

MINUTES OF NOTHRA AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 18th JANUARY 2014, 2.10PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

ATTENDEES: Dave Trotman (Chairman), Sonja Angel (Secretary), Raj Shah (Treasurer), Roger Ponsford, Keith Foreman (Councillor) and Bob Gardner (Councillor) and approximately 30 residents.

APOLOGIES: Robert Murdoch, Alison Johnson, Jo Hazell, Paul Wright, Anita Aldous, Beverley Garland (Guinness Trust), Michele Gallagher (SHW) and Hayley Keegan (police).

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION: DT outlined how Nothra's role has changed from its original role of liaising with the developer of the village, to that of bringing the village together as a community, and ensuring positive use of its facilities and space. This required the support of the residents moving forwards.

NOTHRA COMMITTEE MEMBER RE-ELECTION: Current committee members had agreed previously or on the day to be up for re-election in their current roles. There were no objections from the floor to this. Therefore the confirmed committee is Dave Trotman (Chairman), Raj Shah (Treasurer), Sonja Angel (Secretary), Alison Johnson, Robert Murdoch, Roger Ponsford, Jo Hazell and Anita Aldous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: RS reported that the total assets (bank and cash) as at June 2012 were £3,040. Income came from social events, and out-goings included free children's events, website and insurance costs, and items such as new chairs for the hall. As at 30 June 2013, the assets were £3,026. The assets as at December 2013 rose to £3,270 due to part of the assets of the now closed Bowls Club being transferred to NML and Nothra, on the agreement that this money would be used to fund sports facilities.

SOCIAL GROUP REPORT: DT reported on this sub-committee of Nothra, set up to maximise use of the facilities in the village. A number of quiz nights, an Abba Night and Casino Night had raised funds, part of which went towards the Easter, summer and Christmas events for children/families. We continue to promote events via the website, emails, leaflets, posters, Facebook and a banner. If residents would like to either help (and be on the "helpful people" email list) or be informed by direct email about events, they were encouraged to contact us either via the website or a committee member.

SPORTS GROUP REPORT: To date we have not had anyone come forward to run this committee, with a view to focusing on the sporting opportunities available through our facilities. Our goal this year is to find somebody to do this.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: KF initially thanked the committee members for their voluntary work over the year.

- KF reported that Reigate and Banstead had become one of the best recycling boroughs in the country. We recycle over 50% of our rubbish. As rubbish collection costs £3M per year, with recycling bringing back in £2.7M, this clearly has a positive effect in keeping rates down.
- The planning permission for the Croydon led development at Cane Hill has been submitted. This will make significant changes to Coulsdon, some of which will also hopefully benefit Netherne.
- Councillors are actively committed to improving the situation regarding pot-holes in the area. KF encouraged residents to report pot-holes to SCC via their website.
- Last June, Hooley was seriously affected by a group of travellers setting up camp off the A23. However, the police did not act decisively enough at the time, and it took 3 weeks to evict them. Consequently, lessons were learnt, and when the same thing happened months later, they were removed the same evening. KF urged residents to inform either him or the police immediately they

suspect anything similar happening in future.

- KF reminded residents of our community bus facility, and how we needed to use and support it.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT: DT reported that this had been running for 2 years now, but with only 48 members in the village, we aimed to re-visit this over 2014 to increase its effectiveness. The police had been invited to the meeting, but had been unable to come.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT: (SA)

- The main management focus of the amenity fields was still to gain control of the invasive goat's rue. To this end, all the areas had been cut in the autumn, in order that in the spring the goat's rue's regrowth would be highly visible and therefore easily sprayed. Once control has been achieved we will cut the land on a rotational basis, to provide a varied ecosystem.
- Japanese Knotweed was still a potential problem in the village, requiring specialist treatment.
- The bluebell wood (ancient woodland) is not part of Netherne's land, but we still benefit from it. However, it has become seriously degraded from neglect and recent storms. SA continues to try and work with the Forestry Commission and Downland Management Project to find the owners of the land, so that they can potentially carry out remedial work in the following winter. If successful in this, SA would be asking for volunteers from the village to help.
- The new website will have a page on all these aspects, and also provide extra information for those interested in the flora and fauna of the village.
- A litter pick will be organised in the spring. Residents were urged to support this. NML will be providing extra litter bins and a couple of picnic benches in the spring.

COMMUNICATION UPDATE: We are always trying to find effective ways of communicating with residents. This includes posters, leaflets, emails, Facebook and website. We also rely on "word of mouth" as being an effective way of communicating, and encourage residents to pass on information. Our goals this year are to increase the numbers of residents on our email list, and to launch a new website which will hopefully fulfil all our information and feedback needs, and also provide a positive identity for Netherne.

NOTHRA "WISH-LIST" FOR 2014:

- To continue and resolve the lighting and safety issues of the path to Hooley. BG has plans for this with a costing of £60K. In an effort to guarantee this is supported by SCC, he and RP are looking for alternative and more cost effective options.
- Nothra plan to provide goal-posts for use by the children of the village. Costings, siting and feasibility need to be looked at, and presented to residents.
- Creation of a Sports Committee.
- Completion of the new website.
- Stronger participation by the residents, with more people at events, and more people helping, so that we can achieve more and achieve it quicker.
- To get feedback from residents as to what they want from their village.

LOOKING AHEAD: NoTHRA's 10 year plan was written a couple of years ago, and is available on the website. We must continue to refer to it, amend it and aim towards it. This also involves feedback from residents.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

- New residents find it hard to get good access to information. Our new website once launched may help. The long required noticeboard is still on our agenda for things to do. NML have put together a draft "Welcome Pack" which will be given to all current and new residents.

- A resident was concerned about the information and value of their service charge. Initially they should approach SHW and NML for this. However, if they feel they are not getting the information they require, Nothra could support them in getting answers.
- A resident was concerned that the newly adopted roads in Netherne are not being litter picked by SCC. KF and BG would look into this. Fly tipping should be reported to SCC.
- Adoption of all the roads in Netherne is still in process. SCC will not accept them if standards are not met by Gleasons. BG is committed to pushing this along. However, SA and RP expressed their disappointment in the Highways Dept at SCC for not even acknowledging the letter written to them with our concerns on road marking and signage in the village.
- A resident was concerned about the unsuitability of recycling bins. Residents can request larger bins direct through the borough council. To secure paper in the bins, nets can be obtained to hold it in place.
- A number of horses are being ridden around the village. NML have already written a letter to a local stable requesting they do not use our private land for riding. Residents who own horses are requested that they keep to the roads. NML has also written to professional dog walkers from outside the village who have been using the land for their business.
- Residents are concerned about the shortage of schools in the area. BG confirmed that Cane Hill does not include a new school in its plans. He confirmed that the council are aware of this problem, and do look for sites to try and address the situation.
- A resident pointed out that there is only one 20mph in the whole village, in which there is a serious problem with speeding. This has also been brought up with regard to road adoption.
- With regard to the railway works on Netherne Drive, it was confirmed that BAM are in the process of closing the site down now that original works are finished. However, the recent landslips on the railway line have delayed this.
- NML confirmed that they are actively looking into increasing equipment available for younger children in the playground.
- The ongoing issue of the U-turning of motorway traffic at the bottom of Dean Lane was brought up. BG confirmed that an aborted meeting last year regarding road management there, was to be held again this year – with hopefully both the Highways Agency and Council working to the same plans. KF has shown the problem to Crispin Blunt, who has acknowledged the scale of the problem.

DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING: Will be Wednesday 12th February 2014, 8.30pm at the Village Hall.