

**MINUTES OF EASTCOTE PARK ESTATE ASSOCIATION 66TH ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON 20TH MAY 2004**

The 66th annual meeting of the Eastcote Park Estate was held on 20th May 2004 at the Methodist Church Committee Rooms, Pamela Gardens, Eastcote at 8.00 p.m.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Scott Seaman-Digby with approximately 30 residents attending.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The chairman welcomed all members of the Estate and allowed Committee Members to introduce themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Bacon, Peggy Kirke, Hazel and John Brown, Peter and Janet Stephenson, Greg Tanner.

MINUTES OF THE 65TH AGM

The minutes of the 65th AGM were proposed, seconded and adopted as a fair representation of the previous AGM.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman stated that in November a very successful history evening was held at St. Lawrence church hall where the guest speaker recreated the memories of life in the great houses of Eastcote Haden Hall and Eastcote House.

A children's disco was also held although there were fewer attendants than in previous years. The committee will continue to host the event but have asked people to let them know when they are interested as soon as possible after the initial invitations are forwarded in the newsletters.

On the social front there were plans for a family fun day on 26th June in the park. Details of the event were circulated throughout the estate although the response was particularly poor. As a result of this lack of enthusiasm and the considerable amount of work that would be required to host such an event it was proposed that it be cancelled and an alternative event considered for next year.

As Chairman of the Planning Committee for the northern borough the chairman has seen a number of applications both across the estate and in the local area over the past few months. He said that it would be something of a conflict of interest for him to comment on applications within the estate confines but did note the concern among residents concerning changes to Bridle Road. Scot noted that developers had submitted further plans and appealed on their original refusal which was upheld by the Inspector.

All residents who have access to the internet can check planning applications by visiting www.ukplanning.com and following the links through to Hillingdon Borough and the relevant roads. Alternatively residents are encouraged to speak to the planning officers at the Civic Centre who will show planning application if they are provided with a few days notice on 01895 250111. An evening service is also available.

The bulbs planted over the previous years continue to flourish and the Chairman has passed on his thanks to everyone involved in weeding and watering the areas during the relevant months. Particular thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald for cutting the grass on the island.

If there are areas on the estate that residents feel are being neglected please contact the Local Authority Environmental Services Department (01895 556000).

The Chairman noted that in the age of the internet it would be preferable if as many people as

possible forwarded details of their email address to members of the committee so that they can be kept up to date on recent developments. It is obviously far more cost effective to send out emails as opposed to standard newsletters.

With regard to the Coach House and walled garden much work has been done by officers behind the scenes after efforts on our behalf by ward members, Councillors Dan, Payne and Baker.

Mr. Stewart Hunt, the Trees Countryside and Conservation Manager, has met with local people on several occasions over the last few months to help get a local support group going. This is important to ensure there is local support to enhance the public use of the coach house.

Hillingdon have been exploring heritage lottery funding options and concluded that the lead-in times are particularly long with no guarantee of success. The officers are waiting for comments from the local group regarding draft project planning for a grant bid at present.

A meeting of Eastcote Residents Association is planned for 27th May and council officers will attend. Martin had noted that we did not renew our subscription this year although sees no reason why we would not be welcome to attend the aforementioned meeting.

Scott highlighted there is still a problem with youths in park damaging the fabric of the remaining historic buildings and causing harassment of St. Lawrence Drive homeowners by stone throwing. He offered his thanks to the local police who appear to include the park and coach house on their routes and are making regular visits. Residents are encouraged to contact the parks patrol on 01895 239241 should there be any problems which need reporting. Calls are automatically redirected to officers on-patrol if the office is unattended. Main hours are 9.00 a.m.- 10.00 p.m.

A recent prosecution of a local off-licence has also helped to reduce the incidence of drinking in the walled garden, which itself has reduced vandalism.

A new bat box has been positioned in the park to encourage bats and it is planned that two owl boxes will also be installed over the coming months.

A tree survey is to be carried out by LBH and they will advise of any proposed or replacement trees which may be needed in the park.

The river crossing over to the Case is Altered is in need of attention and Scott will speak to the Local Authority about this.

Members who need to speak to the committee Chairman can contact him on ssd@seman-digby.fsnet.co.uk. Residents are also encouraged asked to speak directly to their Ward Councillors across Eastcote:

Councillor Catherine Dann – cdann@hillingdon.gov.co.uk

Councillor Bruce Baker – bbaker@hillingdon.gov.co.uk

Councillor David Payne – (Borough Mayor)

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2003

The accounts were presented by the treasurer, Martin Hand, from which it was noted that the additional funding of £2000 last year was paid over to Hillingdon Council to fund tree planting on the estate. The income was approximately £560, made up of subscriptions from 87% of homes (219 out of 251 properties). This amount has been relatively consistent over the years. Monies donated over and above the subscription of £2.50 was forwarded to Grangewood School, which this year totalled approximately £420.

Public liability insurance still remains a major expenditure at £195 for 2003. General fund stands at £1,486.

The accounts were proposed and adopted as a correct and fair record.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jenny Buckmaster was unable to be present although her report was presented by Scott. There are six new members and the system appears to be working well locally. Residents were warned of two men posing as police, who were attempting to gain access and burgling properties.

Should members of the estate wish to visit the crime prevention officers their office is open on Friday between 9.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. behind Ruislip Police Station.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

All members were happy to stand for re-election and Chris Head also offered his services to rejoin the committee which was warmly welcomed.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS

It was proposed that the existing auditors would be retained and the motion was accepted.

PROPOSALS

Martin Hand proposed that the annual subscription to the estate be increased from £2.50 to £3.00 per annum. He noted it had been six years since the last increase and this only just kept pace with inflation. For a number of years the Committee has been subsidised by members undertaking photocopying works at minimum cost and the extra subscription monies should assist with this. The motion was passed.

It was noted that last year we gave Grangewood School £425 and a letter of thanks was read out by the Chairman. It was proposed to adopt Grangewood School for the next three years to enable them to undertake a degree of planning in the knowledge funding was available. Motion carried and adopted.

The Chairman recommended that in future Ward Councillors be invited to the AGM. Again proposed and accepted.

OTHER BUSINESS

A handout was prepared and passed to all members present concerning the potential Article 4 direction which would come up in front of the June Planning Committee. The Chairman highlighted that this was only at a very early stage and the aim of the Article 4 direction was only to control certain elements of the visual aspect of the estate. Examples given were on the windows, gable dormers or the like. Residents raised obvious concerns that an Article 4 direction could be extremely draconian and a high level of liaison with the Local Authority would be necessary to ensure that it only covered limited elements. Scott confirmed that the residents would be consulted in detail before any action was taken. Chris Head recommended that a referendum of all people on the estate be carried out bearing in mind the sensitive nature of the proposal.

BURWOOD TRIANGLE

The famous Burwood Triangle was again brought up and residents noted that a decision was apparently made in the last AGM to cut back the width and height of the hedge, remove dead plants and treat the honey fungus. The Local Authority was asked to service this area and Scott confirmed that he would write to them directly to endeavour to progress this matter.

The problems with the roundabout at the bottom of the Glen were again raised and Scott confirmed that he would visit the site with council officers to try and get some action to be taken with regard to this. The name plate in Pamela Gardens was also in poor condition and Scott would chase the Local Authority concerning replacement of this.

Residents highlighted that a number of Yew trees had been removed and were in need of replacement. Scott noted that there were various dangerous trees in the Park which needed felling and renewal and he would again speak to the relevant parties.

The matter of the corner properties at the entrance to St. Lawrence Drive remained uncompleted despite being worked on for several years was raised and the planning enforcement officers would be contacted regarding this.

The tree replacement in Burwood Avenue was raised and Steve highlighted that this was only partially completed. Scott to speak to the ward councillor in connection with this.

Committee members put forward a proposal that gardening support would be provided to less able people on the estate. The aim was to encourage community service on the estate. Scott also noted that Age Concern provided similar services and if anyone knew of someone who might benefit from this they should contact the committee.

The committee was also looking for a cause to sponsor as a community and the committee would investigate this as a later date.

WEBSITE

It was noted that the existing designer and host of the website was extremely snowed under with business and Chris Head indicated that he would possibly be interested in assisting with the website.