

**Brunswick and North Kite Resident's Association
Annual General Meeting**

**7 p.m. 8th April 2008
At Christ Church, Newmarket Road, Cambridge**

Committee Members Presiding

Wendy Andrews	(Chair)
John Messenger	(Hon. Treasurer)
Roger Chatterton	
James Oram	(Secretary)

1. Welcome from Chair

Rev. Steve Midgley the vicar of Christ Church welcomed us and apologised for the chaos resulting for the building works on the church.

Wendy Andrews thanked Rev. Midgley for the use of the church and introduced the committee members present being;

Those above and Charlotte Beatson, Stephen Conrad, Sue Gordon-Roe, John Lawton Leonie Llewellyn.

Other attendees were invited to put themselves forward later in the meeting to become committee members.

2. Treasurer's Report

This year's expenditure has been modest. As John Messenger the incumbent treasurer is to step down the cost of photocopying is likely to increase as he has been able to obtain very low rates.

BruNK is supported by donation for which John expressed gratitude on behalf of the Association.

In spite of the small income the balance is healthy at £558 this is shown on the report distributed.

No queries were raised and the accounts approved.

3. Election to the Committee

John Messenger has resigned both as Hon. Treasurer and from the committee and Dundy Smith also left the committee earlier in the year. Roger Chatterton stepped down as Chair at the last AGM

Elections to the following position for the year ahead were approved

Chair	Wendy Andrews
Secretary	James Oram
Vice Chair	Roger Chatterton
Treasurer	Sue Gordon-Roe

New committee members were invited to stand form the floor and Sallie Westwood has been appointed as a new committee member.

4. Chair's Review of the Year

Two requirements to control the traffic on Maid's Causeway have now been out in place:

The zebra crossing has now been installed but there are some concerns about how safe it is as it is neither very visible nor well lit.

The HCV ban has been approved but is awaiting implementation. It places a restriction on HCV through traffic.

Objections were raised earlier in the year to the licensing extension at the Hopbine public house on Fair Street, the licensing extension was however approved by the Council and the hours are now 10am – 2am Friday and Saturday and 10 am to 1 am the rest of the week. A live music license has been approved and so far as the BruNK knows there have been no complaints about noise.

Following an application there was a consultation from the Council on an additional fair on Midsummer Common. BruNK and individual residents opposed this and the application was withdrawn. Although this was described as an Easter Fair the fair in May is the Easter fair which was moved as the ground was too soft for heavy vehicles at Easter.

Other matters for discussion

Cellar Bar 8 and Talk of the Town

Residents in attendance raised concerns about Cellar Bar 8 and Talk of the Town striptease club in Napier Street both are licensed to the same individual who according to complainants refuses to acknowledge that there is any problem. The license is to 2am.

The complaints include:

Noise to 2 or 3 am in the morning resulting from customers smoking and talking in the yard, leaving the premises and congregating outside. The noise of taxis arriving, departing slamming of car doors etc. The noise continues if any band that has been playing loads their equipment into their van this can continue to 3am.

The yard is strewn with cigarette butts, broken bottles, vomit etc.

Cars parked on pavement on Napier Street

It is possible for the Council to revoke the license?

A local councilor present was very concerned about this and the history of intimidation when licence was objected to he has informed the police.

Any events that cause concern should be carefully documented and the Environmental Health office contacted. This will create a log of problems, however Environmental Health will only tend to get involved when noise is from inside the club. Any nuisance outside could be a matter for the police.

Hopefully the review process for licencing as well as the police and Environmental Health office can deal with the problem.

BruNK would be keen to help with this.

The question of parking rules was raised in relation to this, and a councilor present confirmed parking on both sides of the street is allowed at night following demands from residents. Parking on the pavement is not allowed as it is covered by the illegality of driving on the pavement but this is poorly enforced.

At the West Central Area committee on 15th May the police will be present, this is held at the Graduate Centre.

Other items dealt with this year include:

Cambridge Regional College Development.

The plans for this were presented on 4th February. (see minutes of BruNK committee meeting on 18th February for more details at which Judith Gay of Evening Court was present.)

Concerns were raised about the height of the proposed development, up to seven stories, the Café which may attract undesirables, the increase in noise, the location of bins near Evening Court and the increase in traffic.

The plans include 190 parking spaces.

There is another consultation meeting at Oddfellows Hall, Newmarket Road on 16th April.

The residents the other side of Elizabeth Way have not been consulted but they will be affected by traffic.

No plans have yet been submitted to the council for approval.

The site is in the edge of the conservation area but a floor speaker believed the proposal was out of place.

Other views expressed were that the present view of the College for Midsummer

Common was reasonably attractive and unobtrusive. The size of the development should be taken in the context of the view from the river and Midsummer Common.

Unite Group Plc is the company developing the site for student accommodation along with other controversial sites. They argue that such developments free up other housing for families etc.

John Thompson & Partners are the architects who have a good reputation.

If anyone has any further news about this development could they send it to BruNK.

Midsummer Common

Friends of Midsummer Common (FoMC) have a committee member present Dick Baxter.

The issues they have primarily been concerned with are Strawberry and Midsummer Fair, Sue Dixon a local resident has raised problem of encroachment on the common.

Dick laid out the two key missions

1. To improve management of the common, including the grass, reducing weeds, replacing trees, promoting regular mowing to eradicate weeds the two mows at the moment are not enough.
2. Events on the common, to encourage these in a sensible way, they believe Strawberry Fair has become out of control and have presented the Council with a list of conditions to organizers to meet.

Barry Higgs and Dick will liaise with organizers and agree how anti-social elements can be controlled.

FoMC would like to at least get the fair under control this year.

Sue Dixon has written to Cambridge City Council Head of Planning about encroachment particularly by Midsummer House Restaurant. She has checked their title at The Land Registry and their 'footprint' clearly does not include the pound and lawned area at the front of the restaurant, these are both common land and have been encroached. The owner of Midsummer House has confirmed he has obtained necessary permissions for this usage. The hard standing and path to the front door are encroachments as too were the white stones which have now been removed. The air extraction equipment overhanging the pound disturbs the cattle when they are held in the pound for vaccination.

The Commons Act 2006 lays out the law and it is believed Midsummer House is contravening some of these.

If necessary individuals may take action through the County Court.

It is not clear if Midsummer House or the City Council have locked the pound.

BruNK has been concerned about these issues for some time and is keen to know of any problems residents have and we shall keep pressure on the council.

Cambridge City Council is the legal owner of the common and use of the common requires permission from the council.

Bylaws cover the use of the common but it is difficult to know how to find out which are in force.

Fort St George public house is reported to be building a conservatory as part of its refurbishment programme. However the only permission sought so far is to refurbish the interior.

BruNK are not receiving updates of planning applications and John Summers at the City Council can be contacted for these Colin Rosenstiel will make sure we are on the list to receive these.

Both FoMC and BruNk would be concerned about a conservatory being built at the Fort St George.

Parking Christchurch Street

Staunton House sheltered housing raised the problem of access for emergency service vehicles especially fire engines. Parked cars block the street meaning fire access has to be via Napier Street. Staunton House has suggested yellow lines are adjusted by a few feet, planting beds seem to be too big. Unfortunately there seems to be no funds for this in the County Council budget so unless the City Council can fund it or the Fire Brigade insist on it, it will not happen.

The first stage would be consultation with the residents of the area and it is not clear how tight parking is in spite of the nine spaces.

Other Points

Concern expressed about parking in cycle lane on Newmarket Road and Napier Street.

Replacement of trees in Salmon Lane – Paul Necus (head of parking services Cambridge City Council) has not updated us

Habitat building and general state of Grafton centre - Roger Chatterton has spoken to Michael Wiseman, Heffers will not be taking on the lease of the old Habitat building. Primark is looking at the Robert Sayle site. Other residential units in the Robert Sayle building must be removed under terms of Primark's proposed lease.

Other units are falling empty on Burleigh Street and the area is looking messy.

Colin Rosenstiel remarked that Burleigh Street is a concern to council. The delay in finding a tenant for the Habitat building is because the landlord, Prudential (?), is

seeking a good quality tenant.

Original plans for the Robert Sayle building was for mixed use, retail, office and residential.

The Grand Arcade may mean there is a demand from lower end tenants

Joye Rosenstiel confirmed the Grafton Centre area is on the agenda for West Central Committee.

Litter has become more of a problem in the area.

BruNK will continue to take an interest in these issues.

Joye Rosenstiel is standing down from the council after 26 years having championed many issues in that time, Wendy Andrews expressed thanks on behalf of the committee and the Association.

Any other Business

A number of residents have pointed out that the new Zebra crossing is dangerous, the lights are not bright enough. A resident has contacted the City Council after nearly being run down twice.

Anyone who would like to stand for the committee were asked to speak to a committee member after the meeting

Thanks again were expressed to Rev. Steve Midgley for the use of the church

Meeting closed