

# Netherne on the Hill Residents Association

**Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in the Netherne on the Hill Village Hall on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, commencing at 7:30pm**

**ATTENDEES:** NOTHRA Committee : Michael Maddox (Acting Chairman), Sonja Angel (Secretary), Rajen Shah (Treasurer), Mark Hetherington, Dave Trotman, Roz Warren, Tony Hewlett, Roger Ponsford, Anne Odams and about 40 residents.

Councillors Angela Fraser, John Stephenson, Richard Wagner CPSO Mo Langley

**APOLOGIES:** Simon Pearse, Helen Foreman

**The MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (20 December 2010)** were accepted as an accurate record.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:-**The Chairman presented his written report for the period July 2010 – June 2011 and provided the following verbal summary / update:

- **Website** - The new website [www.nethernevillage.org](http://www.nethernevillage.org) is now up and running and should be of real benefit to all going forwards. It is hoped this site will help promote the village as a great place to live, generate a spirit of community and become the major communications link for residents to share ideas and information.
- **Communication** – NOTHRA has attempted to improve communication with the use of flyers, a new mailing lists for social events and neighbourhood watch, and posters displayed in the village shop, leisure centre and village, as well as contact via the new web site.
- **Village Hall** – As a result of the Open Day in April there is now wide usage of the village hall by different groups in the community including a Parents and Toddlers Group, table tennis/badminton, Martial Arts, Pilates, Zumba and the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers who have seen increased numbers from local children. It is a popular venue for childrens' parties.
- **Social Programme** – The former Netherne Events and Recreation Group (NEAR) has been subsumed within Nothra, and the revitalised Social Committee has developed a programme of regular social events. There is already a provisional calendar of events throughout 2012 as well as a Barn Dance and a Christmas Party still to come in 2011.
- **Community Bus** – Section 22 licence has been acquired and a vehicle identified for purchase. The hope is to have the morning and evening service for commuters (Netherne - Coulsdon) up and running in January. The provisional fares estimate is a weekly ticket for about £12 (10 journeys). The committee are still seeking drivers for the new service - a position paying £20-£25 per 3 hour shift. It was emphasised that the service will not be subsidised from Service Charges - if the service fails to cover it's operating costs it will be discontinued.

**TREASURERS REPORT:-** Rajen Shah reported that the NEAR accounts have been consolidated with the NOTHRA accounts. The aim is to cover the operating costs of Nothra and maintain the accounts at their current levels from the proceeds of social events, obviating the need to charge a subscription for membership of NOTHRA. It is also hoped to subsidise social events such as a Christmas Party free to children.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER RE-ELECTION** – The re-election of all committee members was approved by the meeting. Sonja Angel has agreed to continue as Secretary and Rajen Shah as Treasurer; Michael Maddox continues to seek a replacement as Chairman.

**VILLAGE PLAN** The remainder of the AGM was given over to ascertaining the views of residents on the various parts of the draft Village Plan which had been posted on [www.nethernevillage.org](http://www.nethernevillage.org) for several months. This plan, which is being co-ordinated for NML by the residents association, proposes a number of projects designed to fulfil the overall aim of making Netherne on the Hill a *Clean, Green, Safe and Healthy Village – a self reliant and vibrant community*.

The various objectives of the plan as discussed at the AGM are below:

## Security

- David Trotman and Sonia Angel are working with Surrey Police to re- establish a **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme at Netherne whereby interested residents are informed by email of relevant security information and community police alerts. The mailing list has been set up recently and already has 40 members. The plan is to also share information on serious issues with surrounding villages to help awareness of crime.
- NML has been asked to provide **illumination on the footpath** to the A23 at Hooley.

## Young People

- There is an urgent need to provide leadership and activities/facilities for village teenagers. NothRA reported that attempts to restart the **Youth Group** had stalled due to lack of volunteer adult leaders. A number of local children and young adults attended the meeting and presented the lack of options for things to do in the village because of age restrictions on the playground, gym and pool. They also represented the need for a safe place to meet and play together in winter. They stated that two key developments for them would be an area to allow skating (skate park) and also a covered area to socialise safely without impacting on fellow residents. The young people expressed a willingness to assist with fund raising and provide practical assistance. A number of Residents present at the meeting offered help and the meeting agreed to bring together a Working Party with CPSO assistance to attempt to progress the various suggestions.

## Bowls Club Site

- Several options have been proposed by residents for developing this site – the prime requirement seems to be for a pub/social club/cafe/bistro. There is also a need for accommodation for a Pre School and the Parents and Toddlers group.
- The land adjacent to the Bowls clubhouse has been marked out for Youth football.
- The residents agreed that Netherne village were indebted to the cricket club for keeping that activity alive. It was noted that the Cricket Club are keen to increase their playing and social membership and open their clubhouse at winter weekends.

## Parking

- The lack of parking facilities throughout the village and particularly at the village hall was raised. Nothra indicated that it had not yet been possible to identify parking areas acceptable to residents who live in the vicinity for inclusion in the Plan.

## Road Safety

- The issue of safety on the Netherne Drive was raised following several accidents in recent months. It was confirmed that NML have asked MJ Gleeson to improve signage and provide speed bumps at the hairpin bend as suggested by the Surrey Police.
- Of concern are that children are playing on busy Netherne roads - everyone is requested to assist educate those involved.
- The Meeting was assured that winter grit has been ordered and contingency plans for snow clearance have been made by NML. The meeting suggested people caught raiding Grit Bins should be prosecuted.
- Road adoption by Surrey CC has been delayed as MJ Gleeson has not yet completed all works. Resurfacing of Park Lane and Netherne Lane North is the responsibility of Surrey CC . and overdue.

## Education

- Use of the Village Hall for Pre- School activities was being pursued by a group of residents with OFSTED.

## Environment

- The amenity land commonly known as the 'Tipping Fields' is to be managed as a nature reserve and

after consultation with Surrey Wild Life and other conservationists , a grass cutting plan has been agreed which will encourage wildlife. It is hoped to introduce hides etc. as the area is a good sight for bird watching and has some rare and valuable species of plant and insects/butterflies.

- There was a proposal that there should be an increase in the planting and nurturing of plants and flowers in the village to encourage more colour and brighten up the village, possibly leading to an entry into Britain in Bloom. This was agreed by residents present and suggestion made that all members of the community be encouraged to participate , including a new youth project.
- The state of litter in the village was raised. Residents commented that there needed to be more bins, particularly around the St Luke's area where the tree stumps provide a place to congregate. Nothra will continue to organise litter picks, hopefully with Youth Group help.

### **Development Land**

- The lack of small houses/apartments suitable for older people wishing to downsize was mentioned- this is a requirement if the village is to become 'sustainable', and it was suggested that priority be given to meeting this need when considering the use of development land.
- It was agreed that a plan of the village which clearly shows the extent of the NML land should be posted on the website in the near future.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The committee were thanked for their efforts over the past year and the meeting closed at about 9:30pm