

BARNSBURY SQUARE RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 16 September at 6.30 pm in St Andrew's Church, Thornhill Square.

Apologies were received from Nigel Burton, Chair.
The meeting was chaired by Tuan Ho, Secretary of the BSRA.
Minutes were taken by Sue Cleverdon, Committee Member.

1 The Barnsbury Square Residents' Association

Action

The Barnsbury Square Residents' Association (BSRA) was formally re-constituted and officially recognized by the Council in July 2012. The Association now has a logo, a Committee which holds regular Committee Meetings and a membership list. There is an Annual General Meeting which all residents are invited to attend.

The area of operation of the BSRA covers Barnsbury Square (including the area covering the garages behind the north side of the Square, Mountfort House and Mica House), Mountfort Terrace, Mountfort Crescent, Barnsbury Terrace (including The Courtyard at the end of the Terrace), part of Thornhill Road facing the Square (no. 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82) and two properties on the West side of Thornhill Road with side frontages onto Barnsbury Square (no. 35 and 37).

Objectives

The objectives of the Association are:

1. To foster a sense of community
2. To preserve and/or enhance the residents' well-being and safety
3. To preserve and/or enhance the environment
4. To preserve and/or enhance the character and history of the area.

2 Report of the Last Twelve Months

1. Community Activities

A number of community activities have been organized in the Square during the

year and neighbours are now getting to know each other better, fostering a greater sense of community. More activities are planned for the coming year.

2. Pavement

The Association has successfully campaigned for the replacement of the asphalt pavement on the north and south sides of the square with York stone paving which has improved the safety and greatly enhanced the character of the Square. The Council has agreed to replace the pavement on the west side when the development work at number 16 Barnsbury Square is complete.

3. Mountfort Terrace Open Space

The Association has worked with the Council to improve Mountfort Terrace Open Space. Several fir trees were removed to allow more light and new planting schemes have been introduced.

4. Improvements in the Square

The Association has been very actively engaged in negotiations with the Council for improvements to the square, especially regarding cleanliness and safety in the garden square for all groups of users including children and the elderly.

In response to requests from residents, some of the lower branches of the mature trees in the square have recently been pruned by the Council.

A temporary Park Keeper has been appointed by the Council to help with gardening and to encourage responsible behavior within the Square.

At our request, the Council is looking into a budget for stripping and preparing the railings for painting. It has been agreed that local residents will have paint the railings under the supervision of professionals. We could hold a community event for this activity.

5. Community Gardening

The plants in the Square are looked after by the Council and the Friends of Barnsbury Square. Residents are warmly invited to help at the monthly community gardening sessions organized in conjunction with the Friends and

the Council. A number of residents are already involved with this.

6. Development in the Square

Our Chair has been very actively involved in monitoring closely the development at number 16. A further report is given below.

3 Election of Committee Members

It was with great sadness that we heard Tuan Ho's decision to stand down as Secretary of the Association because of his heavy work schedule and travel commitments. For the last eighteen months, Tuan has worked valiantly and tirelessly in bringing together local residents to improve life in our community. We are enormously grateful to him for re-convening and bringing new life and vibrancy to the Residents' Association and for his incredible hard work as Secretary since July 2012 when the new Association was formally constituted. None of the many achievements of the last twelve months would have been possible without Tuan's dedicated hard work and determination. All the residents passed their thanks to Tuan.

Sue Cleverdon, who has been resident in the Square for many years and an active Committee Member over the last 12 months, was elected as the new Secretary. Hazel Adam has agreed to continue as Co-Secretary.

Kathleen Frenchman, who has been managing the membership list and enrolment of new members has joined the Committee as Membership Secretary.

Scott Moffatt, who has been assisting the Chair in monitoring the planning developments at number 16 Barnsbury Square, was elected as a Committee Member.

To focus our activities and ease the workload of the Committee, three Sub-Committees have been formed:

1. Conservation and Planning Sub-Committee

Nigel Burton, Scott Moffatt and Geoff Brownlow

2. Infrastructure Sub-Committee

Sue Cleverdon, Paula Kahn and Peter Wood

3. Community and Environment Sub-Committee

Marie-Therese Barton, Hazel Adam, Mark Dixon and Toby Jarvis

This brings the Committee to fifteen people. It was agreed that this is a good number and any increase would make it difficult to manage. The Committee is now as follows::

Chair	Nigel Burton
Secretary	Sue Cleverdon
Co Secretary	Hazel Adam
Treasurer	Patrick O'Connell
Membership Secretary	Kathleen Frenchman
Committee Members	Ruth Brownlow
	Geoff Brownlow
	Marie-Therese Barton
	Mark Dixon
	Emyr Fairburn
	Tuan Ho
	Toby Jarvis
	Paula Kahn
	Scott Moffatt
	Peter Wood

Four Committee Meetings are held per year, plus additional meetings as required.

4 Outstanding and Future Actions to be Addressed

It was thought that less tree pruning had taken place in the Square than had been agreed with the Council Tree Department. Toby Jarvis will pick this up

TJ

with the Friends of Barnsbury Square.

A notice encouraging responsible behaviour in the Square is to be put up. The wording of the notice has been agreed with the Friends of Barnsbury Square and the Barnsbury Square Users Group. Clarification was sought on the role of the recently formed Barnsbury Square Users Group. It was explained that this group was set up to represent the views of a number of regular users of the Square who are not necessarily residents nor members of the Friends of Barnsbury Square.

It was agreed by the Council that further improvements will be made to the pavements if there are savings against the Section 106 funds allocated for pavement works when the York stone pavement is complete. The Infrastructure Sub-Committee will pursue this.

SC

The Committee will investigate the possibility of a BSRA website. The cost is expected to be in the region of £400 which might be met via a collection from residents.

5 Development at Number 16 Barnsbury Square

Works at 16 Barnsbury Square are due to commence in the next two or three months. The construction team are producing regular newsletters for neighbours which can be obtained by email. Please let one of the Committee Members know if you would like to subscribe to receive these updates.

Scott Moffatt briefed the residents on the involvement of the Conservation and Planning Sub-Committee with the development at number 16. The group is monitoring changes and minor alterations to the planning application so that collective action can be taken, if necessary, to avoid un-sympathetic alterations.

A number of residents have been appointed by this Sub-Committee to represent residents in all the locations around the Square and to collate feedback on planning proposals so that timely responses can be submitted to the planning

department.

Scott Moffatt will circulate the names and contact details of the representatives and details on how you can get involved.

SM

6 Social Events

The BSRA Christmas Party will be held at the Hungerford Arms on 14 December. All residents are warmly invited. A notice will be circulated.

MTB

A Summer Concert in the Square is planned.

It was suggested that there could be informal gatherings of residents in the Square or in Mountfort Terrace Open Space, for drinks and snacks, for example at Halloween.

7 AOB

There was no further business and the meeting was formally closed.