

MINUTES

Barden Residents Association AGM

Wednesday 27th September 2017

In Attendance

Mark Hood (Chair), Lucy Athey (secretary), Fran Long (treasurer), Matt Sargent, Martin Coulstock, Dawn Boughton, Megan LeGoubin, Warren Nel, Glynn Rees, Jo Young, Harry Elliot, Jo Murphy, D Morgan, John & Alison Cackett, Claire O'Shea, Troy & Laura Jones, Andy Thistlewood, Ross Butcher

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Mark Hood (chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from the meeting on 25th July were approved. Apologies from Greg Fox, Helen Kirk, Julie Lane, Molly Laughton-Zimmerman, Averil Langridge, Joff & Sarah Brown, Fred Long

Presentation by Chair Mark Hood on events of the last year

"The last year has been eventful again and unfortunately we have had to say goodbye to some good friends at the boatyard and have found ourselves with other unwelcome developments.

We have established the wildlife garden at Avebury Avenue, which is a work in progress, and have also been working on improving the planter outside the train station.

We have held regular Litter Blitzes to improve the appearance of the area.

Our AOCV application at The Nelson Arms seems to have worked and we look forward to seeing it opening soon, we hope we never need to act on the one at River Lawn we recently secured.

The renovation work at the boatyard hasn't materialised yet, we will be monitoring with regard to the planning proposal we expect at some point.

The ongoing Keep River Lawn Green campaign is now in its ninth month and we now have the medical centre planning application to deal with.

The Enterprise House development is nearing completion in respect to the shell being completed and we wonder what impact it will have when it is occupied?

The Parking Scheme has been reviewed and TMBC are implementing the scheme that was originally proposed. Now this has been confirmed we need to push to make further amendments regarding business permits.

Our 20mph proposals have been on the backburner as there have been so many other issues in the past year.

I hope that things will settle down soon and we can concentrate on the more mundane things that Residents Associations normally deal with. We didn't even have time to fit in our summer social, which I personally am very disappointed about. Hopefully we can make amends at Christmas."

Election of Officers

Mark Hood was re-elected as Chair, Fran Long as Treasurer and Lucy Athey as Secretary. All were proposed, seconded and voted by those present. Unfortunately, Jon Sidaway our vice-chair, has had to move out of the area as he was a resident of the boatyard so this role is now vacant. Mark outlined the role of vice-chair to those present; they would help the chair and committee to run the association and would stand in at a bi-monthly meeting if the chair was absent. No one at the AGM wished to stand for this role so we will advertise it via our FB group and website. In addition to our existing committee members Matt Sargent and Jo Murphy agreed to join the committee. Sarah Brown, who was unable to attend the meeting, has also joined.

Parking Scheme

The consultation has now been completed; there were 150 replies which is 23% of those polled and considered a good response by TMBC. Although some may be disappointed by the outcome (D1 residents will now be able to park in D2 if there are no spaces in their end of Barden as originally proposed) Mark hoped all would agree that even though the scheme isn't perfect at least everyone should be able to park *legally*. The recent review purely focussed on the D1/D2 issue to keep it simple but now the business permit issue needs to be addressed. Claire informed us that local businesses within Barden were also consulted. Mark is still awaiting the FOI request regarding business permits and pointed out that the council could make more money if businesses parked in council-run car parks. Andrew Thistlewood, who attended the recent transport meeting on our behalf, stressed that we have now started a dialogue with the council and said that Cllrs Peter Bolt and David Cure are very keen to address the business permit issue next; Cllr Bolt called them a "plague" on the local residents and Cllr Cure referred to them being handed out like cornflakes.

River Lawn & River Walk #KeepRiverLawnGreen

Approximately 450 supporters took part in the successful protest march up the high st, which featured on BBC South East news that evening. The next event is a Conkers Not Concrete – Conker Championship on Sunday 8th October on River Lawn from 10am.

It was voted for by all those present to apply for an Asset of Community Value on 1-4 River Walk and the 1st Tonbridge Scout Hut in Lamberts Yard (where our meetings are held).

1-4 River Walk is now for sale. The KRLG group are keen that whoever buys the attractive 1920s building keeps the original building in some way.

Medical Centre

All comments on the plans for the new medical centre on the site of the former Teen & Twenty must be submitted by **5th October**. There are concerns about the neighbouring tree that is threatened and that there is no mitigation for rainwater storage (as at Enterprise House). Even if people are in favour of the Medical Centre they may still have queries about drainage, the flood risk (the Teen & Twenty flooded in 2013 causing £15k of flood damage), parking, increased traffic, pollution etc.

Boatyard

No work has been undertaken on the site yet. The neighbouring plot of land (formerly the Rendezvous) has now sold at auction but we're unaware who purchased it. There is a strong case against development on this land.

Flood Protection – Martin Coulstock and Dawn Boughton

As Flood wardens Martin and Dawn cover many areas in Tonbridge, they are focussing on getting residents of the at-risk areas involved and becoming a “Flood Buddy”. This mainly involves having a plan for your street in case of a flood, knocking on doors to alert neighbours who may not have received the flood warning and helping with the clear up afterwards. Anyone interested should contact Martin or Dawn, details will also be posted on the Facebook group. They also showed those present Environment Agency “Flood Extent” maps that show which areas could be potentially flooded over 20, 50 or 100 years. Martin has PDF files of these which could be posted online.

AOB

- The parking bay by the entrance to Enterprise House is set to be closed to allow for removal of the crane.
- The parking bay on Holford street was due to be closed for up to six weeks while the original external brick wall is removed. Thanks were given to Jo Murphy who has negotiated with the contractors; although the pavement will not be accessible, the parking bays will now only be closed for one day.
- Glynn queried whether the pavements opposite Enterprise House are to be repaired as they have been damaged by the lorries that park on them while waiting to gain access (although they have been told they are not meant to idle there).
- Fran Long is keen to plant spring bulbs in the wildlife garden and asked for volunteers to help with this. The flower beds that we had been maintaining behind the station are likely to be turned into additional motorcycle parking so we won't be doing anything with these at present.
- Barden in Bloom – this year our winners are Julie Bowie, Graham & Heather and no.3 Chestnut Walk.
- The Nelson Arms is due to reopen in mid-November.

Next Meeting

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

The next meetings are;

Meeting – Tuesday 28th November 2017

Meeting – Wednesday 24th January 2018