



**ABOYNE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Committee Meeting  
28 September 2016 7.30pm

Present:	Barry Cropper (Treasurer)
Brian Benson (Chair)	Christine McLauchlan
Fiona Couper (Vice-Chair)	Sue Noon
Julia Duschenes (Sec)	

**1. Welcome**

BB welcomed the committee.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Nigel Gale sent apologies.

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Were agreed for accuracy.

**4. Matters Arising**

No matters arising that were not already covered by the agenda.

**5 & 15. Treasurer's Report and Subscription Collection Plans**

BC reported that the banking has now been transferred to his name and the account stands at £786.53 after £100 grant from St Albans Council, less cost of the banner. It was noted that the NORA subscription was not showing on statements. BC to check this has been paid.

Given the healthy state of the finances it was suggested that no subscriptions be collected this year, but that contact be made by Street Reps, membership cards to be printed and handed out and contact details checked and updated. To be finalised at Street Reps meeting on 12 October.

FC  
JD

**6. Comms Report**

FC reported that the newsletter went out successfully. An email about the current parking consultation will be forthcoming (see item 15 below).

An ARA Facebook page was discussed. There was some concern expressed about control of the tone of the communications and this will be discussed further at the Street Reps meeting.

FC to ask web designer about checking the number of hits on the website.

JD  
FC

**7. Planning**

The Rail Freight Interchange plan still hangs on whether or not the Council will/will be forced to sell the land to Helioslough.

## 8. St Claire's

Work has begun on reconstruction. BB contacted Roma Mills about the management plan but this seems to be sub judici which is felt to be unfortunate. To be watched. BB/NG

## 9. Strategic Local Plan (SLP)

The Inspector has now challenged the SLP on the grounds that the council has not consulted sufficiently with neighbouring councils. BB, NG, FC to attend meeting on Thursday 26 October at 2pm to hear all points of view. The public will not have a formal voice at this meeting but there may be the chance to ask questions.

District Local Plan (DLP). No news.

## 10. Albany Lodge

This is the local Mental Health Trust's acute care unit. Some patients have been causing disturbance on Church Crescent and residents have expressed concern. There have been requests for an on-site smoking area to stop street smoking. No success so far but there is reason to believe that Chris White is organising a meeting with the Head of the Trust. BB to check. BB did however meet with the local matron who is trying to implement calming measures. These worked for a while only. To be watched. BB

## 11. City Centre Redesign

FC reported on attending, with Bashir Jivani, the Charette organised by Look!St Albans. It was supposed to be a large consultation exercise but whilst many of the professionals/developers attended, there was very little public interest that evening and it was felt that the event was not very professionally produced. There have been no reports so far. FC to ask organisers for a report. [The following day brought news item in the local Advertiser]. FC

## 12. Aboyne Lodge School

FC to contact Alun Davies about the poor state of the school buildings. FC

## 13. Sustainable St Albans Week

Unfortunately, ARA has missed the deadline to take any part in this week (19-27 November). However, several ideas for community projects were discussed: e.g. each house in a street to plant a fruit tree and share the produce; 1m allotments for local food production. It was agreed to ask Street Reps to sound out interest in their areas. BB suggested showing support for the week and canvassing support from the street reps, too. JD

## 14. City Neighbourhoods Committee

BB attended recent meeting and was puzzled as to the purpose of this committee. BB to contact Alun Davies who is the current (reluctant?) chair for clarification. It transpires that each ward in the city centre has £5,000 budget and there was discussion as to whether this should be pooled, but that idea rejected. Disappointingly, this committee has no oversight of the Neighbourhood Plans. BB, BC to attend next meeting on 19 January 2017. BB/BC

## 15. Parking

Formal consultation notices have gone up in the area and letters have been circulated. Feedback is required by 11 October, before the Street Reps meeting, so FC to send emergency email to all ARA members, including a link to the consultation document, to alert them to it and to encourage them to comment, particularly Upton Avenue and Etna Road where changes will have a great effect on

residents. BB, FC, Bashir Jivani (Etna Rd rep) and Alun Davies are meeting Gary Payne (in charge of consultation) on 5 October to discuss the implementation of any parking in Upton Avenue and the meaning of voucher parking on these streets. BB/FC

Parking on Etna Road is becoming an increasing problem as new flats appear to have been given parking when planning permission for the flats was given on condition that they had no parking. Bashir to check the outcome of the original planning meeting. For further discussion at Street Reps meeting. BB to write a submission to the consultation on behalf of ARA after next week's meeting. BJ  
JD  
BB

15. **Subscription Collection** see 5 above.

16. **Early planning for AGM**

Date: Tuesday 21 February at 8pm at Aboyne Lodge School Lodge Room. JD to book. JD

17. **AOB**

BC reported on the play area at Victoria Playing Fields: the plans are not out to tender yet, but installation still planned for Spring 2017.

Green Space Action Plan: there will be a trial meadow sowing by Countryside Management Services. Volunteers also required for this. The very large laurel trees will be replaced by hedge plants. all

BB attended the Joint RAs meeting where there was much discussion of the closure of The Brickyard and the bad feeling caused by biased local press reporting against local residents.

18. **Future Meetings**

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL DATES HAVE CHANGED!**

Wednesday **12 October 7.30** Street Reps meeting at 11 Selby Avenue

Wednesday **30** November 7.30pm Full Committee

Thursday 12 January 2017 Full Committee prior to

**AGM Tuesday 21 February, 8pm**

However, **Thursday** 8 December Social gathering for all remains on the same date.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm