

THE COUNTIES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2013

Committee Members Present:

Helen Zammett	Chairman	HZ
Mark Bentley	Treasurer	MB
Janet Berger	Secretary	JB
Gill Bramham	Membership Secretary	GB
Malcolm Dowers	Webmaster	MD
Ron Berger		RB
Steve De'Ath		SD

Also present: Councillor Alex Wilson, PCSO Simon Jones, Sergeant Arif Siddique, Beryl Thornton (Carlton Terrace Association), Geoff Horsnell (Wanstead Society) and Scott Wilding (Wanstead Society).

1. **Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed members and guests to the meeting. The Chairman reported that the committee was unchanged since last year and introduced the committee members present.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence received from Naomi Passman.

3. **Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held on 9 July 2013 were agreed.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

MB presented the financial summary for 2012/13 to the meeting (*copy attached*). MB reported that the finances for the past year were straight forward. In previous years grants had been received but not in the year 2012-2013. Membership is in good shape and funds are held for unforeseen campaigns.

5. **Membership Report**

GB presented the membership report to the meeting (*copy attached*). Membership remains healthy in 95 households.

6. **Election of Committee Members**

As per the terms of the Constitution, MD resigned from the Committee. There being no other officers proposed, it was proposed by June Harrison and seconded by Geoff Horsnell that Malcolm Dowers be re-elected to the Committee. AGREED

7. Wanstead NHW Policing

HZ introduced PCSO Simon Jones and Sergeant Arif Siddique who spoke on the following:

- Wanstead Police Station. The SNT will be moving to Woodford Police Station in September.
- Local Police Model – will come into effect in September. Urgent calls will be dealt with within 15 minutes, others in one hour.
- Move to Woodford – PCSO Simon Jones reported that it will be more efficient and new officers are being trained.
- Operation Bumblebee – information on security when properties are empty.
- Cycling on pavements – officers are clamping down on cycling on pavements.

The following matters were raised by members:

- Impact on the move to Woodford and travel time – Sergeant Arif Siddique responded that Wards will be more efficient as more officers are being trained and there will be more vehicles both marked and unmarked but the SNT do not deal with fast response times.
- Duty times - Sergeant Arif Siddique did not have details of times of duties but will obtain the figures. It was noted that the SNT do not work beyond midnight.
- Crime levels – PCSO Simon Jones replied that burglaries and motor theft have gone down. There is very little crime in the CRA area. Every street in the area is patrolled during each shift. Crime between day and night varies.
- Concern regarding the rear of Preston Drive – PCSO Simon Jones responded that hidden drugs etc are found. The area is patrolled with an unmarked vehicle.
- Cameras on vehicles for parking offences – this is dealt with by the local authority.
- Access to Woodford Police Station – PCSO Simon Jones responded that the opening times are restricted.
- Contact points - PCSO Simon Jones responded that details are being finalised. The contact point will possibly be open for three hours per week.
- Muggings – PCSO Simon Jones responded that problems in the area are not as bad in the area compared with other boroughs.

The Chairman thanked the officers for coming to the meeting.

8. Report on Last Year's Activities

HZ reported on the last year's activities:

- WaSRA – the CRA is part of Wanstead & Snaresbrook Residents' Alliance which consists of The Carlton Terrace Residents' Association, The Counties Residents' Association and The Wanstead Society.
- Wanstead Hospital – HZ reported that there are plans to close 14 of the 46 beds at Galleon and Heronwood Wards. WaSRA is pursuing the proposal.

- Nutter Lane Recreation Field – HZ said that the response to the CRA consultation with residents had benches and trees as the top preference. The CRA liaised with Jane Leighton from Redbridge Council on the matter. Councillor Alex Wilson advised members that at the Area 1 meeting on 20 May 2013, councillors decided to visit the site and hold a consultation to include a questionnaire to residents with a reply form. To go to the Counties roads and Nutter Lane. Councillor Wilson will give the draft of the consultation to HZ if possible. Councillor Wilson hoped to have the results by September. MB noted that the CRA were approached by the Council to liaise on the £5,000 from the development at Chepstow (High Cedars). It was noted that at the Area 1 meeting a resident raised the matter of vandalism and using the money as a contribution to repair the fence.
- Yellow Lines – HZ reported that yellow lines will only be installed at two junctions in the on the Counties Estate (corner of The Avenue/Leicester Road and Grove Park/Leicester Road). The work is due to be carried out at the end of July.
- Evergreen Field in Wanstead High Street – Geoff Horsnell reported that the field was sold two years ago to a local developer. At present polythene sheeting has been put round the site to hide the long grass. The Wanstead Society would like to preserve the land. It has now been put on the market for £500,000. A valuation of the land is needed. The Wanstead Society has set up a trust fund to buy the land for public use. SD referred to the previous collection to purchase the land. Geoff Horsnell advised that where money was identified it was repaid. The remaining money was used to start the Wanstead Society.
- Cold Calling – HZ informed the meeting that cold callers are not allowed to come to the door without permission. Members should report cold callers to Consumer Direct. Councillor Wilson noted that ‘no cold calling’ zones are popular.
- Tradesmen’s List – HZ informed the meeting that members have access to the tradesmen’s list which gives recommended tradesmen who other people in the area have used.
- Requests – HZ asked if there were residents in Reydon Avenue or Preston Drive who would like to join the committee. HZ also asked if anyone would be interested in putting notices in the notice board in the High Street. There were no offers to either request.

9. Planning on the Counties Estate

MD reported that the relaxation in the planning laws **will not affect conservation areas**. This is one of the benefits of being in a conservation area and gives better quality developments. It was noted that being in a conservation area helped with the outcome of the Chepstow development. MD also noted that individual personal objections carry more weight. This fact was taken on board with a proposed development at 47 Leicester Road.

Geoff Horsnell reported that outside conservation areas, only immediate neighbours can object to a planning application.

Councillor Wilson said that there had been a lot of discussion about the new act. Permitted single storey rear development can be carried out without full planning permission on terraced properties up to 6 metres (previously 3 metres) and 8 metres (previously 4 metres) on detached properties. The council still have to be informed of extensions. Details are on Redbridge i. The council reserve rights in exceptional circumstances. There will be a report at the next Regulatory Committee meeting.

MD reported that the Conservation Advisory Panel minutes are available to view on line.

10. Questions from Residents

Yellow lines - Councillor Wilson confirmed that he had a meeting with council officers and double yellow lines will only go on the corners requested.

11. Close

The Chairman thanked members for coming to the AGM.

The Counties Residents Association / NHW

Financial Summary commentary 2012 / 2013

I'm pleased to present my fourth annual financial summary for the CRA/NHW.

In summary, we end the year with £2,482 in the bank, whereas we started the year with around £2,305

This year, we received no grant money. So, our income was solely down to subscriptions and donations. This amounted to £641, slightly higher than the £584 the year before, thanks to our growing membership.

On the face of it our expenses rose this year, but in reality around £200 of this cost relates to the prior year, so they are broadly flat year on year.

So, in summary, your Association remains in good shape financially. We require the funds to print and distribute newsletters, to run the website, and to maintain a small buffer for unforeseen campaigns that may be necessary. We think our campaign record has been broadly successful over the years. We definitely need your continued financial support.

At the back of the room, we have membership forms for the new year, and if you feel able to, we also encourage donations and completion of standing order forms which help us to reduce ongoing administration time and costs.

Thank you for your continued and much needed support.

Mark Bentley
Hon Treasurer
8 July 2013

Counties Residents Association – Financial Summary 2012/13

£	2012/13	2011/12
Income		
Membership income and donations	641.10	583.50
Grant – publicity		-
Grant – Noticeboard		-
Total income	641.10	583.50
Expenditure		
Printing / website	414.02	59.05
AGM costs	50.00	
Noticeboard expenses	-	530.33
Total expenditure	464.02	590.05
Surplus / (deficit)	177.08	(6.55)
Balance carried down	2,304.59	2,311.14
Balance carried forward	2,481.67	2,304.59

COUNTIES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY 2012- 2013

Road	Total Households*	2012-2013 Members Percent	
Buckingham	33	9	27%
Gloucester	28	10	36%
Hereford	39	18	46%
Leicester	43	10	23%
Nutter	46	6	13%
Preston	33	4	12%
Reydon	26	9	35%
Rutland	46	16	35%
Warwick	45	13	29%
Totals	339	95	28%

Membership Totals for Previous Years:

2006-2007	34%	(107 members)
2007-2008	29%	(92 members)
2008-2009	27%	(84 members)
2009-2010	29%	(91 members)
2010-2011	30%	(93 members)
2011-2012	29%	(92 members)

* To note 2012-13 figures include the 24 new households on the "High Cedars" development

Planning Changes

Over the last year there has been much reported in the media regarding the relaxation of the domestic planning laws. We can confirm that these changes do NOT relate to Conservation Areas and therefore we need not fear 25 foot extensions cropping up in the gardens next door to us. This saving grace is one further benefit of living within a Conservation Area and of course it is generally believed that house prices are higher and more stable for properties within a Conservation Area.

We can also attribute other successes from recent years to living within a Conservation Area. For example, the smaller scale of development at 3 Leicester Road where three houses up to the pavement edge were originally proposed. The two eventually built have blended in well with the surroundings. Another example is of course the lower density/scale and higher quality design of the Chepstow development which has been warmly received by both its residents and neighbours.

As Chepstow signified the end of any major development potential within our patch, planning issues have decreased and are more localised, therefore, I wont discuss any individual plans at this point, but rather leave that to the Q&A session at the end. The only thing I would add is to repeat that individual objections carry more weight with the planning department than anything the CRA can do, so do ensure you keep yourself aware of new proposals by checking your emails, our newsletters and/or the noticeboard.