

TOTTERIDGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF 81st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON Thursday 5th July 2018
AT KEMP HALL, ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL, TOTTERIDGE GREEN N20
AT 8:15pm

Totteridge Residents' Association **Chairman, Kerin Conn**, welcomed everyone to the **81st AGM**, particularly the **Guest Speakers: The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, Dianne Murphy** of the London Wildlife Trust, **Dr Deborah Frost** and **Colette Wood** of the Barnet CCG.

Also welcomed were: Our President **Eileen Eskenzi**; Cllr **Caroline Stock**, Deputy Mayor of Barnet; Cllr **Richard Cornelius**, Leader of the London Borough of Barnet; Cllr **Alison Cornelius**; and our local Police Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team - PCSO **David Morrow**, PS **Tony Toporowskyj** and PC **Majid Younus**.

Apologies were received from Nigel Wray, Paul Davis, Rev Tim Seago and Jenny Ellis.

1. Approval of Minutes of 80th AGM held on Tuesday 20th June 2017

The minutes of the 80th AGM had been distributed and were available in the Hall.

Approval of the Minutes was Proposed by Aviva Bard

Seconded by Paul Flashman

2. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

Approval of the accounts was Proposed by Richard Stock

Seconded by Sarah Langsford

Michael Lim presented the accounts.

3. Subscriptions

The subscription will remain at £5 per household.

4. Election of President: Eileen Eskenzi

Proposed by Hilary Howells

Seconded by John Morris

5. Election of Vice-Presidents: Nigel Wray, Paul Davis, Rev Tim Seago

Proposed by Hilary Howells

Seconded by John Morris

In response to a question, Eileen Eskenzi explained that the position of Vice-President is an Honorary one; the members are active in the community and support the TRA.

6. Election of Committee

Chairman: Kerin Conn; Treasurer: Michael Lim; Secretary: Barbara Wishart;
and existing Committee members:

Claire Bannister, Aviva Bard, Michael Caro, Jenny Ellis, Paul Flashman, Adam Harris, Michael Jordan,

Sarah Langsford, Alexander Masson and Christine Riley

offered themselves for re-election.

Proposed by Tony Eskenzi

Seconded by Dianne Murphy

7. Election of Hon Auditor

It was proposed to continue with the appointment of Taylors Chartered Accountants as the Independent Examining Accountant for the Association.

Proposed by Michael Jordan

Seconded by David Asher

8 Guest Speakers

8.1 Dr Deborah Frost

Dr Frost has been a GP for 30 years and is the Chair of the Barnet CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group). The Barnet CCG is an NHS organisation responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for Barnet residents.

Dr Frost described a typical day in her life as a GP and answered questions from the floor:

Q: With the huge new residential developments in the area, is the CCG responsible for ensuring there are sufficient GPs etc?

A: Yes. The CCG works with the LBB and Healthcare planners. They are also looking at different ways of providing services via hubs and 8-to-8 7-day weeks.

Q: Why is it so difficult to get a non-urgent appointment?

A: Dr Frost herself will speak with all callers, but there are fewer doctors going into general practice. Pharmacists can now take on a lot of what was traditionally the province of the surgery e.g. running diabetic clinics.

Q: With fewer doctors, the majority working part-time, how will they deliver the services?

A: The aim is to cut down the bureaucracy e.g. by getting someone to deal with hospital letters, or allowing pharmacists to hand out 6 months' worth of prescriptions etc.

8.2 Police Report

PCSO David Morrow of the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) presented a report on the following topics:

1. Car Crime

- . Thefts of/from motor vehicles have decreased in the last year.
- . Owners can help reduce thefts by making it less attractive, leaving nothing of any value visible in the car (not even £1 coins!) and ensuring it is always locked.
- . Keys (including spares) for 'keyless' cars are best kept in Faraday pouches far from the front door.
- . The old-fashioned crook lock is still the best defence as it takes time to dismantle.

2. Burglaries

- . These have increased slightly since the previous year.
- . Handouts were available with prevention advice for each season.
- . Advice offered included putting lights on timers (ideally different times for different days of the week) and leaving the radio on when away.
- . The Royal Mail website offers a Keepsafe facility to temporarily hold mail delivery while away from home.

3. OWL – Online Watch Link

- . OWL is a police-approved scheme which allows residents to receive local Neighbourhood Watch alerts via email. Registration is free via <https://www.owl.co.uk/>.
- . Residents can also buy security and safety products such as the RING doorbell system, often at a discount, through OWL's online shop at <https://owlprotect.uk/>

Questions from the floor, answered by the NPT:

Q: What should be done with video clips from RING showing suspicious groups trying doors?

A: Report the incident by calling 101 or online or by emailing PCSO David Morrow with the clip.

Q: Are there any police stations open in the area?

A: The Colindale station next to the RAF Museum is open 24 hours.

Q: Has RING footage helped catch any burglars?

A: The police have caught and arrested one person doing criminal damage to 8 houses. If reported, the police will obtain any RING evidence.

Q: Have we enough police officers?

A: There are 2 police officers (PS Tony Toporowskyj and PCSO David Morrow) and a core team. More officers would be very welcome.

Most burglaries are committed by opportunists, and many are often attributed to one culprit.

8.3 The Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP

Theresa Villiers congratulated the TRA for their work in protecting the environment.

On this 70th anniversary of the founding of the NHS, she welcomed the extra £20 billion of NHS funding promised by the Government over the next 5 years. Her priorities lie with the GP services, especially in the areas of new builds. The good news is that the cancer survival rate has increased, although the UK still lags behind other countries with earlier diagnoses.

On the issue of the Barnet Police station, she is urging the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to keep the station as there is no alternative base close by for Police officers. The station is still unsold and in use, so there is a chance it may remain. With £150M spent on cycling and pedestrian areas and £1/2 billion in reserves, the funds are available.

Plastics and air pollution is another area of concern.

Theresa Villiers has fought against overdevelopment of Barnet House and welcomed Barnet Council's rejection of the latest plans. She recognizes the need for new homes but as more are being built in Barnet than in any other London borough it is imperative to find a plan in tune with the area - which does not include tower blocks. Schools, especially new ones also get her support.

Reliability is down on the Northern Line, and she is pressing Mayor Khan to reverse his changes.

Another concern is the viability of town centres, and she is working with retailers to provide support with initiatives such as the Teenage Market. She has also supported the Battle of Barnet re-enactment which should encourage visitors to the area.

Questions from the floor:

Q: What can be done about the car parking problem?

A: The TFL's and Mayor Khan's plans to minimize off-street parking are resulting in more cars being parked on the streets. Barnet Council's policy is the opposite: builders should provide adequate parking. Theresa Villiers has opposed a number of planning applications on the grounds of inadequate parking.

Q: What is your position on Brexit?

A: We need a close partnership. However, we should not stay in a customs union with the EU as that would entail a loss of control over the rules.

Q: As someone who works with the elderly, I would like to know what the Government is doing about broken pavements and uncollected litter, especially as it affects the older population?

A: Despite budget reductions, Barnet Council has maintained standards while under pressure. The government has provided some additional help but more is needed for Social Care. A paper will be published in the autumn.

Q: As a school governor, I see cuts impacting negatively on making schools more functional. Are the rumours of cuts to free meals true?

A: Free meal funding will not be reduced. More children will qualify via benefits. Theresa Villiers is happy to discuss the issue with the school in question.

8.4 Dianne Murphy

Dianne Murphy is a Totteridge resident, a member of the London Wildlife Trust (LWT), and a Trustee of the new Darlands Trust. The LWT is one of 47 independent branches in the UK, together managing 40 reserves in the Greater London area. The Trust runs outdoor education sessions linked to the national curriculum and offers professional ecological advice.

Mayor Khan plans to build 66K new homes each year and the LWT is working to minimize the impact.

There are 3 current projects:

1. Water for wildlife

This involves surveying and mapping waterways and flooding. Also being surveyed are dragonflies, which are excellent indicators of habitat changes; residents can report sightings through the LWT website.

2. Hedgehogs

Hedgehog numbers have decreased by 1/3 since 2006. This is as a result of a decrease in habitat caused by pesticides, paving, fences and busy roads. Hedgehogs are capable of roaming 2-3 km each night. Residents can help by cutting 13cm square holes in fences; milk should not be provided as they are milk-intolerant. Residents can help the surveys by reporting dead or alive hedgehogs and their area via the LWT website.

3. Gardens

London has 3 million gardens, ¼ of its area. The Trust is trying to transform these into a network of nature reserves. It has produced gardening guides which are available on its website.

Totteridge Fields includes the Local Nature Reserve, managed by the LWT, comprising 3 fields, mainly of uncultivated grassland and old hedgerows, with grazing cattle.

Questions/Comments from the floor:

Q: What is the state of the muntjac population?

A: The muntjac deer is now common in SE England and spreading.

Most prefer the cover of woodland, but can sometimes be seen in gardens, more likely at night.

They can be tracked by their small droppings and footprints.

Q: Foxes are an increasing problem, encouraged by the use of brown food waste bins.

A: Foxes are very adept at unlocking the bins; a brick can prevent this.

The use of brown food bins may soon be discontinued.

Q: Can anything be done to reduce the number of crows and magpies in the garden? They make a racket and rob the nests of smaller birds.

A: Some species simply prey on others. The crow population seems to be increasing.

Spring-loaded feeders are recommended and can protect smaller birds from pests.

Q: What are the many blue and black butterflies seen recently?

A: Butterflies are most abundant now.

The little blue ones are likely the Common or Holly Blues; the black ones may be Ringlets if large.

The Marbled White (white with black-checked markings) is doing well in the warmer weather.

Q: There seems to be an alarming collapse in the number of bees.

A: All pollinators, not just bees, are affected by pesticides, which is a factor in their decline.

Most bees live in and lay eggs in holes e.g. bamboo canes. They can be helped by providing bee-friendly plants and bee/insect hotels for wintering.

9. Matters arising and AOB

Questions/Comments from the floor:

1. The future of Darlands – Cllr Richard Cornelius

. Darlands used to have a large artificial lake which has silted up over the years. The Council has paid for rebuilding the dam but there is no money for its maintenance. The aim is to retain it for its residents but it will require a lot of upkeep.

. A Trust has been formed and the Council has agreed a lease. The Trust will have to raise a substantial amount for maintenance but the future looks promising.

2. Problems crossing Totteridge Lane – John Morris

. Totteridge Lane, between Longland Drive and Hendon Wood Lane, has 11 pairs of bus stops but only 1 zebra crossing and traffic lights at St Andrew's School and Hendon Wood Lane.

. As there have been objections to adding safe pedestrian crossings at the bus stops, he will ask the Councillors to include in their agenda a discussion (with the TMA) of possible solutions.

3. Increase in Traffic Problems along Totteridge Lane – John Morris

- . With the increasing development in the area there is a corresponding increase in volume and speed of traffic, which has led to 2 major accidents and frequent blockages at Hill Crescent and Highwood Hill; there are no speed limit signs to curb speeds.
- . Between Longland Drive and the Grange there are 10 side roads on the north side and 7 on the south, making it a built-up area needing a speed limit. Once installed, how would these limits be enforced?
- . He is asking the Council to take these concerns on board.

Response from Cllr Richard Cornelius:

- . The speed limit on Totteridge Lane is 30mph all the way. Speeding drivers caught out have all been local residents. The best way of slowing down other drivers is to drive at 30mph.
- . Totteridge Lane is a major TFL artery. The Council will take the comments on board.

4. Bad driving on Totteridge Lane – Mr Proctor

- . While the speed on Totteridge Lane is a problem, the bad driving is more serious, with frequent dangerous overtaking.

Response from Kerin Conn:

- . Double white lines have been put in at the Memorial but overtaking still occurs in the area.
- . A box junction and double white lines will go in at the Waitrose junction, which may help.
- . Kerin has also asked for speed cameras/guns as fast sports cars are using Totteridge Lane as a racetrack.

Response from Cllr Caroline Stock:

- . The Councillors are treating this very seriously. It cost £100K to install the double white lines at the Memorial and this has greatly reduced incidents.
- . The crossing at The Totteridge Academy is also a problem with the children not using it and the school unwilling to send monitors.
- . Highway Enforcement will not allow double lines at St Andrews
- . Meetings are being held with the Highways Department at Links Drive.
- . The paving at the top of Southway cannot be moved to facilitate an exit because various services are buried directly underneath.

Response from Cllr Alison Cornelius:

- . Speed gun trials with PCSO David Morrow identified a number of speeding cars but tickets were not issued.
- . Halo lights will be installed on Totteridge Lane at the zebra crossing at Lipkin's Pharmacy.

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanked the President Eileen Eskenzi, the Committee, the Road Stewards for all their hard work and the Councillors and speakers for attending.

The members were reminded that they could keep up with the TRA and other local organisations by looking at the website www.totteridgeresidents.org/ and could contact the organisation by emailing info@totteridgeresidents.org or chairman@totteridgeresidents.org .

All were invited to stay for refreshments and further discussion.