

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association

Wednesday 27th April 2016

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Co-Chair), Debbie Burkin (Co-Chair), Lucy Athey (Secretary), Fran Long (Treasurer), B McCort, Warren Nel, Julie Bowie, Karl & Sarah Hardcastle, H Elliott, Jade Langridge, Luke Staley, Laura Fox, Emma Kibble, Glynn Rees

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Debbie Burkin called the meeting to order and welcomed the residents attending. The previously circulated minutes from the meeting on 24th April were approved. Apologies from Cindy Parkhurst, Robert Oliver, Sarah Martin, Sarah & Joff Brown.

Noticeboards

Mark has now obtained permission for three lockable noticeboards (of varying sizes) to be put in place; outside Barden Stores, the rear exit of the train station and on the wall near the entrance to the park/Avebury Avenue Bridge. These will display minutes and details of social events and competitions. They will only be used to display Barden Residents business, and not for any other notices. Tonbridge Station have requested they also have a key. It was suggested that we make boards to save on costs but Mark has researched the boards and they will need to be pre-made and waterproof.

The boards will cost approximately £80 each (dependent on size), and so now we need to concentrate on collecting subs to pay for these*. Claire from Barden Stores has offered to collect membership subscriptions at the shop on our behalf. A resident informed us that there is a street party being held in Nelson/Cromer streets as part of the Big Lunch – it was agreed this could be a good opportunity to collect further subscriptions.

**Karl Hardcastle kindly offered to approach Tonbridge Juniors Football Club to fund/sponsor a board at a later point in the meeting.*

Tonbridge & District Housing/Worin & Lawson

Since the last meeting in February there has been an article in the Courier about the proposed sale of Nelson Rd properties and a tenants meeting also attended by Mr Alan. Fortunately, since then it has been announced that T&D Housing have decided to hold onto the properties in the Barden Area and have written to tenants to reassure them that they will not be evicted. Several tenants were at the meeting and expressed their concerns that they still feel under threat as annual rent increases could mean they will eventually be priced out of the area. DB reported that Mr Alan has assured her they will not try to access properties without permission and is happy to contact him with any concerns regarding this.

MH recently attended a housing meeting hosted by Tonbridge & Malling council in which he raised the concerns by T&D tenants, the council have said that tenants should call them with any issues and they will intervene where possible.

Membership Drive/20 mph petition

We still need to volunteers to take on their road to collect signatures for our 20mph petition and also collect £2 sub fees where possible. Copies of the petition were distributed at the meeting to several residents but we need other streets to be covered.

Lucy to set up an online petition. It was suggested signatories on the online petition could indicate if they are prepared to pay their membership fee, then they could be collected at a later date.

The '20 is Plenty' nationwide campaign was discussed. The Slade area is likely to become a 20mph zone once Phase 1 of the High St refurbishment is completed and this sets a good precedent for our area.

DB has been in touch with our PCSO regarding speeding drivers, she has received an email back from the Acting Inspector who said they are unable to do mobile speed checks at present in our area. DB has requested that if anyone sees a speeding car they take their registration and report it to the police as they will follow it up.

Litter Blitz 2

Robert Oliver is keen to organize a second Litter Blitz; a date was penciled in for **Sunday 5th June**.

Fran has been in contact with Russet Housing regarding the small plot of land near the railway bridge/garages cleared in the first Litter Blitz and they have already met with our request to create a small gate in the fencing. This means that at the next event we can not only collect any new litter but also clear the land of weeds and plant wildflower seeds. It was suggested they could be sensory plants and also ones to attract bees. We would also like to provide 'bug habitats'.

Summer Social

MH proposed that like Slade Residents Association we organize a summer picnic and social event for residents. Sarah & Karl Hardcastle offered the use of Tonbridge Juniors clubhouse so we can provide a barbeque and also toilets. A sub-committee was formed to organize the event; currently Mark, Lucy, Debbie, Karl, Sarah & Julie. They are meeting **Wednesday 11th May** at Lambert's Yard Scout Hut to fix a date and make plans— anyone else is welcome to join them!

Hanging Basket Competition

The competition will also include window boxes and children can plant an old Welly Boot. Judging will take place at the end of July. LA to make poster to advertise.

- Linda & Warren Nel previously raised their concerns about the overly-bright lighting at the South Eastern building on Preston Road which backs onto their property and others in Gladstone Road. Lucy has been in touch with a contact at South Eastern who confirmed that they have recently repaired the lighting on the building which had been broken for several years – their concerns have been passed on and they will look at the lighting going on a timer or sensor. They were unable to give a time frame for this.
- Carl Lewis has informed Lucy that the EA are aware of the need for a handrail on River Walk to assist elderly and infirm residents over the new humps/flood barriers.
- Debbie is going to train to become a Dementia Champion and would like to run a course to enable locals to become “Dementia Friends”. LA suggested the land we are improving in the Litter Blitz could become a dementia-friendly garden along the lines of the one near the Angel Centre.
- MH has looked into the apparently conflicting cycling signs on River Walk but reported that both actually mean ‘no cycling’ in the Highway Code.
- Station Announcements – a resident has reported to the committee that the volume of station announcements is unnecessarily high during the day (a problem for any shift workers). It was agreed that this only seems to be a problem with live announcements as opposed to pre-recorded ones.
- 2 residents have reported to the authorities that their neighbours’ dogs continuous barking is a real problem, one resident has received a letter and a diary to complete from the local police.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 22nd June** at 8pm.