

Downshire Hill Residents Association
Minutes of Meeting, Sunday 1ST July, 2018, 7 pm
at 8 Downshire Hill

Present: Stephen Ainger (chairman), Margaret Rodgers, Andrew Neale, Peter ,
Tausig, Tony Gordon James, Diana Delbridge, Redding Thompson

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of 15th April were approved.

2. **Redevelopment of The Old Police Station**

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 also recently written to express implacable opposition to the revised 210 school as in their view Hampstead does not need another school. This is in fact was reinforced in the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan which had reiterated Camden policy of no more schools in Hampstead..

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

At the recent consultation Abacus School had been positive about the alternative Fire Station site we had proposed as it was in the catchment area but ESFA were not keen. They had said that an early feasibility study had rejected the site but they had now found it difficult to locate the actual feasibility study. Andrew had now requested this formally under a FOI and it was becoming clear that EFSA were not really interested in an alternative site. Efsa said they had 10 reasons not to accept the Fire Station site but when challenged they could not back up this claim and when our Architect had looked at it he felt that in many ways the Fire Station was a better location than the old police station not least it was in the middle of the catchment area, near a school, and environmentally much better. Abacus school said that they would be happy with the site but this was up to the EFSA.

In the recent consultation meeting the EFSA said that they intend a 210 school and to this end were intent on selling off the old police house. They did not intend to sell off anything else. Andrew said that this means of course that there would be lots of unused space for expansion to relocate other schools to the Police Station such as the special school currently located at the old Hampstead town Hall. This was especially the case as the surplus space would be under the control and management of Abacus.

DHRA and others had made it clear that we did not need any more community space in Hampstead.

The so called surplus community space was about 2000sq meters and EFSA said that 3500sq m would be required to increase to 420 and we know this could only be done with more development of the building.

All at the meeting felt it was clear that we needed to be prepare to fight the 210 application and at a meeting in late June some residents had kicked off the fundraising by agreeing to donate £8000 which would allow some of the key work to begin.

At this meeting Mark Dennis had agreed to seek additional funding which would be needed. Last time we spent £17k and raised £25k and had given back to the larger donors the surplus of £7k or so . The target this time was again £25k but it was hoped much less would be required.

Work would include;-

- Light surveys on the Fire Station and potentially the police station
- Environmental work including traffic and CO2
- Acoustic studies
- Heritage
- General planning consultant to advise us on items such as impact on Surgery opposite, impact on individual homes etc

It was also agreed that we should try and meet the local MP following our correspondence and Peter agreed to try and make this happen thru his contacts.

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

4 It was agreed the summer party would be 2nd or 9th Sept. at 7pm, SDA to advise and tell residents

SDA

Chair

July 2018