

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association Meeting

Tuesday 28th November 2017

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Chair), Lucy Athey (secretary), Gill Sargent, Matt Sargent, Maureen Coulstock, Martin Coulstock, Megan LeGoubin, Jo Young, Julie Bowie, Fred Long, John Cackett, Alison Cackett, Greg Fox, Matthew Rudd, Emma Cole, Cathy Chadwick, Steph Wenzel, Felix Wenzel, Stewart Dearsley

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Mark Hood (chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from the AGM on 27th September were approved. Apologies from Julie Lane, Sarah Brown, Fran Long, Warren Nel, Averil Langridge and Clare O'Shea.

Treasurer's Report

Fred Long (on behalf of Treasurer Fran Long) updated us on some of the year's expenditures and income: we began January 2017 with £346, income has come from the £2 subs per household and pop-up cake stalls run at events. Our outgoings include website design & running costs, prizes, fruit trees for local Barden garden on Audley Avenue and a gazebo to be used at events. We have finished the year with £335 in our account. LA suggested we consider donating to charity yearly on behalf of BRA. It was agreed that we hold off on this until the new year once we have costed our planned leaflet (to advertise our existence to residents). MH suggested that if we do donate it is to 1st Tonbridge Scouts who kindly lend us their hall for our meetings; all agreed with this.

20mph Campaign

There have been two traffic incidents in the last month; one involving a pedestrian's dog being hit by a van and another involving four vehicles (three of which were written off). MH asked that residents report/log all incidents so that we can collate them and provide as evidence for the 20mph campaign. We will write to the Joint Transportation Board (made up of TMBC councillors, KCC councillors and other officers) giving the examples of Slade and the Meadow-Lawn areas in Tonbridge who are already 20mph. ML raised concerns over the large lorries travelling up and down Barden to the railway, MH to contact Network Rail to query what they are storing in the large underground tankers there. LA to post on Facebook to ask if anyone on Barden Rd would be willing to have a 20mph sign in their garden to act as a deterrent until we can get the area officially reclassified as such.



Parking Scheme/Business Permits

D1 residents are now allowed to park in D2 if needed, we now need to move on to the second stage which is writing to TMBC to ask them to reduce or remove the amount of business permits allocated in D2. We will also query how Enterprise House builders appear to have permits when we were told no more were to be issued. Martin Coulstock offered to assist the existing parking committee in this next stage.

River Lawn #keepriverlawngreen campaign

MH updated all on the current status, including the application for Village Green status & rejection of the Asset of Community Value for 1-4 River Walk. See the Facebook page for more details.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a spike in anti-social behaviour by a local group of teens in Tonbridge, including our area. If anyone experiences or witnesses this, please get in touch with our local PCSO Mary Coe by calling 101.

The Nelson Arms

The new owners of The Nelson Arms, Matthew and Emma, attended the meeting to meet and update locals. The refit has taken longer than anticipated but they hope to be open by mid-late January. Matthew thanked BRA and MH for applying for the AOCV (Asset of Community Value) on the pub earlier this year as it forced Shepherd Neame to sell and consequently enabled them to purchase it. They want it to be a community-led pub and informed us that in 15 years of pub ownership they have never had any problems with neighbours due to noise, anti-social behaviour etc and anticipate this will continue in Barden. Due to the lack of parking it won't be a food-led pub with a restaurant, however they will offer some choices and also plan to put on a Sunday lunch.



Proposed Cancellation of 202/211 Bus Service

This is part of KCC's £4m cuts to their bus service planned for September 2018 which have been widely criticised in local press. Many of our elderly and vulnerable residents rely on this service and we will write to KCC Councillors Richard Long and Michael Payne regarding this, and also invite them to a BRA meeting along with residents of the bungalows to attend - offering them transportation if they would like to come.

Flood Warden Report

Martin Coulstock reported that although there has been some response to their plea for more volunteers to act as flood buddies for their streets following our July meeting, there are still more needed. MC will be putting together a simple 4-question "knock & drop" survey which will be distributed in Barden. MH suggested a return address be added in case households are not in or MC could ask if Barden Stores would mind acting as a drop-off point.

AOB

- The footpath adjacent to Avebury Avenue along the river has confusing signs regarding cycling; it was suggested we make our own signs saying, “Please give way to pedestrians”.
- MS reported that the “give way” road markings before the railway bridge need to be repainted.
- LA is attending the Tonbridge Forum on behalf of BRA on **Monday 4th December** at The Angel Centre (for more details on this click on the link below) if anyone would like to attend with Lucy they are welcome to join her: <https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=3000&Ver=4>
- There is an Area 1 Planning Meeting on **18th January 2018** at 7:30pm in The Angel Centre, the agenda for this will be published a week before on this link; <https://democracy.tmbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MId=3021&Ver=4>
- Tonbridge Calling are hosting a winter disco at The Telegraph Club on **Saturday 13th January**, the next summer festival will be **Saturday August 4th 2018**.

Next Meeting

Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to enable as many people as possible to attend.

The next meeting is;

Wednesday 24th January 2018