

MINUTES OF AGM of WHRA - 14th October 2021

1. Welcome address by Robert Taylor (President)

Robert welcomed everyone and said how pleased we were to see them after such a long time since the last AGM. We wanted to have an in-person AGM as there are members without internet who can't access Zoom meetings.

He said the association was at a low point the last time we have an AGM with only 250 members and three committee members. The association has been revived initially with a lot of work by Helen Osman who unfortunately couldn't be at the AGM. The association over the last 1 ¾ years now has a good number of committee members and is very active with the members currently standing at over 600. Chair Lynne will be telling us more about the work that the WHRA has been doing.

During the first part of the meeting, he said we will have a report from Maria our treasurer about the finances. We will also be seeing approval for amendments to the constitution and electing committee officers and committee members.

After a short refreshment break he said we will hear briefly from Bambos Charalambous our M.P and Winchmore Hill Ward Councillors Maria Alexandrou and Dinah Barry who has come from York for this meeting. The third ward councillor Ian Barnes was invited but decided not to come.

Then time for a discussion about local issues listed on the agenda including Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhoods which maybe the main reason you are here.

2. Apologies for absence

Helen Osman – Committee Member

3. Chair Lynne Yazgan's Review of activities since last AGM

Despite lockdown, the committee have continued to meet monthly via Zoom and, more recently, in person again.

Since the new committee formed in summer of 2019, membership has increased from 200 to over 600, with our next aim be to hit 1000.

Just to run quickly through what we have done since our last AGM:

Dining on the Green came in with limited consultation due to it being an emergency measure to help revive business on the Green during the summer of 2020 just after

the first lockdown started to ease. The WHRA was supportive of this scheme and it has been a huge success and is very popular locally. However its future direction has not been confirmed despite the consultation and we are aware of a number of issues with the way it is currently run and the setup which we will talk about briefly in the discussion at the end of the AGM. If you would like to know more we have put some material at the back of the room you can view during refreshments which outlines the issues and some proposed options to change the way this operates going forward. We propose to actively engage with the council and local businesses on this scheme to steer the conversation and the best outcome for all businesses and the Green.

Not long after our last AGM we were very sorry to hear about the passing of Joyce Powell who had been the Treasurer and who many of you might have known. She was a very important part of the association for many years and we are very grateful for her work in looking after the financial side of things until shortly before her death.

We are also sad to share the news that Brian Foyle also passed away in March of 2020. Brian was a larger-than-life character who was well known locally and who had been fighting to preserve the heritage and architectural history of this area for many years. His family have arranged a memorial service for him that will take place at this church on November 28th at 11.30am. We will post the details on the website and in our next email.

We have been monitoring the introduction of the Fox Lane LTNs since they were introduced in September 2019. There has been a great deal of discussion on various forums about this and it seems from the many surveys and petitions that there is a strong majority against the introduction of this and other proposed LTNs. We oppose them and await to see the consultation outcome from the Fox Lane LTN to see whether the council looks likely to introduce one in our area. We will have a chance to discuss LTNs further in the discussion part of the AGM.

We carried out a survey on various issues including: opposing planning applications re Seaforth and Church Hill development; outdoor dining on The Green; 456 bus route; closing Ringwood Way for school children; LTNs. We found the results of the 403 responses extremely helpful in guiding us as to how to represent people living in N21, the majority of the responses support the position we have taken on these issues.

There was a new bus route planned, the 456 which was delayed due to COVID but when the plans were published we reviewed all the bus stops they planned and submitted a very detailed and comprehensive review with recommendations for the location and design of many of the stops. Some of our recommendations were implemented such as the inappropriate location of the bus stop at the bottom of Station Road which was removed however other recommendations relating to the bus stop in Firs Lane were not implemented.

We did not oppose the introduction of the School Streets scheme introduced during lockdown on streets around many schools in Enfield including Ringwood Way to benefit St. Pauls School parents and pupils in safe walking to school and reduce the

traffic issues around school drop off and pick ups. This seems to be here to stay and to delivers some if not all of the benefits intended. There is understandably some opposition to this from people living in the area and surrounding roads.

The main planning applications that we have focused opposition on are the one in Seaforth Gardens to build in a garden space of a property on Broad Walk with access created by knocking down a garage of a property in Seaforth. This is going to appeal currently and we will keep you updated on this. The other planning application that we opposed that is also set to go to appeal we understand is the development in Church Hill which systematically had the trees on it chopped down over the years without permission with a view to having a better chance of getting the planning approved.

Enfield Draft Local Plan came out a couple of months ago and caused a great deal of concern across the borough in particular with the proposal to build on Green Belt land. For our area the three developments that we are concerned with are the proposal to build on Sainsburys Car park, the development of Ford's Grove car park and the proposed crematorium at Firs Farm on the site where the Friends of Firs Farm have been planning to build a café. We issued a strong and comprehensive response to this which we submitted to the council as part of the consultation which you can see at the back of the hall. There will be a chance to discuss these developments at the end of the AGM.

Another important issue has been Crime. We have uploaded some helpful resources on our website re:

- Vehicle Crime Prevention Advice document
- Safer Neighbourhood Newsletter and the OWL (Online Watch Link – Neighbourhood Watch) email
- Appeal for WhatsApp Groups in order to create a virtual Neighbourhood Watch

Finally we have been busy producing and hand delivering newsletters in various formats over the last two years to keep local residents informed on issues and to build the membership. We now have over 600 members from around 250 members when we relaunched in November 2019.

Anybody who would like to help us deliver our next newsletter we would be very grateful and there is a slip on the table at the back to let us know your name, address and email address so we can be in touch when the time comes or you can email us on the usual address.

We have started an environmental group that has a few volunteers already although we haven't yet started on any projects. The plan is to get together to clean up any problem areas, look after the New River path and possibly get involved in planting around the area to brighten up some green areas that we hope will bring a smile to

people's faces. We need someone to lead on this as our rep on the committee and volunteers so if you would like to be involved there is a space on the slip at the back or please email us.

One more thing to say is that we plan to run a Christmas event and bring everyone together this Christmas. We have lots of plans and already quite a few local businesses and other groups have agreed to work with us. We have a good number of volunteers, but we will need as many as possible. If you would like to volunteer, please fill in the slip at the back of the room or email us on the usual address.

I'd like to thank those committee members who have spent a lot of time on various projects, in particular Ed Balleny and Neil Littman, who have both worked extremely hard.

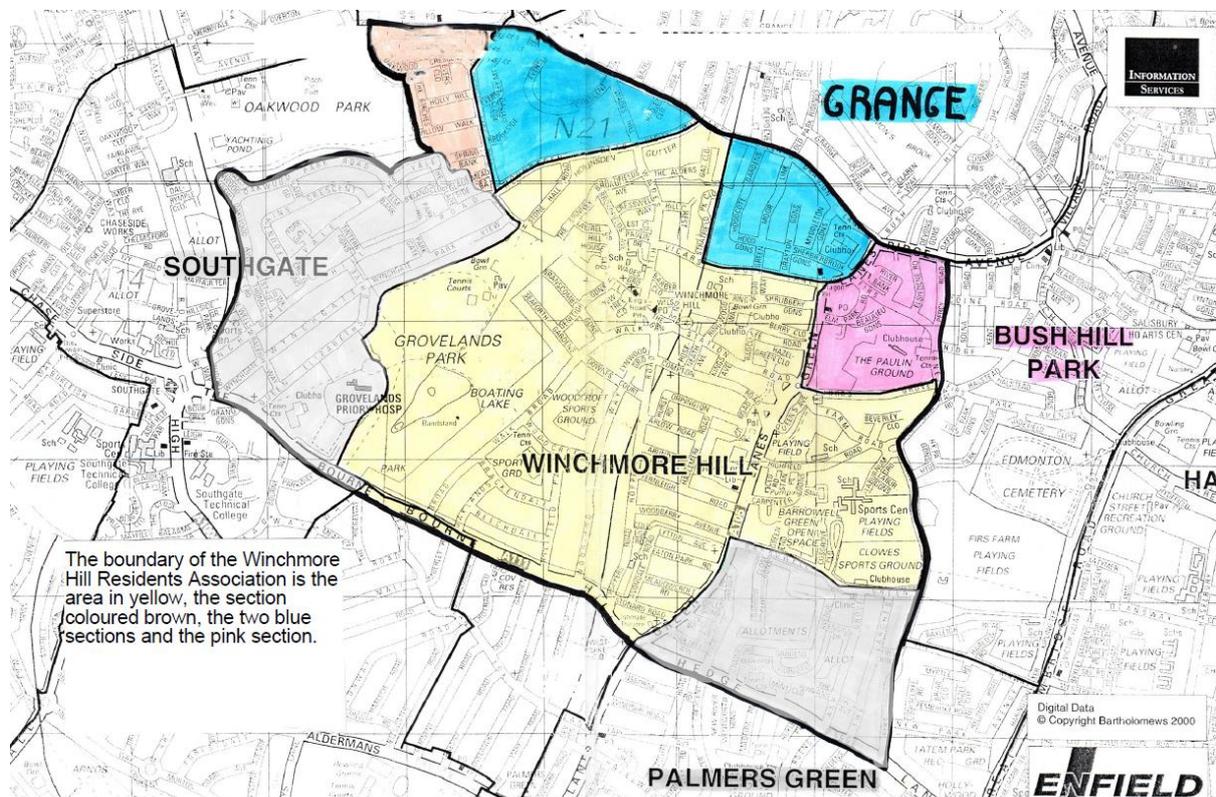
I'll now hand you back to

4. Amendments to Constitution

Robert Taylor introduced the proposed amendments to the constitution

The proposals were to vary the boundaries of the current area that the WHRA covers.

A map of the new area map is shown below, a larger and version of the map is available on our website.



The areas shown in grey were removed from our boundaries, the grey area in the top left was felt to be covered by the Grovelands Residents Association and the grey area in the bottom right was felt to be more aligned to issues in Palmers Green rather than Winchmore Hill.

The other amendments Robert proposed were to refer to the “Chair” in the constitution rather than the “Chairman” and also for the account to run from 1st September to 31st August to have accounts prepared and independently examined ready for the annual AGM which will take place in October.

The final amendment is that we can accept membership from those people who live outside the area shown in the map if they can show that they have a strong connection to the area (e.g work in the area).

Changes were proposed by Sharon Phillips and seconded by David Orfeur.

Proposed changes were agreed by over two thirds of those present. The new constitution is available on the website.

5. Treasurer’s Report and Statement of Accounts

Maria Petrou the Treasurer of the WHRA started her report however there was complaints about the lack of sound carrying so Ed Balleny read out her report.

We have an independent examiner which is Paul Moston from Mostons the accountants on the Green and we are very grateful to them for examining our accounts on a yearly basis.

At the moment - we have just over £1000. Costs include printing and posting.

We will look to invite members to make £5 minimum annual donation later this year as membership fee.

6. Nomination and election of Officers, Management Committee Members and Independent Examiner

President - Robert Taylor.

Chair - Lynn Yazgan.

Vice Chair – Ed Balleny.

Treasurer - Maria Petrou.

Secretary - Chris Cole

Membership Secretary - Ed. Balleny.

Independent Examiner (of Accounts) - Paul Moston.

Other proposed Committee Members.

Ed Knight, Johnathan Appleby. Neil Littman, Helen Osman.

Proposed changes were agreed by over two thirds of those present.

Refreshments

7. Talks by local politicians:

- Bambos Charalambous MP (Labour)
- Cllr Maria Alexandrou (Conservative)
- Cllr Dinah Barry (Community First)

Cllr Maria Alexandrou spoke first:

Issue of Traffic on Bourne Hill (A Knock on effect of the local LTN).

Related - Issue of Ambulance delays.

Lack of Electric Charge points in Winchmore Hill.

Ealing took out most LTNs.

Cameras to be put in "School Streets".

Flytipping - Barrowell Green still has an appointment system.

456 Bus - Issue of buses not aligning at Bus stops, properly.

Christmas Lights on the Green - Will Happen this Year.

Cllr Dinah Barry spoke next:

She spoke about three sites outlined in the Enfield Draft Local Plan and outlined her opposition to all three proposals:

The Proposed Crematorium - for Firs Farm (Near North London Hospice)

Under L.B. Enfield Borough Plan Fords Grove Car Park could be redeveloped as housing

Sainsburys Site - Some Officers not aware that it was owned by Sainsburys rather than Enfield and the parkland around the supermarket car park was protected by a covenant.

Other issues she covered:

Reardon Court Site - To be turned into "Special Housing" site e.g. For Elderly.

Barrier - To Block noise from the Recycling Site (at Reardon Court site) - removed (Needs to be replaced).

456 Bus - Suggested alternative route which was Ignored (Could have helped local businesses).

Discussion about 456 Bus. Some people felt it was under - used.

Church Hill - Originally felt Bus Stop would be Outside Quaker building - but not put there.

Bambos Charalambous MP spoke last:

456 Bus - Said Route is "Under Review".

Winter Pressures on Hospitals - Bambos has asked to be updated on this.

Concerned about Crime Issues - Including Safety for women.

Southgate Village - Has raised Objections to planning application 17 storey tower block.

Afghan Refugees - Needs to hear more about Resettlement scheme.

LTNs - Feels that if an LTN does not work - it should be dropped.

8. **Discussions on Local Issues:**

- Enfield Borough Plan (2019 – 2039)
- Winchmore Hill Green Pedestrianisation
- Fox Lane Low Traffic Neighbourhood
- Other Local Issues

LTNs:

Many of the questions were directed at our councillors and MP and focused on the LTNs in particular.

Bambos was challenged on the fact that he has not come down in favour or against the LTNs and said he was waiting until further evidence from Enfield Council was provided to him to make a decision.

It was made clear that this evidence was likely to be skewed for Enfield to justify carrying on with the scheme and Bambos only needs to look at the traffic around the area to see the affect of the scheme on locals residents and the high level of pollution this is causing.

There was a very strong case made by a resident who lives near Bourne Hill and is extremely concerned about the traffic and pollution that she and her children have to suffer as a result of the traffic created by the LTNs. She has commissioned an environmental consultant to measure the pollution in her area in order to force Enfield to consider the impact the LTNs are having from a pollution perspective.

There were complaints that the Deputy Leader was not Present.

456 Bus Route:

Rissy Mitchell a resident who lives near the bus stop on Church Hill raised the issue of the danger that this bus stop poses based on its inappropriate size and location. She will be liasing with TFL to review this bus stop and why it was moved from a location further up the hill.

Gurjinder Thethi a resident near the bus route in Farm Road wanted to raise the issues that Farm Road residents and other nearby residents are suffering from. These include vibrations from the bus, the hours of the bus that were longer than previously planned, the noise of the bus from the speed humps, the congestion and pollution from backed up traffic as a result of the bus and the safety of pedestrians when the bus causes drivers to mount the pavement to pass.

Winchmore Hill Green pedestrianisation:

Ed Balleny mentioned a matrix that has been designed by Neil Littman to consider the issues that have been created by the Winchmore Hill Green pedestrianisation and the possible solutions. These could be seen at the back of the hall in the meeting and will be available on the website.

Jonathan Appleby owner of Mistress Appleby's jewellers spoke to explain how the pedestrianisation and the explosion in deliveries coming from Going Greek restaurant means that he cannot open his shop because the of the rubbish and the moped delivery drivers that sit outside his shop the whole day.

He also explained that the people who live about the shops in this area have been ignored by this scheme and they have to live with the noise and disruption that has been caused.

Other issues:

Broad Walk - Problems with Pavements. To take up with Council.

Complaint regarding the frequency of the train service. Less service during pandemic. Asked for Local representatives to put pressure on authorities about this.

Suggestion of Sub - Committee re. Issues on the Green.

Ed. Balleny - Promised the WHRA - would Work with Council on these issues.

Meeting Closed at 9.37pm