

Meeting of the 69th Annual General Meeting of the Eastcote Park Estate

At St. Thomas More Church hall.

Approximately 30 people in attendance.

Welcome and apologies for absence.

Apologies from Gwen Weston 29 Rodney Gardens, John Rose
Mark Lemon, Mary Jungreuthmayer.

The meeting was chaired by Scott Seamen-Digby

Minutes of the 68th AGM

Matters Arising

No matters arising. Minutes have been approved.

Chairmans Report and Social Events

Thank all residents and committee members for their support and work during the last year.

It has been a great privilege to be your Chairman again in 2007, and I am conscious that I have had to rely heavily on committee members due to work and Council pressures. The arrangement seems to have gone well though.

In the past year we have had a number of events, some stalwarts like the carol service and egg hunt, and some new ideas like the dance, which didn't go as well as we had hoped but has given us much to work on for the years ahead.

Again we dedicated our charity donation to Grangewood School, a marvellous organisation so close to the estate and doing such wonderful work with children from across the borough. It is always humbling to receive the kind letter of thanks from their head teacher, letting us know how very grateful the children have been for the activities and events that our donations fund.

We have had a number of issues on the estate and some points to raise also. If I may I will take them as part of my report here.

Firstly we addressed the issue of the Burwood Triangle as instructed at the AGM last year. We have met with immediate residents and discussed a way forward as part of a phase 2. This is still being discussed and in the interim the island looks much better than with the dying hedge.

Secondly is the issue of the proposed article 4 directive that was raised last year. This has not come to fruition as after extensive research and collection of evidence, the borough decided that the estate might warrant the granting of a conservation area order.

The review of Areas of Special Local Character was done in a very professional manner and in accordance with best practice. The public consultation was full, lengthy and in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, and a number of households did respond, many with other questions regarding the area that officers have addressed directly. Public consultation, with full supporting information given to residents was carried out door to door, and was supportive. This along with the heritage and other evidence of the estate's character led the Cabinet of Hillingdon Council (I did not vote as I live here) to adopt the proposal.

A leaflet is being developed to explain the conservation area status and letters will be sent to all homes on the estate advising them of the new conservation status. Once these are sent and the required adverts placed in the local press, the conservation area will be formally in place.

We also had some concern as a committee over a proposed cycle path which was planned by TfL to be run through the conservation area of the Eastcote House Gardens (this falls under Eastcote Village conservation area) which many including local councillors, the Eastcote residents Association, the local history and conservation panel and others felt was unnecessary. An alternative route has been suggested through the new RAF Eastcote development and it transpires that funding is available for this as part of the planning agreement – it is hoped this safer route (there is no issue having to cross the busy intersection at High Road, and more suitable proposal will be adopted by the Council. Overall it has been a good year on the estate.

Some of the issues raised last year by residents have been looked at:

Tree at junction of Burwood and Cheney – this has been passed to our local Councillors

We discussed last year the proposal to add another sign, possibly at Pamela Gdns. The cost seems prohibitive and also we then considered that perhaps we might want a sign also at the Burwood entrance. To try and defray the cost and get some support I have asked the council to investigate supporting new signs as part of the conservation area development. Signs, matching the old estate sign but with the addition of 'Conservation Area' in some way, would be installed to denote the new status of the estate. They seemed positive and are looking into the issue.

The bridge over the Pinn has been removed by the council and a new one is to be prepared by the Local Authority for replacement hopefully in the summer.

Thanks to Robin Pyburn for the Web site which has been so well maintained. Rob will be Eastcote Park lead on tackling the Council about the Coach House and what is planned.

That concludes my report for this year, if there are any questions at this stage please put them, or else we can hold them over to AOB at the end of the meeting?

Questions. General discussion about the proposed cycle path was had and the Minchens highlighted what a waste of money it was. Scott noted that money was not local government but central government ring fenced funds.

Conservation Area was raised as to what it involved by Mr. Minchen. Conservation area will stop some permitted development and impose other minor restrictions. The council will write to residents about this giving more detail. Another resident noted that the council meeting held at the Methodist church was during the day when most people could not attend. It also seemed that most residents at the meeting were against the proposal. Scott went into a detailed explanation of the Council procedures in electing areas Conservation Areas.

Richard Hodkinson asked if the new Conservation Area would affect Curb stones, grass on pavements etc. Scott advised basically no it would not affect these areas, but the council may have an obligation to undertake planned work sympathetically.

Road condition. Residents asked if moves could be made to the Council to resurface the roads. Scott suggested a standard letter was sent out by residents concerning the roads. Pester power is the best way to achieve a result. David Minchen submitted a 21 person petition to the Council and was told that there was little chance of the road being resurfaced.

Bottom of Rodney Gardens had replacement light posts, why have old ones not gone. Scott answered that until Electricity Board disconnect they cannot be removed. Richard Hodkinson asked if new lamp posts could have conservation area in mind as silver posts rather obtrusive.

House at junction of St. Lawrence/Bridle Road... there are too many cars parked on the corner. Scott to contact local Councillor.

Adoption of Accounts and Auditors

AUDITORS

We should say "Audrey Harrington and Arthur Wilson have again agreed to be honorary auditors. They have done this now for many years so thanks are again in order"

The general fund reduced to £1,667.68 from £1,690.63. This small reduction of £22.95 is the first year of reduction since 2002 when the Jubilee celebrations were funded.

Subscriptions rose to £618.00 from £591.00. We had 82% membership in 2006 being 206 members out of a possible 251.

A £380.00 donation was made to Grangewood School. This was more than the welfare collection from residents with £8.20 being made up from the general fund. The 2006 AGM voted to retain Grangewood school as our nominated charity for 2007,2008 and 2009.

The major item of expenditure was again public liability insurance. The Roads Stewards evening was the only other significant item of general expenditure. This cost depends largely on how many people are able to attend on the night. The evening is by invitation but is normally open to Road Stewards, Committee Members and Neighbourhood Watch co-coordinators. It is some small reward for those on whom the association relies. Clearly there are opportunities for more volunteers in these areas so we do need to continue to recognise the work done by some residents to keep the association in funds and operating.

The events made a loss of £199.40

The Easter egg hunt made a £3.17 profit

The association funded the £40.45 cost of refreshments provided to the Christmas Carol singers.

The autumn Ceilidh made a loss of £162.42. We needed approximately 42 ticket sales to break even on the ceilidh. Unfortunately only 27 were achieved. The event was not well supported by residents with less than 20 sales to EPEA members.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch. Chris Head

Chris is now in contact with the safer neighbourhoods co-ordinator. The estates neighbourhood watch needs to be got up and running and will be contacting the past road stewards.

Hillary Lemon noted that child had walked over her car causing damage.

Warning to unsecured computer networks to have these encrypted.

Election of committee and Nominations

Mark Lemon was nominated and seconded.

Any other business

Proposal

Possibly to have the council sponsor signs for the estate in Burwood and Pamela Gardens.
Motion put to have committees approach the Council to fund the signs.
Richard Hodgkinson asked if local residents could agree the design of the sign.

Allotments to rear of Rodney Gardens that water may be laid on to the estate. Can this be confirmed by the Council and put into the newsletter.

Scott. Are there things on the estate that people would like.

- We could speak to Glen before next planting season.
- Infill holes where bench removed.
- Assistance to Margaret for planting up front roundabout.
- Possibility of sponsorship of roundabout? Some residents thought this was not a particularly good idea.
- Spraying of pavements to prevent weeds.
- Proposal to remove the weeping ash to the front of the estate had mixed views. We will ask the council to approach a tree surgeon.

Best gardens certificates awarded as per newsletter. Overall winner 47 Burwood Avenue.
Hillary noted how much she loved the Estate and neighbours since moving onto the estate within the last year.