



# Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents' Association



## Parish Assembly Update – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

You may recall that, due to Covid-19 restrictions last year, we took the decision to cancel the 2020 AGM and to extend the duration of the current committee until the end of March this year. The six months' extension last summer was in line with the action that was being taken by other membership clubs and associations, with the logic being that we anticipated being out of lockdown controls by the spring.

For obvious reasons, this unfortunately has not happened and we find ourselves having passed the previously revised cut-off date of 31 March 2021. We have no indication so far as to how other members' clubs and associations are conducting their affairs but, on the basis that none of the membership has made any comments to the contrary, we are extending the life of the current committee by another six months, with the hope that by the beginning of October, we can hold a meaningful AGM and election and get back to the "old" routine.

We are still in need of a Membership Secretary. Cheryl has been covering this position, whilst also being Treasurer, but will be standing down at the year end. However, she will be happy to give training to anyone who takes up the post and there is a written guide for support. She will continue to be the Treasurer, if elected, after that date and will be happy to support the new Membership Secretary in any way she can. If you feel that you would have the time to help, please get in touch.

As we are not in a position to hold a meaningful AGM at the moment, we thought that it would be useful to give an update of where we are currently, from the point that the current Committee was formed. The main points are:

- The current committee was formed in April 2020 after the resignation of the then Chair, Jenny Buckley;
- During April and May 2020, we decided that we needed to do something about the various anti-social behaviour, drugs and traffic issues that were prevalent and, to that end, produced a large matrix of the issues being brought to our attention. From that, we worked out what we thought that we needed to do to alleviate them;
  - a. We put our proposals to the Parish Council and asked the PC if they would join us in dealing with these issues. The PC was supportive of what we were planning to do;
  - b. This resulted in a Working Party (WP) of three members of each of the RA and the PC, with one other independent member making up the WP, which commenced the process in May 2020. This WP has since increased by the addition of a representative from Tidbury Green PC;
  - c. Since then, we have worked in accord with each other to promote our vision locally and promote it to the public authorities with whom we have interacted;
  - d. The plan still has a way to go but everyone should see it coalescing over the next few months;
  - e. The Working Party has produced monthly updates for the PC and published them on both the RA and the PC websites prior to each Full Council Meeting – and will continue to do so until the project is finalised. All the historical monthly updates are still available on the website;
- We have spent £400 on updating the RA website and hope that you find it a worthwhile use of funds, given the additional information that it now disseminates;
- We have reviewed around 70 planning applications made to SDC and submitted comments on those that we either object to, or support. Of those, we objected to 7 and supported 1. Of those 8, the PC objected to 3 and made no representation on 5, while the District Councillor objected to 3 and made no objections on 5;

- We have decided that we are not going to produce regular hardcopy newsletters for all households in the area. This is for three reasons:
  - a. The news section of the website, to which anyone can subscribe, is updated almost daily with relevant information;
  - b. The membership should not have to bear the cost of printing newsletters for non-members; and
  - c. We have collected email addresses for most members so can email newsletters and other information quickly at no cost. We will, of course, continue to provide hardcopies of any digital newsletters to members who have not provided digital contact details;
- We have reviewed and updated all the RA's policies – Constitution, Redaction, Code of Conduct, Aims and Objectives, Complaints Handling and Data Protection, which we believe is compliant with current legislation, including GDPR;
- We have been conducting monthly Committee meetings on Zoom;
- We have been transferring our data steadily into the Cloud, so that it can be accessed easily by all members of the committee. We have been digitising all the back catalogue of documents that we have access to and we now have a library stored in the Cloud. This process continues;
- We are now including and representing those members who live within the Solihull MBC area of Earlswood and have recruited a representative (Lizzie Evans) from there and have been making representations to both SMBC and to Tidbury Green PC. TGPC has been very supportive of our input and we thank them for that;
- Our finances are as follows:

<b>BALANCES:</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£	£
14/04/2020	1307	5427	23	6757
08/02/2021	1181	5427	47	6655

Notes:

- The opening balance at 14/04/2020 included the income from the successful “Swim with Sharks” fundraising function that we had just prior to that date;
- The main items of expenditure since 14/04/2020 have been;
  - The updating and rebuilding of the website at £400; and
  - The production of two hardcopy Covid-19 newsletters (650 copies of each) which were distributed to all the households in the RA area at £163;
- The difference between these adjustments to the current bank account balance is made up, primarily, of membership subscriptions and donations, with the current membership standing at over 150 households;
- The deposit account balance hasn't changed over the period but we may need to consider changing banks as the bank's conditions are changing and look like being less favourable going forward.

We hope that this short update has been of benefit. We cannot operate without membership funds, so thanks to all who support us and, consequently, the community at large. If you have time and would like to become a Committee member, we are always happy to consider new members. If you have any questions, or issues concerning it, or the operation of the RA, please do get in touch with us, either through our email addresses which can be found above, or on the “contacts” page of the website, or in writing. If you are writing, you are welcome to post your correspondence to:

Chair: Ewen Cunningham, Copperfield, Umberslade Rd, Earlswood, B94 5QA  
 Vice-Chair: Sarah Adams, 91 The Common, Earlswood, B94 5SJ  
 Secretary: Kate Clark, 93 The Common, Earlswood, B94 5SJ

Yours sincerely,

*Ewen Cunningham*

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 Chair E&FHRA