

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTH RUISLIP RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY MEETING HELD AT ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2004**

1. Opening Remarks

Jean Ingram Acting Chairperson, opened the meeting, welcoming all present, including Sgt. D Wildman, PC Himsworth and Squadron Leader Petersen.

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from – Iris Ellis, Alice McLaren, Cllr. Jim O'Neill, Mr Bland and Group Captain Steve Newton

3. In Attendance

The executive committee, plus 30 members.

Councillors S Harper O'Niell, Mary O'Connor.

Policemen D Wildman, PC Himsworth.

Squadron Leader Sylvia Petersen

4.0 Police

The police officers handed out contact details for residents to report crimes including antisocial behaviour. The police commented that 'only' 4 crimes had been reported to them despite a report in The Gazette that crime in Carmichael Close was rife. The police pointed out that the reports could be anonymous if needed. Leaflets were circulated outlining what had been done in the area to combat crime.

To assist in collecting evidence the police can provide cameras, but there is a waiting list and a large amount of bureaucracy involved. If residents use their own cameras, then this can be avoided.

Two letters have been received, one from a resident in Long Drive, and another from Ruislip Gardens regarding anti social behaviour.

The police commented that new powers recently reported on TV news programmes could be used. These include a fixed penalty system.

Hillingdon Council were reported to have identified a lack of youth facilities in South Ruislip. At this point in the discussion Mr James Ware requested that support be given to the new Scout Hut as additional funds are still required. It is hoped that Chrysalis funding could be obtained. Forms were circulated for residents to fill out and send to the Council. An agreement with the council will be sought for the joint use of the new hut.

There has been an increase in break-ins, with one in Wingfield Way which was a particularly determined attack.

Evidence of an alleged robbery in Whitby Road has been collected and statements taken. Concern was expressed that the suspect has already committed a similar

offence and had been “let off” with a community service order. In reply to a letter to the Home Secretary, community orders were considered by the Government as a “real” punishment. With regard to an eviction case in Crest Gardens, more evidence has been collected and the case will now be held at Slough.

4.1 Licensing

From June the local councils will be the licensing authority for the sale of alcohol. It will also be possible for outlets to apply for a 24 hour licence. The councillors present were asked to request that the council issues a list of applicants, just as for planning.

5.0 The last minutes

The last minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

5.1 Matters arising

These were covered as they occurred on the agenda.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Chairperson’s Report

There was no specific Chairperson’s report.

6.2 Treasurer’s Report

The accounts stand as follows: Current £3300, Deposit £2700 and Reserve £2500.

6.3 Chief Road Steward’s Report

Thank you to all members for the subscriptions and to the Road Stewards for collecting them. The last membership lists for 2003 are still awaited, but it is expected that the total membership exceeds 2000. It is hoped the exact figure will be available for the AGM.

Welcome to two new road stewards for Walnut Way and Ruislip Gardens. Please see the newsletter for roads still requiring road stewards.

6.4 Secretary’s Report

Mrs Jenny Hunt, the Assistant Secretary has resigned so that she can concentrate on her guiding activities. We wish her all the best and thank her for her work for the SRRA. A letter has been sent to her thanking her for her contribution.

Two letters and one telephone call have been received from members wishing to raise items at the meeting. Please keep them coming in.

6.5 Transport Report

No new details have come to light regarding the proposed route of the U5 bus. Please see the item in A.O.B. from Mr Robin Kirby.

6.6 Planning

Members of the SRRA have been invited to look around the Days Inn Hotel on the evening of the 4th February.

An objection has been submitted to the proposed care home on the site of the 'Tally Ho'. The application for the building is expected to be rejected due to its size.

An application has been made to the use of Astral House in Great Central Avenue to a job centre.

Sidmouth Drive. The Deputy Prime Minister over ruled the decision of the inspector to allow the building of a school on the playing fields at Sidmouth Drive. Officers report to the cabinet has identified that the funding is 50% short of what is required. The Department of Education has said that PFI funding would be unlikely to be available. This is likely to lead to more consultation and more delay. Currently the shortfall in spaces is being covered by 'temporary' arrangements. If made permanent, then the expense of a new school could be avoided. The true cost of the £14.5m is in fact £47m. This compares with £5m for expansion of current schools. The London Borough of Hillingdon is wasting residents money on these expensive schemes. It was suggested the Mr Doug Mills be invited to the next meeting to explain why the council is so wasteful of our members money. A request was made to our local representatives present to help fight this extravagance.

7.0 Any other business

7.1 U5 bus

Mr Robin Kirby spoke about the proposed route for the U5 bus. At a council meeting last week Councillor Heyward said that "nothing had been decided". The objection of members in The Fairway were logged and noted, a total of 714 had put their names on a petition against the use of residential roads for a bus route.

Consultation is to be carried out by Transport for London. It is important that responses are sent as no comment by residents will be assumed as consent for the idea.

In principal the SRRA is in favour of a bus route that serves the area and connects to Hillingdon Hospital, but the route must have the agreement of the residents whose roads it will use.

7.2 Leaflets with the list of banned garden chemicals and the last date for use were available at the meeting.

7.3 Squadron Leader Petersen apologised for the absence of the new station commander, Group Captain Steve Newton, he had been delayed by the bad weather. He will be invited a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 21:30 p.m. The next meeting (AGM) will be on the 28th April.