

EMMER GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

1. Minutes of a meeting of the Association Committee held on Wednesday 19th August at 32 Peppard Road.

2. Present Michael Denoon-Slater, Annette Fairweather (Chair), Linda Glithro, Bill Harper, Liz Lyke, Veronica Leeke, Margaret Ormonde, Barry Prior.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th June were agreed.

4. Newsletter The Summer Newsletter has been successfully produced and delivered. The next edition is expected in late November. It will include an appeal for members' email addresses.

5. AGM Arranged for 6th April 2016. The speaker from the Woodley Air Museum has been booked, as has the St Barnabas church hall. Liz will organise the wine and Margaret the name labels.

6. Promotional Material

6.1 Michael will circulate details of the various items under consideration.

6.2 It was agreed to purchase 500 car stickers at a cost of £91, to be handed out free of charge with the Annual Report, at the AGM and at other public occasions.

6.3 It was agreed to purchase items to be sold or used as prizes at promotional events. 200 key fobs were considered, but comments are to be given on the various things available

6.4 The aim is to be present at various public events next summer. Further ideas for promoting membership will be considered at the next meeting.

7. Flower Planting

7.1 No response has been received from RBC (Housing) to the idea of wild flower planting in the green area opposite St Barnabas church hall. RBS approval is required as the owner of the land, and to ensure suitable future management. Opportunities exist for partnering with various bodies, including Friends of the Earth, who offer materials and advice.

7.2 Veronica will continue to seek an answer from the RBC officers, but if that is not successful an approach will be made to the local councillors for support.

7.3 Permission has been given to re-plant daffodils (provided at cost by RBC), and this should be undertaken, ideally in conjunction with local residents and EG school. Margaret will organise, including local publicity and call for volunteers.

8. Defibrillator

8.1 Ideas are coming forward to the EG Surgery Patients Group for location and funding for decision in September. EGRA has offered to help with publicity, and it was agreed that a donation of £100 could also be offered.

8.2 A first aid course might be considered in future as a follow-up action.

9. 2016 Visit

Liz will approach the BBC Monitoring Station, and Michael will review whether any of his contacts may be able to help.

10. Readibikes

A proposal for a docking station in EG has been put forward to the Council and the bike managing organisation. It has been welcomed in principle, but funding will need to become available.

11. Constitution

11.1 Annette will draft for comment on supplements to the Constitution dealing with Equal Opportunities and Conduct.

11.2 The purpose of EGRA was reviewed. This was seen to be to represent to views of resident members as a group, with the expectation that they might reasonably represent the views of the whole community. It is therefore necessary for the Committee to try to understand and represent what might be common views, rather than back individual members on very local or personal issues.

12. Committee Role Profiles

Annette will draw together previous work and draft proposals for comment.

It was agreed that Annette could not be expected to undertake both the Chairmanship and the role of Membership Secretary. The aim will be to find a volunteer to take the membership role and join the Committee before the next AGM.

13. Computer Training Sessions

Liz's report on the potential to organise computer training sessions for older people had been circulated. Whilst the technical advisers would be provided, all other aspects of organisation would need to be undertaken by local volunteers. It was agreed that an article would be placed in the next Newsletter drawing attention to the need to find a local "champion" if anything is to go ahead in EG.

14. Notice Board

Ideas are being explored to improve the surface and help deal with the staples problem.

15. Planning

15.1 The recent situation where an application had been made for public land to be sold for private use had shown that the process for considering case should be better defined.

15.2 It was agreed that for the time being Veronica would consult with Annette about whether all Committee members needed to be involved in any review.

15.3 Veronica will talk to the CADRA planning contact about whether lessons might be learned from their apparently more pro-active approach.

15.4 It was noted that the planning applications section of the RBC web site is unsatisfactory.

16. Finance Report

The Treasurer outlined recent transactions and drew attention to the substantial balance in hand.

17. NAG

Michael had made contact with Joanne Anderson and has received some helpful information.

18. Heights School

The preferred site for the school is Mapledurham Playing Field, but this is likely to be challenged legally. Whilst that situation remains in progress EGRA has no further direct interest.

19. Stationery

A revised letter heading is needed, and members will find it helpful to have a copy of the logo to attach to EGRA material. Margaret will prepare something for circulation.

20. Emmer Green Sign

The sign needs cleaning. This will be considered at the next meeting.

21. Recreation Ground Damage

Recent activities of individuals with metal detectors had caused damage to the surface. This is being drawn to the attention of the Council, and the point can be made that there are possible hazards from the uneven surface.

22. Meeting of Volunteers

It was agreed that all those who volunteer to help EGRA should be invited to a meeting as a mark of appreciation. Liz will consider how this might be arranged.

23. Next Meeting

To be held on Monday 12th October, 7pm at 141 Peppard Road.