

**Minutes of the Southborough Residents' Association
Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 22 April 2008
at Shrewsbury House School, 107 Ditton Road, Surbiton**

Present: Suzie Buller Chair
Cllr Nick Kilby
Paul Bradbury RBK Senior Planning Officer - Surbiton
Nigel McDonnell RBK Traffic Engineering Manager - Surbiton
PC Paul Blundell
Approximately 90 residents were present, including SRA Committee Members

Apologies: Cllr Janet Bowen-Hitchings, Cllr Paul Johnston (who joined the meeting near the end), Mr and Mrs David Morgan, Dr Chris and Mrs Ann Rowland, Mr and Mrs Tony Stansfield, Mr and Mrs J Pank, Mrs Lucy Spiers.

1. Welcome.

Suzie Buller welcomed Southborough residents emphasising that this event was primarily for them to have time to express their concerns and views on matters important to them, and she hoped to keep the business side of the evening short. The last year had been a very busy but successful one for the association, and major developments had taken place in putting the new membership scheme in place. Residents had also generously contributed to the SRA Fighting Fund, and our finances were on a much more secure footing. A major success had been the Bristol Inspector's dismissal of Sunrise Senior Living's appeal against the rejection of their care home plan. We understand that Sunrise intend to submit another application soon, which the SRA will be monitoring closely.

2. Minutes of the last AGM held on 30 April 2007 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Short Report on SRA Activities 2007-2008.

Owen Palmer thanked the Headmaster Mark Ross for the use of the excellent facilities both for our AGM and SRA committee meetings. The Headmaster in July last year had also generously provided the school's hall as the venue for the four day Sunrise appeal hearing at no cost to Kingston Council.

There have been significant changes on the SRA committee. Ken Peay has worked tirelessly and effectively for both the SRA as well as the Kingston Society. Currently, Ken, together with Louise Etherington, is pressing Kingston Council for changes to our conservation area boundary line.

For the last two years, Richard Graves has undertaken this conservation and planning work with great motivation and timeless effort. Unfortunately, due to ill health and great regret, Richard has resigned from this key post. We all appreciate his extensive efforts for the Southborough community.

Regarding our Conservation and Planning Team, we now have in place three new committee members to oversee these activities: David Morgan, a retired solicitor acting as group leader. David was one of the SRA team fighting the Sunrise development in 2007. Then Ben Stephenson, whose professional career expertise lies in the area of planning and the environment, is already attending monthly Conservation meetings at the Guildhall. Louise Etherington is the third member, and she has valuable experience in helping the local community by having lead the campaign against the installation of 3G mobile phone masts in Langley Avenue.

Edwina Littleton is the new SRA Neighbourhood Watch representative and is already working with our Community Police. She aims to build up the local Neighbourhood Watch team.

After twelve years as Hon. Secretary, Owen Palmer will retire from the SRA Committee in April 2009. Margery Kent, also a long standing committee member, will retire then.

Over the past few years, there have been many community problems but our three Surbiton Hill Ward councillors and Kingston Council management have given this association greatly valued support. The main battle in 2007 was with Sunrise Senior Living, where we won through in the short term.

Other problems include the state of our pavements and speeding traffic along Langley Avenue, both of which are well recognised by our Council. The main battle ahead will be with Sunrise, who, for the third time, intend to submit plans during May 2008 involving the same piece of land on the corner of Langley Avenue and Upper Brighton Road.

We hope residents will attend our social event on September 7th, and also consider joining the Kingston Society which undertakes very good work for the borough.

4. Treasurer's Report and Membership

David Edmonds said this had been our strongest financial year yet. Although the Sunrise campaign costs came to over £1,000, we have built up solid reserves and a fighting fund of over £3,000 which will be needed in the next battle with Sunrise. Due to the sound work of Suzie and Jeremy Buller, we now have 222 households who have joined the new annual subscription system, and they have collected nearly 150 e-mail addresses to simplify and speed up communications. We hope to increase these in the coming months. This area of our activities has been an impressive performance by the SRA committee and supportive residents. There is more work to be done in recruiting new members to the SRA.

5. Election to the SRA Committee. Ben Stephenson, Louise Etherington and Edwina Littleton were voted onto the SRA committee.

6. The Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

PC Paul Blundell outlined some interesting facts on local policing activity: our local Community Support Officer team have tackled issues of anti-social behaviour, car drivers, cycle riders and youth. Over a one year period there have been 26 low level crimes involving local house entry, cars speeding, and theft from vans. Edwina Littleton will be working with Paul on the Neighbourhood Watch brief.

7. Report from Paul Bradbury, RBK Senior Planning Officer – Surbiton

Paul spoke to the meeting on the subject of planning in Kingston, and Surbiton in particular, which always borders either side of a fine line of interpretation. He said that building design in Southborough must be taken in context to the area. He described the housing pressures every council is under for building in London boroughs, even in low housing density areas. He said it is vital there is public consultation, and acknowledged that the SRA plays an important role. The whole subject of garden development is being debated by the Council during 2008. Regarding Sunrise, he said their development plans are not regarded as housing but rather 'a facility of care'. Kingston Council are supportive of the SRA over Sunrise.

8. Report from Nigel McDonnell, RBK Traffic Engineering Manager - Surbiton

There are some speeding problems in Surbiton, and there will be more speeding signs along Langley Avenue. The issue of a 20 mph road enforcement is being undertaken in the Surbiton area. There will be more road sign replacements in Southborough.

The parking scheme is working quite well and the problem of gaps is being examined. Much pavement work is being undertaken at street corners. Pavement work in Southborough will be actioned when finance is available. There is the problem with tree roots in many of our roads.

Nigel went on to describe plans for major work along Victoria Road, with a £100,000 budget. Function and form will be examined and the control of people crossing the road. This will be a two year programme and no doubt the lessons from New Malden High Street will be taken note of.

10. Question and Answer Session

Councillor Nick Kilby outlined several activities of local concern that he is involved with, chiefly the reorganisation of waste collection in the borough.

11. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Owen Palmer
Hon. Secretary
Southborough Residents' Association