

# MINUTES

## Barden Residents Association

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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### In Attendance

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Mark Hood (Chair), Lucy Athey (Secretary), Debbie Burkin (Vice Chair), Fran Long (Treasurer), Fred Long, Jo and Gordon Young, Sarah & Stuart Young, B McCort, Sarah & Joff Brown, Maureen Coulstock, Warren & Linda Nel, Megan LeGoubin, Tom Carradine, Glynn Rees, Harry Elliot, Sara Scannell, Robert Oliver, Martin Coulstock, Dawn Boughton

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### Approval of Minutes & Apologies

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Mark Hood called the meeting to order and thanked the large amount of residents attending. The previously circulated minutes from the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved.

Apologies from Julie Bowie.

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### Website & Noticeboards

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Mark reported that our bank account has now been set up and household subs are being collected by treasurer Fran Long. This money will initially go towards setting up our website, noticeboards and printing costs. A free website would have a long-winded web address so we are looking at paying a nominal amount to set up with a short web address e.g. bardenresidents.org. Once enough money has been collected one of our first purchases will also be a community noticeboard; Clare from Barden Stores has kindly agreed a board can be situated outside her shop. Mark has also written to South Eastern to see if it is possible to have an additional board situated outside the rear entrance to Tonbridge Station. It was also proposed there could be a further board on Avebury Avenue near the entrance to the park.

**Sarah Brown** reported that Tonbridge & Malling used to have a pot of money for funding non-profitable groups, she offered to check if this is still available. Another resident offered to help with printing costs by providing us with paper.

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### Tonbridge & District Housing

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Concerned tenants reported that landlords Worrin & Lawson have been taken over by Tonbridge & District Housing, who are raising rents at a rate of 10% every 12 months until they are paying the local market value. They have many houses in the Barden area and this will affect 100s of local residents, concerns were voiced in the meeting that if they were unable to afford the rise they would be forced to move and this would make a huge negative impact on the area. It was agreed to share that they have a [Facebook group](#) for tenants, also that flyers could be distributed to advertise a tenants meeting. **Fred Long** offered to contact The Courier on their behalf to see if they are interested in covering the story.

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## Parking

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All should have now received letters regarding the second consultation period for the new parking scheme splitting Zone D into two zones. Debbie Burkin made everyone aware that there was a misprint on the plans, and that the new longer hours where a permit is needed will also apply to Danvers Rd & Holford Rd. If anyone has issues or concerns they have until 21<sup>st</sup> February to address them to the council using the forms that all residents received.

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## 20mph Speed Restriction

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- Mark has been in touch with councilors who are broadly in favour of the proposed 20mph restriction in the Barden area provided that we can demonstrate that this is something that is wanted by residents. Therefore, we will be attempting to canvas neighbours with our petition, while also asking them for their £2 annual subscription to become members of Barden Residents Association. There are a lot of doors to knock so the committee would be grateful for any volunteers who would be prepared to knock on the houses in their street to collect signatures and subscriptions. It is hoped that the bulk of this will be done before the next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. It was suggested we talk to The Courier to see if they would like to cover this as a story/photo opportunity.
- Previously the idea of a section of Barden Road (between Avebury Ave and Holford Road) being made one-way had been discussed as a method of traffic calming and making more parking spaces. It was decided that this would not be added to the petition at this time.
- A resident raised the issue of a local who disturbs the peace in the car park to the rear of Holford Road and also parks illegally in Gladstone Road, it was suggested that they contact the local PCSO to see if they can speak to the driver concerned.

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## Litter Blitz – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February

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Organizer Robert Oliver has the equipment provided by the council including hi-viz jackets and 12 litter pickers. All volunteers are to meet outside his house, 133 Barden Road, at 10am on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February, please bring own gloves. A rough route was discussed starting on the patch of land near the garages/railway bridge and then to blitz as many streets as possible (depending on how many volunteers turn up on the day). Posters were distributed to display in windows and Mark will also add the poster to the Facebook group so it can be printed out by others.

Joff Brown recommended the Littergram app which users can post images of local fly-tipping, Lucy to post link on the Facebook group.

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## Street Trees

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If overgrown trees in your street are in need of being pollarded, this can be reported to KCC using their [online form](#) that is also used to report broken signs, potholes, street light faults and traffic signal faults.

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## Drainage & Flood Defences

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- Flood wardens Martin and Dawn were able to attend the meeting following their flood walk around the area and reported that following the heavy rainfall we were currently on flood alert.
- All the flood defences for the area have now been completed, one resident reported that the new slopes (particularly the one adjacent to the dentist) can be tricky for the elderly to walk up and would benefit from a hand rail.
- Stormonts garage is causing problems as water from their car washing is not going down their drains but instead pooling on Holford Road.
- It was queried whether planned drainage works had been carried out on Danvers Road, **Sarah Brown** offered to look on the Highways Agency website to check on this.
- There was a discussion on the lack of pump in the Danvers Road area and a flap-valve for a storm drain which is possibly not functioning possibly.

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## AOB

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- Fly-Tipping – Debbie made the point that it is not up to the committee members to contact the council when there are cases of fly-tipping and that *all* residents should contact the council when they are aware of a litter problem. **Debbie** and **Mark** to repost the links of who to contact on the Facebook group. It was suggested that we have a pinned post at the top of the Facebook group clarifying the remit of the group, and stressing this point. Debbie has been in touch with Network Rail about the fridge dumped on their land near Clare Avenue (this is not KCC land). To report an incident of fly-tipping telephone Streetline on 01732 87 60 60 or [fill in the online reporting form](#)
- We now have a Twitter feed @BardenResidents with over 100 followers.
- The bin that used to be opposite the end of Northcote Road, but floated away in the 2013 floods, has still not been replaced - Debbie has contacted KCC.
- The Christmas Window competition was a great success and will be repeated, Debbie presented the runners prize to Barden Road resident Sarah. Also discussed were having a Halloween Competition, a Christmas Grotto (Sarah Martin is hoping to organize one for local children and will ask for help/donations nearer the time) and a Hanging Basket competition in the Spring.

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## Next Meeting

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The next meeting will be Wednesday 24th February at 8pm. The Scouts are still happy for the hut to be used free of charge as it is good for them to be regarded as a 'community asset'.