

TOTTERIDGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON Tuesday 20th June 2017
AT KEMP HALL, ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL, TOTTERIDGE GREEN N20
AT 8:15pm

Totteridge Residents' Association Chairman, Kerin Conn, welcomed everyone to the 80th AGM on the hottest day of the year, particularly the two Guest Speakers: Theresa Villiers MP and Mike Noronha from the Barnet Museum Also welcomed were: our President Eileen Eskenzi , Cllr. Richard Cornelius, Leader of the London Borough of Barnet; Cllr. Alison Cornelius; Cllr. Caroline Stock, our local Police Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Sgt. Percil, PC Younis, and PC Morrow; Terry Bannister, Chairman of the Totteridge Manor Association, Reverend Tim Seago Vice- President, Chris Fairbairn Headmaster Totteridge Academy. Apologies were received from Nigel Wray, Paul Davis, George Burgoyne, Alexander Masson and Barbara Wishart.

1. **Approval of Minutes of 79th AGM held on Tuesday 5th July 2016**

The minutes of the 79th AGM had been distributed and placed on the TRA Website and were available in the Hall. Approval of the minutes was Proposed by Holly Kal-Weiss
Seconded by Aviva Bard.

2. **Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

Approval of the accounts was Proposed by Adam Harris
Seconded by Richard Stock.

Michael Lim presented the accounts and encouraged everyone to pay their subscription by standing order.

3. **Subscriptions**

The subscription will remain at £5 Minimum per household.

4. **Election of President:** Eileen Eskenzi.

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

Proposed by Adam Harris

Seconded by Barbara Jacobson.

5. **Election of Committee**

Chairman: Kerin Conn; Vice-Chairman: George Burgoyne; Secretary: Barbara Wishart; Treasurer: Michael Lim; and the existing Committee members: Claire Bannister, Michael Caro, Jenny Ellis, Paul Flashman, Mike Jordan, Alexander Masson and Christine Riley, offered themselves for re-election.

Proposed by Kitty Nabarro
Harris

Seconded by Pauline

6. **Police Report** (Sgt. Percil) Sgt. Percil explained that he had served in the community for 18 years and had been a sergeant for 6 years. He had served in the Boroughs of Camden and Barnet and was now the Police Sergeant responsible for Totteridge Ward. Each ward has a Police Sergeant and 3 police officers 2 of which will always be trained officers. He is a level 2 trained officer so can be called upon to deal with

Demonstrations etc elsewhere. Totteridge Ward is one of the safest in the Borough and this is partly due to the help and cooperation the Police receive from local residents and businesses. The incidence of serious crime is low. The burglary statistics show a low rate compared with the rest of the Borough, 6 having occurred in May. The dangers of cold callers both on the phone and at the door were emphasised. The incidence of knife crime had risen and a recent initiative involved visiting various stores and shops that provided knives for sale. CCTV and road cameras can provide the police with evidence.

Questions:

1. Burglaries
2. Police force numbers
3. Paperwork burden
4. Muggings
5. Photos of dwellings placed on Facebook without the owner's permission
6. Is CCTV any good as evidence in court
7. Car theft
8. Waitrose car park thefts
9. Motorbikes on paths in Dollis Valley Greenwalk

7. Guest Speaker: Theresa Villiers MP

Theresa Villiers thanked the TRA for inviting her to their 80th AGM. She started by reflecting on the recent terrible tragedies of the terrorist attacks in Manchester and on Westminster and London Bridges in London. Her experiences as a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had shown her how persistent and long term the effects of violence and terrorism are. She welcomed the very real efforts of society for inclusion of all and refused to be blighted by these events. On Sunday she was at a street party in Linkside and reflected on her former colleague Jo Cox and her maiden speech in the Houses of Parliament. Her heart went out to all the families who have suffered in the Grenfell Tower Block Fire on June 14th and she welcomed an inquiry so that we can learn how to prevent such an incident ever again. Our council is inspecting all Tower Blocks and landlords of property such as York House will also re-examine their renovations. The proposed conversion of Barnet House to Studio flats is unacceptable and she will oppose it. She was thrilled to have been re-elected in the recent General Election; there were 3 recounts. She had had hundreds of conversations with residents during the election. She wants youngsters to achieve their aspirations and will be listening to their issues. She wants to look after all her constituents and that includes all of us in Totteridge. She thanked us for giving her the opportunity to address us here in Totteridge. Questions: 1. What were her views on the current situation re Brexit? 2. What were her views on the Police Budget?

8. Mike Noronha CMHA Barnet Museum: THE BATTLE OF BARNET

Mike Noronha gave a spirited and enthusiastic account of the Battle of Barnet, which

took place on Easter Monday on April 14th in 1471. The Wars of the Roses started in 1445 when the Yorkists and the Lancastrians fought at St Albans. Henry VI, a weak man, had returned from exile and was on the throne. Edward IV, the 18-year-old Duke of Gloucester (who became Richard III), and who led the Yorkists and Henry VI all spent the preceding night in Barnet. The Lancastrians were lined up on either side of the Great North Rd probably behind the hedge that marks the boundary of Old Foulds Golf Club. The Yorkists crept closer during the night. In early morning heavy fog the Lancastrians, led by the Duke of Gloucester chased the Yorkists back to Barnet but the Lancastrians were shot by their own men in the foggy confusion that followed and subsequently retreated. The Yorkists finished off the Lancastrians and after the Battle of Tewkesbury ruled for the next 12 years. The centre of the Battle is marked by an Obelisk on Hadley Green which was thought to mark the spot where the Duke of Warwick was slain. Barnet Museum has commenced a Battle of Barnet Project which involves Research, Education, and Archaeology. Recent surveys in the fields uncovered two cannon balls. A second project involving the local community is planned, concentrating on the location of the actual Battlefield. Education is provided by the provision of Loan boxes to schools and by accompanying school visits of up to 30 children to the battle sites. The Battlefield Trust is holding a talk in the Church Hall, Lyonsdown Road, on July 6th 2017. The community project is envisaged as a poster for Barnet as the battle of Barnet was the focal point of the Wars of the Roses and arguably more important and more decisive than all the other famous battles in England. The emblem of the White Rose should be on every sign in Barnet. A resident reminded us that on the site of the present Barclays Bank in Whetstone once stood a very pretty pub called the Hand and Flower and the pub sign was a White Rose. He believed the Lancastrians had rested there on their march to Barnet. Mike Jordan addressed the meeting briefly. He has been the Chairman of the Barnet Museum Trust for the past 12 years and had written an article in the TRA Yearbook on the Physic Well in Barnet. The Well would be open this Saturday from 2-4 pm. The museum hopes to restore it to the condition that it was believed to exist in 1937. Barnet Museum is the only Museum remaining in the Borough.

9. Discussion from the floor

1. Julian Hanson reported on the progress he had made after 70 residents had signed a petition requesting a speed limit of 20mph in Barnet Lane. Various measures had been proposed. The problems associated with the egress of school pupils in mid-afternoon were highlighted once again.
2. The risks of fire in all highrise buildings was raised. Cllr. Cornelius said that the residential tower blocks would be inspected first. Barnet House has held a Fire Evacuation practice. Barnet Council staff had been helping out in Kensington after the fire at Grenfell Tower.
3. The lack of building inspection. A resident complained that a newly built house in Oaklands Road had been given a certificate of worthiness when it was patently unworthy. He had found it necessary to report on inadequate gas installation compliance and other factors. He had discovered that that the Local Authority delegates building approval to an agent. The agent turns out to be a fellow member of the Housebuilders Association. This is unsatisfactory. The Borough of Barnet does have a Building Inspector

4. A resident in Greenway Close was concerned about the residual amount of Asbestos in several of the houses
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The Chairman closed the meeting, thanked the President Eileen Eskenzi, the Committee, and, in particular, the Road Stewards for all their hard work.

The Chairman thanked Theresa Villiers MP, and Mike Noronha for his talk on the Battle of Barnet, and the local Councillors for attending the 80th TRA AGM.

Members were reminded that there was a new updated website: the activities of the TRA, and of other organisations in Totteridge, can be followed by looking at the website www.totteridge-residents.org and that the organisation can be contacted by emailing info@totteridge-residents.org.

All were invited to stay for refreshments and further discussion.