

Mottingham Residents Association Newsletter – Summer 2017



Welcome to our summer newsletter.

This is intended as a means of distributing information and matters of interest to members.

Much of our information distribution is now via the website (www.yourMRA.org), but we acknowledge that a number of us may not have computer access.

It has also been recognised by the Committee that the wider membership may not have any information or feedback from the April AGM until they see the minutes 12 months later. Hence a précis of the AGM now appears on the website and also below.

REPORT OF THE 85th AGM OF THE MRA – Wednesday 26th April 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman paid tribute to committee members who serve for no reward, particularly the elected officers without whom important decisions and actions could not happen. He also thanked the Councillors and Bromley and Greenwich Police who work hard to keep Mottingham at the bottom of the league tables for crime in the respective boroughs.

The Year's Successes

- *The new website is now recording over 100 visits per day, a figure that had increased to some 200/day since the AGM notice went out.*
- *The new colour newsletter has been well received and the Executive are producing two newsletters this year with an earlier one providing a report of the AGM and accounts details to assist Road Representatives with collection of subscriptions earlier in the year.*
- *Renovation of the Notice Board outside the Methodist Church.*
- *Replacement of the Festival bench near the entrance to Foxes Field.*
- *Deferment of plans to impose parking charges in Mottingham Road.*
- *Repulsion of telecom mast at Mottingham Lane/Grove Park Road junction*

Library

It is reported that Bexley have withdrawn from the agreement to work with Bromley on the Library back office functions – we await developments here.

Porcupine

The PDC is still working to get the Porcupine Pub re-opened; however, Lidl, the current site owners, had been disappointed with the recent sealed bids as none came near the costs they were seeking to recover. Lidl are now considering their position but may well submit a new planning application which we will have to fight.

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School Proposal

The Executive Committee have identified a perpetual under-provision of at least 60 entry level school places in north Mottingham partly due to being at the junction of three different local authorities. All but one of the Mottingham Schools are no longer run by the Councils but by a selection of Trusts. The Committee drew up a prospectus for the creation of a free school to meet the need for submission to possible sponsors. Some elements of this proposal were unfortunately misrepresented and were translated into a petition which was signed by 233 individuals, not all local residents, and submitted to the committee. The true facts of the proposal were circulated to all homes, and posted on the noticeboard and website.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

There are over 2000 homes covered by the Association, about 920 (45%) of which are members of the MRA.

There are specific areas where we have access problems such as 'Everest expedition' flats and an appeal was made for more Road Representatives especially from people within these buildings.

Thank you to all the Road Representatives and Section Leaders without whom it would be difficult to communicate effectively with Members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Audited accounts for the year ended 31st March were presented.

Income for the year ended 31st March £2367, (down £199 on previous year).

Surplus of £311. There was an agreed payment of the second £500 to the Porcupine Development Committee.

Surplus funds were moved into the reserve deposit account which now stands at £13000.

The treasurer recommended the Annual Subscription remain at £2.50 and that we continue to support the Festive Lights to the sum of £500 each year.

Members were urged to encourage friends and neighbours to support the MRA.

The Treasurer thanked our auditor, Bernie Hawes.

The Audited accounts were received and adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	-	Laurie Bell.
TREASURER	-	Laurie Bell.
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	-	Richard Mainwaring-Burton.
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	-	Lesley Robins.
SECRETARY	-	Robert Blanks.
AUDITOR	-	Mr Bernie Hawes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Astrid Chklar was thanked for her support over 10 years and was appreciated with a round of applause.

MEMBERS :

Sally Bettesworth	Edmund Cavendish	Jane Cornish
Margaret Henderson	Liz Keable	Rebecca Young

New Committee members are always welcome.

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

A resolution was passed that The Association's Constitution be amended as follows:

Membership Clause 6. The membership year shall run from 1st April to 31st March in line with the Association's Financial Year. Membership shall however continue after the 31st March for a grace period of 6 months to 30th September to allow for renewal following which, if not renewed, the membership shall lapse.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Due to the forthcoming general election, it was deemed inappropriate for any of the Councillors to speak to the meeting. There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned for a 20-minute break.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Following a break for refreshments the Chairman introduced Chris Davis pointing out that she had waived the normal honorarium. Chris, Mottingham Librarian, who is also a well-known member of the community, gave an interesting presentation entitled "**Trafalgar Square – Not Just a Column**". She covered some of the history as well as some hidden, less well-known aspects of Trafalgar Square.

The Chairman led the meeting in thanking her for a very entertaining talk

Topics currently being discussed by the MRA Committee

- Traffic in West Hallows
- Nuisance Cycle Riding
- Mottingham Hall Nursery woodland activities

Topics being discussed 45 years ago

One of the features on the website is the 'About Mottingham' – 'History' page with links to Newsletters dating back to 1972. It might be of interest to see what the Committee was discussing 45 years ago.

- Mottingham had been called the "Cinderella of the Bromley Family" and a "by-passed backwater" – The MRA was committed to rectifying this.
- **Road safety** – insufficient time for pedestrians at the A20 crossing by "The Royal Hotel"

➤ **Redevelopment of the West Park – Mottingham Road junction**

Greenwich Council had allocated an initial £900 for a temporary roundabout in advance of the estimated £25,000 for a permanent solution.

➤ **Car Parking issues**

Porcupine car parking overflowing onto the pavement area
Solution needed for parking causing traffic issues around the Riding School in Mottingham Lane.

➤ **Geffery Homes development site** had been transferred to the Greater London Council for development, possibly to be returned to Bromley Council later.

MRA was very concerned about the lack of community and welfare provision in the area, particularly when the Oxford House Day Centre was to close.

➤ **Motorway Enquiry** (note 1972!)

Attended by MRA members. A proposed M20 extension was planned to interchange with the A20 in an area near the Dutch House.

There was mention of a 6-lane motorway alongside the A20 with the interchange rising some 60 feet above the ground, and involving demolition of many houses.

The Village Show (August 26th 2017) A Grand Day.

Did you see the TV series of The Great British Village Show?

The Mottingham Horticultural Society's Autumn Show will be held once again in King George's Hall at Eltham College, with tea and cakes available in good company all afternoon, and the Mottingham Concert Band adding to the relaxed atmosphere.

Anyone can put in exhibits of different flowers, pot plants, fruit, vegetables, cakes, bread, photographs, embroidery, painting

If you have never entered an exhibit before, why not have a go, even if it's only one photograph or one flower this time. The entry fee is just 20p.

Of course there are prizes for each category and also silver cups for the champions.

Show schedules and entry forms are available at the library, at the Horti Shed in Gardeners Close, Beaconsfield Road, at Mottingham Floral Arrangement Society or on the website (www.yourMRA.org)

On such a wonderful occasion, community members come together to celebrate each other. You've seen it on the BBC, now come to see for yourself, or better still join in and enter.

Contact us : MRA members are always welcome to attend Committee meetings and we can be contacted via :-

chair@yourmra.org

secretary@yourmra.org

webmaster@yourmra.org

For those without computer access or skills, the library is kindly providing a dropbox for comments and communication.

Officers' and Representatives' Addresses will no longer be published in Newsletters to respect privacy and prevent identity theft.

Stop Press – 23rd June – Sports Bar Planning Application for 37, Mottingham Road refused by Bromley Council Officers