% discount.
- 3) Peter said he is planning to contact members shortly to see if there is enough interest in and Association organised minibus trip to the Imperial War Museum in London. **ACTION Peter**
- 4) Jane has asked that signage be provided to identify the service road for the properties Views Wood Path **ACTION Peter** to contact WDC
- 5) Peter advised that the Summer newsletter was back from the printers and 2000 copies now resided in Paul' and Dorothy's hallway!
- 6) Andy asked that the committee be advised that unfortunately the native species poppy seeds scattered opposite Streatfeild House had not taken. Dorothy said that using 'plugs' might prove more successful **ACTION Andy** to liaise with Dorothy for gardening tips.
- 7) It was agreed that the plans to remove the phone box near Tesco Express would not be opposed given its minimal usage (three calls in 12 months) **ACTION Paul** to advise UTC.

## 12. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm at Paul's house.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Next committee meeting:

**Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm**

Provisional date for Big Lunch 2020

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020**