

Downshire Hill Residents Association

Minutes of meeting on Sunday December 2, 2018, 7pm

Present: Stephen Ainger (chairman), Christabel Dennis, Mark Dennis (treasurer), Redding Thompson, Tony Gordan James, Nicola Sinclair, Sophie Marple, Diana Delbridge, Stephen Gross, Nigel Seward, Todd Berman (Observer), Patricia Morison (secretary)

1. **Minutes** of the meeting on 7 October were approved.

2. Hampstead Forum

Nickie reported on the Neighbourhood Plan. There had been good participation in the first vote on which community projects should be funded. Particularly relevant to Downshire Hill was the agreement to spend £70k on upgrading two playgrounds, East Heath Road and Downshire Hill.

It was noted that the severe hedge reduction at the playground had apparently been less for the good of the hedge than in order to discourage illegal drug usage which has been taking place in the playground.

3. The Old Police Station: EFSA/Abacus' new planning application for smaller school

Andrew and others updated the committee on developments, with reference to points raised at the Police Station and consultation with EFSA.[See Mins for 7 October.]

- i. **On 30 January, 7-9pm at Pax Lodge, there will be a public meeting to discuss the revised plans for the School.** People should go along and ask questions.
- ii. The revised planning application for a smaller school of 210 pupils is expected to be submitted soon after in February.
- iii. Alternative sites. The action committee had drawn the EFSA's attention to several apparently eminently suitable sites for the School, including within its Belsize catchment area. Yet they had shown no sign of interest in following up.
- iv. Continuing local opposition to the smaller school proposal. The Hampstead Forum will write confirming that the Old Police Station school development plan does not meet the agreed local policy on schools. The Heath & Hampstead Society continue to oppose. So do many local residents' associations.

- v. More traffic and pollution issues. New End School had been awarded a 'gold standard' school travel policy. Despite this they find that in a straw poll at the school at least 22% of its pupils are driven. In a similar straw poll of one other local primary school it said 28% students arrive by car. This is standard across the borough. It casts doubt on Abacus' claim that their 'zero driving' policy will mean no increase in traffic.

The committee was reminded that the police station is a pollution hot spot.

- vi. Flyer circulated in October. The committee congratulated members of HRDC in the well designed and cogent statement of the reasons why the School proposal is misguided.
- vii. Planning appeal - need for consultants' input. Andrew reported that the objections to the revised proposal in planning terms remain as before. DHRA will need to hire consultants again to address the twin issues, planning and traffic. The expected cost could be £4-5,000. DHRA residents will again be asked to contribute. Andrew was authorised to spend up to £5,000 on the consultants.
- viii. The HRDC committee (*Stephen, Andrew (Co Chair), Todd (Co Chair), S Groz, Alex, Nigel Steward*) will continue to meet fortnightly. The committee thanked them warmly for their dedication.

3 South End Green traffic changes.

Stephen reported that the slip road is currently planned to be made buses only to increase the capacity of the bus stops. This would have an impact on traffic in Downshire Hill. Councillor Stephen Stark is the contact point on this matter.

4 Camden electoral review

Individuals should be encouraged to make representations.

Stephen Ainger
Chair