**WOODCOTE GREEN RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

[**www.wgra.info**](http://www.wgra.info)

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**3 May 2022**

A meeting of the committee of Woodcote Green Residents’ Association (WGRA) was held virtually, using Zoom, on Tuesday 3 May 2022, starting at 8.00 pm.

1. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Present: Jim Simms (chair), Sue Doyle, Caroline Clarke, Patrick Radford (secretary)

Apologies for absence: Vythilingam Nagulendran. Apologies were received later from Vinita Bhasin and Owen Pengelly.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING, 8 FEBRUARY 2022**: accepted
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
	1. **Item 3b Flower bed on the Green.** Caroline Clarke reported that council staff had put a mulch of bark over the bed, which she had left undisturbed.
3. **TRAFFIC ISSUES**

It was reported that Lesley Paris and Alan Todd, both residents on Sandy Lane South, had written to the association about the severe congestion often seen on that road. Patrick Radford and Jim Simms had replied and opened a dialogue. The meeting compared the options: (1) parking restrictions, (2) a one-way system, and (3) taking a slice off the Green to widen the road. It was agreed that option 3 would not be acceptable to the council or most residents. It was agreed to contact ward councillors after the forthcoming election (action JS). Jim Simms said that he would ask Lesley Paris and Alan Todd to engage with their neighbours in order to get a consensus. Caroline Clarke pointed out that two members of the committee lived on the relevant section of Sandy Lane South and that their input was needed (action VB and LG).

It was agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the AGM (action PR and JS) as the association needed a consensus on the preferred action. It was agreed to communicate on this issue with councillors when the association had some consensus view.

1. **PLANNING ISSUES**
	1. **4a Woodmansterne Lane** (Wallington Nursery site). Jim Simms reported that the period allowed for appeal had ended or would do so shortly. He also reported that the willow tree outside the entrance had been cut down earlier that day, adding that his personal request for a preservation order had been rejected by council staff, as the tree had not been of good enough quality for such an order.
	2. **127 Woodcote Road.** Nil to report.
	3. **248 Woodcote Road.** Members noted that building work was continuing.
	4. **153 Sandy Lane South.** Nil to report.
2. **FINANCE**: nil to report
3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (NW)**

Caroline Clarke reported that she and Bery Radford had not hosted any events or sent out material. Members raised the question as to whether NW still had a function in an area with an active residents’ association, local social media groups and a ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel. The question was left open.

1. **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

Patrick Radford reported that the current priorities for the ward police team were to get reductions in violent crime, robbery and burglary. The police team had stated (he reported) that the most common crimes of violence had been that directed against women and girls, domestic abuse and harassment. He reported that the concerns of residents brought to the meetings had been parking, traffic, catalytic converters and burglary. In addition, he said, that the police were ready to deal with a recurrence of motor cycle incursions onto Roundshaw Downs and that one councillor and council officers had dome excellent work on this issue, including getting the council to spend about £80,000 on sensors to detect such incursions.

With regard to catalytic converter theft, he said that police work continued to focus on the industry that was extracting and selling the precious metals from the stolen converters.

He reported, that he had been brought onto the Sutton Ward Panel Chairs Network and the Sutton Safer Neighbourhood Board, adding that a recent meeting of the latter had been concerned almost entirely about prevention of violence against women.

Members present reported that there were travellers camped on Roundshaw Downs, in the area within the London Borough of Croydon.

1. **LOCAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING, 22 MARCH 2022**

Jim Simms said that key issues were these

* Safer Neighbourhood (police) Team, whose sergeant reported attacks on geese on Beddington Park, unlicensed music events elsewhere in Sutton, a knife sweep on Roundshaw, shoplifting in Wallington, and theft of delivery mopeds
* “Yellow Lines” – finishing the council project reported as imminent
* Future format of Local Committee –
* New membership anticipated after local election
* Social Orchards (programme of planting fruit trees in parks)
* Sutton Soup (raising money and issuing grants to local organisations following bids)
* Beacons in Sutton as part of Queen’s Diamond Jubilee
1. **OGRES AGM**

Jim Simms reported from the recent AGM of the Onslow Gardens Residents’ Association: 34 had attended. He said that there had been concern about the future of that association following the departure of key officers. The meeting considered but rejected the suggestion of a merger of OGRES and WGRA, mainly because the resulting area covered would be too large for one association.

Jim Simms reported further on other key items:

* There was to be a memorial plaque on the building where Wallington Public Hall had been.
* Street cleaning had improved
* Monarch House – concern over a plan to increase access for vehicles from Onslow Gardens
* Police officers had been present
1. **WEBSITE**: no report

The committee noted that its members had a duty to contribute articles to the website.

1. **JUBILEE PICNIC ON THE GREEN**

The committee confirmed that this would be on Saturday 4 June, starting at 12 noon. Patrick Radford agreed to get the flyer printed as soon as possible and to send out the email circular (action PR). Jim Simms said he would ask Owen Pengelly to put the picnic and the AGM on the website (action JS and OP. The committee decided not to have any single member responsible and not to have lots of bunting and flags – but to be “spontaneous”.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**: none
2. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

The meeting confirmed that the AGM would be at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 21 June at 4 Woodcote Green. It was agreed that the next committee meeting would be decided by those elected to it at the AGM.

JS PR 09.05.2022