

DOWNSHIRE HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday 8 May 2018
At the Freemasons' Arms

1. Stephen Ainger, chair, welcomed the large number of residents.
2. The Minutes of the previous AGM on 10th May 2017 were approved.
3. The Eruv. The Chair reminded the meeting that the proposed ERUV would consist of 80 4-5 metre poles all round Hampstead village to form an eruv to include Hampstead. Several of the poles would be by the Freemasons Arms taking a wire across Downshire Hill. Speaking to the council it is understood that the planning committee will consider the proposal in July and that it has been recommended for approval. At the 2017 AGM, a majority of the residents opposed the eruv's introduction. Residents were encouraged to make their views known to the council by attending the planning meeting.
4. Freemasons' Arms. Mark Dennis reported that, on the whole, relations between the pub and the street were remained good. Clearing drinkers out of the forecourt and the garden was happening at the appointed times. It is a condition of the license renewal that these measures are observed. The manager continues to be responsive and effective. Some residents however had suffered from noise and disruption and Residents were urged to take notes of specific details including the date and time and tell Mark and the pub about any problems. Collecting the pub's rubbish at anti-social hours continued to be an occasional problem.
5. The DHRA website. Residents were reminded to look at the website for DHRA Minutes. These may be redacted when dealing with sensitive issues. Residents should ask committee members for latest developments. It was agreed that the website needed sprucing up and Joachim Liese volunteered to offer support
6. Redding Thompson reported on street security. There had been a serious burglary in Pilgrim's Lane. The increase in deliveries to flats and houses poses a potential threat. Residents should take the appropriate measures, such as requiring delivery men to confirm the delivery number and be very careful opening the door if more than one delivery person present.

7. Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan. Nicky Sinclair, the Downshire Hill representative on the Hampstead Forum, reported on the Plan which is a statutory document of great significance. The referendum will be 21 June. Residents were encouraged to read the Neighbourhood Plan at Keats Library, Burgh House or on-line, and to vote. Several issues have particular relevance to Downshire Hill, such as buses, traffic, and air quality. The chairman thanked Nicky for her contribution.
8. The former Police Station. Andrew Neale spoke. Andrew and Stephen met the ESFA in February. The EFSA had apologised for the inadequate and badly prepared previous proposal for a 420 place school and that for the new proposal they would approach it in a very different manner. The ESFA however continued to claim to have been unable to find a more suitable site although Camden said they had never been approached for any alternative site and past site search work had really focussed on a 420 place school not a 210 one. The EFSA invited DHRA to suggest other sites and said they would also take a look at potential alternates. This was being followed up.

The new proposal for the 210-pupil place school would solve certain problems versus the 420-pupil plan proposal such as the rooftop play ground, but most of the fundamental problems remain not least that the DHRA committee felt that given the size of the site, the school would be bound to grow to 420 over time.

No proposal had yet been put forward by EFSA's new architects. The ESFA was told that DHRA is absolutely opposed the school on the site and there being an entrance on Downshire Hill. Pollution and the traffic generated by parents dropping off, picking up, by school coaches, deliveries etc., remains a fundamental problem.

Andrew Neale, Tod Berman and Alex Schindler were thanked for their hard work and commitment to fighting the Abacus school development plan.

9. Finances. Mark Dennis, Treasurer.
 - i) All debts in relation to the planning application had been settled and surplus funds returned to the larger donors as appropriate.
 - ii) Subscriptions were last raised three years ago and Mark was afraid that they needed to be raised again, £20 per couple, £10 per single occupant.
 - iii) DHRA has 51 members currently of a total of 60 homes. Existing members were asked to invite new members.
10. The committee members were thanked for their contribution. Any resident may join the committee by speaking to Stephen Ainger.

11. Summer Party. Date to be notified. Margaret Rodgers was thanked for most kindly offering to host the party again.

12. Traffic.

i) There remains an issue about no left turn by the island at South End Green. It is linked to the Gospel Oak gyratory review and a watch on this would continue.

ii) Complaints were made about large lorries parking illegally 8pm-6am. Residents were encouraged to complain to the Council.

iii) A charging point for electric cars will be installed in the Heath car park following lobbying by Nicky.

13. Rubbish on the pavement at the top of the street. The problem is as bad as ever, despite the struggle to solve it. The culprits are the Everyman Cinema owners, also Air BNB customers in the block. Stephen Gross volunteered to have another shot at solving the problem.

21st June 2018