

Downshire Hill Residents Association
Minutes of Meeting, Sunday 15 April, 2018, 7 pm
at 13 Downshire Hill

Present: Stephen Ainger (chairman), Margaret Rodgers, Mark Dennis, Christabel Dennis, Andrew Neale, Nicky Sinclair, Sophie Marple, Sally Minto, Patricia Morison

1. **Minutes** of the meeting on 13 February were approved.

2. Redevelopment of The Old Police Station

EFSA/Abacus School still intends to apply for planning permission for a school of 210 pupils. Stephen and Andrew reported on recent contacts with the EFSA. EFSA is now keen to consult residents, and several meetings had taken place.

Abacus School is said to be exploring more appropriate sites within the Belsize Park catchment area – Downshire Hill being outside the catchment area.

EFSA had admitted that the first planning application was inept and deficient in several respects for which they apologised. They are now working on the provision of a new school in a very different way. Their design consultants are working on the scheme for a smaller school. EFSA has set no deadline for their re-application for planning consent.

Stephen reminded the committee that at the 2017 AGM, the majority of Downshire Hill residents had said that a smaller school with 210 pupils would not be acceptable, as they believed the site was fundamentally unsuited to becoming a school.

The Heath & Hampstead Society had written to express implacable opposition to the revised school plan. Fleet Road Primary School also continues to be opposed to the school plan, whether of 420 or 210 pupils, as there is no need for further primary school provision in Hampstead and it appears that they worry that once built, pupils would be taken from their catchment area if there were insufficient pupils from Belsize Park available.

The committee heard that if planning permission were obtained for a smaller school of 210 pupils, there is no mechanism whereby the school could be prevented from growing over time to become a 420 school.

Tulip Siddiq MP had still not replied to Stephen's further letter about the issue, nor had she acknowledged receipt of the letter. The committee found it most disappointing. *(reply now received)*

The committee thanked Andrew most warmly for his continued vigilance and hard work.

3. Financial contributions to DHRA's appeal against the first application.

Mark confirmed that the outstanding balance of contributions had been returned to the generous individuals. A fresh appeal for funds to pay consultants would be needed if the revised plans are submitted.

4. Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be on Tuesday 8 May at the Freemasons Arms. Effort would be made to ensure proceedings are audible, which had been a problem last year.

5. Burglary

An aggravated burglary had taken place in Pilgrims Lane. DHRA residents should review their security measures, and be particularly careful when answering the door to supposed delivery men, especially if there were two men. The subject of street security will be raised at the AGM.

6. Sharing emails

Some residents would like to use the DHRA email list for sharing useful information, such as recommended tradesmen: another topic to be discussed at the AGM and future meetings.

7. Magnolia at number 9

Attention was drawn to an application for permission to fell the very large magnolia in the front garden.

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