

BELSIZE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2014

1) Attendance, apologies and welcome.

Present: Averil Nottage (Chairwoman), Judith Gubbay, Neil Harris, Pat Holden, Consuelo Phelan, Ruth Sands, Anne Stevens,

Apologies Deborah Buzan, Judith Farbey, Gordon Curtis, Prabhat Vaze

2) Minutes of the last meeting and matter arising.

The minutes of the January meeting were agreed. **AS** to forward to Kathy Clauss to put on the website.

Matter arising: Minute 6.d. The request for a volunteer for the Tavistock clinic committee had not been included in the newsletter, but would be mentioned at the AGM.

3) Planning and Conservation

a) Report on Planning applications.

i) Objections and comments (1)

Construction of house on land to rear of 100a & 102 Fellows Road
Kings College Road,

ii) No objections (14):

28A Howitt Road

56B Belsize Park

76 Parkhill Road

South Hampstead High School

Maresfield Gardens

13 Primrose Gardens

P 4 Parkhill Walk

186 Haverstock Hill

21 Howitt Road

43 Parkhill Road

43-45 Fitzjohns Avenue

Lakefield Maresfield Gardens

Flat 6 53 Belsize Park Gardens

28 Belsize Lane

24 Lawn Road

b) South Hampstead Synagogue

The consultation period on the proposed redevelopment of South Hampstead Synagogue had been extended by Camden Borough Council, which was consulting English Heritage. Following the discussion at the last meeting, GC had reconsidered the application and members comments. It was agreed that he should object to the proposed plans on the grounds of the height and mass of the building and the loss of open space surrounding it. It was recalled as a precedent that the initial proposals for another large institutional building - the redevelopment of South Hampstead High School in Maresfield Gardens - had been rejected on the grounds of inappropriate height and bulk.

- c) Impact of High Speed 2 rail line.
The response drafted by AN to the consultation on the environmental statement was agreed. It was also agreed that the role of the BRA should continue to be to respond to issues concerning specific impacts on Belsize, in the current instance those of the construction process, and to provide information to members.
- d) Enforcement meeting
GC, PV and DB had held a useful meeting with Elizabeth Beaumont and Angela Ryan from Camden Borough Council's planning enforcement team. In Belsize at any one time the team is dealing with about a dozen enforcement notices of which about half result in enforcement action because the issues cannot be satisfactorily resolved.
- e) Hunters Lodge.
Concern was expressed about the extent of the excavations taking place on this property and the encroachment of protective hoardings onto the pavement. JG and GC would bring them to Elizabeth Beaumont's attention and ask her to verify that work was proceeding strictly in accordance with the planning permission granted.

4) Trees

a) Report on Trees

i) Comments and Objections (4)

29 Belsize Park	fell 3-4 trees in rear garden
11 Crossfield Road	fell 2 trees in rear garden
Synagogue, 51 Belsize Square	fell 1 bird cherry
2d Belsize Park Gardens	fell 1 horse chestnut at rear

ii) No objection: (8)

15 Wedderburn Road	Wedderburn House, Wedderburn Road
26 Belsize Lane	28 Belsize Grove
29 Belsize Park	1 Belsize Avenue (2 applications)
1 Fitzjohn's Avenue (Territorial Army)	

b) Hampstead Green

The Committee has been assured by Camden Borough Council that the Green is actively managed by them with the assistance of a community group. This arrangement seems satisfactory and it was agreed that there were no grounds to support any changes to it.

5) Traffic and Transport:

There were no matters for discussion

6) Environment and community services

a) Belsize Library

It is understood that the Church Commission has now responded about the lease arrangements for the Library. The Council and the Winch are now considering the technical detail. PH will follow this up with Paul Perkins

b) Fines for Littering

It is understood that Camden Borough Council are increasing their effort to levy on the spot the fines for dropping litter. These efforts are concentrated in "hot spots" elsewhere in the borough but should a specific littering problem arise in Belsize it should be brought to the Council's attention.

c) New Free School

The Committee noted that a new free school is to be established by the WAC arts centre at Hampstead Town Hall for up to 60 14 – 19 year old pupils who are failing to thrive in mainstream education.

7) Events

a) New members reception

A successful new members event had taken place on 26 January and resulted in the identification of people who might be willing to help with various aspects of the BRA's work. Thanks were expressed to Diana Self and those involved in helping with the event.

b) AGM

The agenda and papers had been issued. Details were agreed and Committee members were requested to arrive early if possible.

c) Hustings

Unfortunately the Town Hall is fully booked for the Sunday proposed. St Stephen's should be approached to see if they could accommodate the event, with the Belsize Square Synagogue as a second possibility. JF will chair it.

d) Autumn Event

AN offered the possibility of leading a historical walk in central Belsize in the Autumn. This offer was gratefully received by the Committee and details will be discussed at later meetings.

8) Publications.

a) May Newsletter

Copy date is 4 April. The Newsletter will go to the printer on 5 May for distribution the following week.

9) Public Relations

a) Website.

AS had so far failed to put the redesign of the website out to tender but will do so as soon as possible

10) Membership.

There were 4 new member households in January,

11) Finance.

- a) The accounts for January were approved.
- b) Donations: Neither donation cheque has yet been cashed. NH has chased this up once and will do so again.
- c) Direct Debit. There appeared to be inadequate paperwork for a direct debit to pay for website hosting. AS and NH will chase this up

12) BRA Business.

a) Constitution

AN had produced an electronic version of the constitution and will forward it to Kathy Clauss for the website. It had last been amended in 2007.

b) Policies and Guidance

It was noted that the BRA has specific policies on

- its non-political status,
- donations
- electronic communications with members.

These should appear on the website. In addition there is guidance on events. The scrutiny of planning applications is based on a number of guidelines developed over the years. While many of these had been incorporated in the Camden LDF it would be useful to put them into electronic form and publish them. PV should consult GC on this. It would be useful to include and publish the general policy that the BRA does not discuss or negotiate on hypothetical planning proposals except for large scale projects where community consultation events are organised.

c) Archives

AN has listed those which she is willing to continue to store. AS also hold a number of papers and will seek to produce a consolidated list. JG holds an archive of the newsletter.

d) Fitzjohn's Avenue Association.

This is being wound up and it is proposed that its membership should join the Netherhall Neighbourhood Association (NNA), once their constitution had been changed to allow this, or the BRA. AN will continue to liaise with NNA until a new Chairman is appointed and hand over the arrangements then .

13) Any Other Business

a) Front Gardens and streetscape

It was agreed that the BRA should use the newsletter and possibly the AGM to encourage residents to take whatever steps might be practical to improve the appearance of the streetscape and mitigate the unsightly appearance of the multiple bins necessarily located in front gardens and entrances.

b) Thanks

It was noted with great regret that this was the last Committee meeting at which AN would be present. She was most warmly thanked for her years of service to the BRA, both as secretary and for five years as Chairwoman. She had worked very hard indeed for the Association and for the whole area in many ways and contributed hugely to its current flourishing state. The AGM will present a further opportunity for more public thanks.

14) Future meetings.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 11 March 2014: Venue to be decided.