

East Greenwich Residents Association

AGM Minutes

7:30pm Monday 12th February 2018

1. Annual Report (Monique Tomlinson)

EGRA has had a very successful 2017, continuing with our Cruise Liner Terminal campaign through both legal & media avenues and greening initiatives around the area building on the success of the Trafalgar Rd Project, entering into partnership with Emergency Exit Arts to set up the People's parlour to help tackle social isolation of the elderly in East Greenwich and, as part of a triumvirate group with Westcombe & Greenwich societies, putting pressure on the council in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy. These are the major things we have been involved with but there have been many more items such as ongoing monitoring of planning applications, air quality and other items raised by members.

The Cruise Liner Terminal continues to be one of our main focus areas with petitions being raised to the EU, that whilst responded to and closed, has made it clear that the Royal Borough of Greenwich has responsibility for mitigating the air quality impacts that this will cause. We achieved national media coverage with the Channel 4 Dispatches programme featuring our Chair Dan Hayes & Ian Blore. We have also continued to receive coverage in local & national press.

Greening initiatives have expanded from just the Trafalgar Rd project to greening spaces around Rothbury Hall, Christchurch School and Vanburgh Hill as well as championing street trees in Bellot St and cleaning up the Thames Path.

The Community Infrastructure Levy has been a hot topic and following pressure from ourselves, Westcombe Society & Greenwich society a process has been instigated for the distribution of funds, whilst there are many improvements that could be made to the process this is a step in the right direction and we can start to see some of this money spent on projects that the local community support. With the first tranche of monies (£137k) now being allocated and successful projects expected to be announced in March.

The People's Parlour has been amazingly successful with weekly sessions running and a lantern parade attend by over 400 local residents. We raised over £30,000 in order to support the project from a combination of grants by Arts Council England, RBG, ward council budgets and crowdfunding. The aim of the weekly creative workshops is to help older residents feel less alone and through events such as the Lantern parade provide a link to the broader community.

We also helped rally support to oppose the demolition of the Gas Holder on the Peninsula as well as ensuring that changes to larger developments are heard by the planning committee.

2. Statement of Accounts (Kate Joeekes)

An overview of the accounts was provided:

Balance at 1 Jan 2017	<u>3250.96</u>
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Income

Memberships 2017	375.00
Arts Council Fund - People's Parlour	13500.00
RBG - Community Arts Funding - People's Parlour	<u>2250.00</u>
	<u>16125.00</u>

Expenditure

Green Traf Road Project - EGRA Plaques	193.20
Airtubes	45.00
EEA - People's Parlour	<u>2250.00</u>
	<u>2488.20</u>

Balance at 31 December 2017	<u>16887.76</u>
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Website & email hosting costs of £150 were paid by Brian Bosack, we thank him for his continued support, particularly as he now lives in LA.

The accounts were approved by a show of hands and a vote of thanks to Kate for her hard work as treasurer this year was carried.

No new members were nominated for election to the executive committee and there was a vote by show of hands to re-elect all existing members including the Chair (Dan Hayes), Treasurer (Kate Joekes) and Secretary (Louise Fletcher) for the next year.

3. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) / Greenwich Community Growth Fund Update (Fiona Machen)

CIL is money taken from developments by the Council at a cost per square metre from developments over a certain total metreage. The Council is then supposed to use it for a number of different items: Schools, public realm, playgrounds, employment on projects.

A small amount of it is put to Community consultation by way of a funding round for which projects deemed to directly MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF DEVELOPMENT can apply. It's for one-off costs so cannot be used to fund ongoing costs such as salaries or anything that the Council then need to maintain.

At Christmas, RBG finally announced how Greenwich would be divided into areas and the allocation of fund to each area as well as the process that needs to be followed to apply for funds. The process was to submit a properly costed official application, signed by all 3 ward councillors. It closed on 5th Feb, after that there will be a public voting process. Not clear as yet what the voting process might be, but it was inferred that some projects might get through without voting if small enough. We are avidly awaiting announcement of the voting process.

As yet no list of projects that have applied for funds has been published. We are keeping a watching brief and will advise as soon as we have further info. We will continue to engage with the council to shape the process. There is a challenge for sustainability as the funds are one off, so issues with ongoing maintenance and up keep as can't employ people on an ongoing basis.

There will be another round for allocation of CIL funds, this is planned for October.

Question: What % of CIL money is this? 15% has to be publicly consulted on.

Richard Baglin Comment: The Council has a scrutiny committee; the chair of the scrutiny committee has had CIL & Growth fund on it's agenda for some time. On 15th March Scrutiny Committee will look at CIL. Papers get sent a week ahead and it is worth picking them up from the RBG website on the 7th March. Richard offered to take some questions and speak at the meeting.

Action 20180212.01: Fiona to supply article for inclusion in Greenwich Society Newsletter

4. Arches (Richard Baglin)

Discussions on initial plans with RBG stated that they were too bulky and tall (currently using the height of chimneys as height can build to). Subsequently the councillor has been to see the chief planning officers at which they were told that this development as planned was too big, too bulky and too oppressive. The plans appeared to be pretty completed, but the developers have now gone away to come back with updates. Further details can be found in the Greenwich Society newsletter. The developers, Merit Cape are property investors rather than just developers ie they hang on to what they've built afterwards and have previously been involved with part commercial part university space. They have a project on Finsbury square already and wanted to get Uni of Greenwich involved in the Arches scheme if they can, but our understanding is that this has not progressed.

5. Christchurch School – Community Garden Project (Fiona Machen)

Christchurch School, on Commerell Street, has an under-utilised outdoor area. The land is owned by the Diocese of Southwark, and on behalf of the Diocese, the Koinonia Federation of Schools has decided to turn it into a public space, for use by the wider community. It has been realised that this is the only piece of green space across the federation, currently, that could be used by the whole community and not just the schools themselves.

Fiona has spoken to residents and schools and the idea has been met with a hugely positive response, as a result she has become involved in the CIL process as a means of funding improvements required. As part of the CIL bid they have asked for costs for infrastructure: A pergola that can act as an outdoor classroom or community hub, new gates, a greenhouse to support food growing. Many people have approached to see if a bee hive could be included with many volunteer bee keepers, although feasibility is being explored to ensure there is enough forage for them in a 3k radius. The aim is to make this an intergenerational space so elderly and other isolated groups can access it. There has also been interest

expressed from Greenwich youth offending service to use the space on Saturdays to bring one or 2 youth offenders with an officer down to get involved in growing. Kairos Rehabilitation are also interested in developing therapeutic gardening for pain management. There used to be a space for this on Vanbrugh Hill next to the old Vanbrugh Group Practice surgery site, but was lost with the re-development there.

On publishing minutes, we're delighted to learn that Christchurch School Community Garden has been shortlisted to go forward to the Public Vote process which opened on the RBG website on Monday, 19th February and at all the main libraries in the borough. It is one project, one vote. This is Area 2.

YOU CAN VOTE ONLINE AT WWW.ROYALGREENWICH.GOV.UK/GROWTHFUND. In order to vote, you will need to log-in or create an account but it doesn't take long.

6. Cruise Terminal Campaign Update (Louise Fletcher)

Petition to the EU

The Commission has informed us that they do not have jurisdiction over emissions for sea or river vessels per se only overall total emissions and have referred us back to our own Government. This now exhausts all legal avenues available to us at this time.

We have set up a dedicated group to coordinate a campaign comprising of political engagement and continuing to put pressure on decision makers, raising awareness on the cruise liner terminal and making this a London wide rather than just a local Greenwich issue. We are also planning some form of public protest and more details on the will be forthcoming over the next weeks, but it may well be centred around the arrival of the cruise ships which start in May. This year sees a high increase in the number of cruise liners coming both to Greenwich and Tower Bridge, over 30 in total, and can in fact be considered a cruise liner terminal by stealth.

With regard to the cruise liner terminal itself, work has not started and Greenwich Council do not have a start date for construction. In the meantime the developers, Morgan Stanley and Barrat Homes have put the development up for sale and this is being marketed by JLL as "Maritime View". There is a marketing film on line.

(<http://www.maritimeview.london/#firstPage>)

A bit more info on our activity:

a. Political engagement

Secretary of State for the Environment: In the light of the EU's correspondence, we are renewing our approach to Gove as Secretary of State for the Environment, with regard to pressing for a clean solution and onshore power. This coincides with the Government recently announcing its 25 year environmental strategy. The reduction of harmful emissions is a key priority. Furthermore, London breached its annual limit for emissions before the end of January and the Government is under pressure from the EU to redress this. All of which gives us a strong platform for engaging with and putting pressure on Gove.

We did write to Gove back in July and did not receive a response, but will be pressing more forcefully for a meeting this time.

Other decision makers: We continue to work with our local MP and have a meeting planned with him for early March. We will also continue to exert pressure on the mayor who has yet to make good on his pre-election promise to find a solution as well as Greenwich Council in the run up to the local elections in May

b. Campaign activity

We are planning to produce a variety of materials such as posters, banners, postcards and placards to raise awareness on the cruise liner terminal and its threat to Londoners health. We will also be planning a media and a digital campaign.

Action 20180212.02: Louise to follow up to get soft copy of existing flyers and post to EGRA website.

Fiona Machen added: There is an environmental ship index, ports are able to weigh in on this can offer better mooring fees etc to those who are higher on the index. PLAs incentives are the worse offering only 5% for 30 points, Paris etc offer much better incentives for ships to be clean. This is also why we are getting more cruise ships year on year as mooring fees go up at other ports.

7. Greening (Sheila Keeble)

There is a new volunteering opportunity on Fridays 10am until 1pm or 2pm for gardening at the space that we hope will become the community garden next to Christchurch school

There is Street Trees budget available and the council have been very supportive of the initiative on Bellot St. If there are any other streets that are interested then please let us know your ideas.

8. Thames Path Clean Up (Patrick Ives)

The next clean up will be on 3rd March, it's also the Keep Britain Tidy weekend so RBG are very keen to support and it will be on the Keep Britain Tidy weekend website. Plan will be 10am-1:30pm depending on how wet it will be. Please come along, help us tidy the Thames path and spread the word with your friends.

The Peninsula nursery is shutting down and there will be some trees / shrubs from the nursery that require replanting from there.

9. Anti-Social Behaviour – Update on responses received (Louise)

Meeting is on 22nd February 7pm Woolwich Townhall. Main themes that came back from those who responded were: Kids on bikes riding through the traffic, Youngsters taking and possibly dealing drugs along the river path, visible on-street drug dealing at the Blackwall Lane end of Azof Street and Mauritius Road, theft in the new River Gardens and Enderby Wharf flats as well as some alleged arson too with a flat and some cars burnt out, people not picking up their Dog's excrement and motorists sitting parked with engines running.

Possible ideas that came through from members to address these items: more transparency could help. E.g. an anonymised online list of ASB reports and outcomes would make people feel it's 'not just them complaining', a non emergency number for police would be a good idea - other than 999, regular communication about what is being done, evidence of action being taken against those engaged in ASB and a better strategy to encourage social behavior that complements practice and demonstrates results, increased provision of spaces where young people can go such as play grounds, youth clubs or dedicated bike parks that would mean they had places to congregate and socialize without being on the streets, could threaten licensed premises that they could use their licence if drug abuse was common on their premises, it should be made clear to council employees that they should not park with their vehicle engine running.

10. Ecology Park (Richard Green)

The proposed development next to the Ecology Park has now been dropped from 20 storeys down to 13. There are still concerns with the shadow that the new tower block would throw across the park. Other blocks are 6-11 storeys. Park will be in shade for 2 hours of the day Dec to March. New residents of GMV buildings are also now supporting the campaign. There are small townhouses in the middle that will be surrounded by big skyscrapers. There is also some affordable housing but pushing back on development as the pricing is not really affordable and would like further social housing provision. MP has provided support.

Consultation information has been tweeted from the EGRA account, please can everyone fill in the consultation by the deadline.

Further details about the consultation and how to respond can be found here:

<https://friendsofgpep.wordpress.com/2018/02/17/respond-to-gmvs-consultation/>

Action 20180212.03: Louise to send link to consultation to EGRA members along with link to Friends of Greenwich Ecology Park website where there are suggested responses.

11. Enderby House (Mary Mills)

Met with Barratts in October and the Enderby House Group were called in to see the conservation officer. The issue is now with dry rot, this has taken over from wet rot. Have also received a note that they are now doing some work. It is still not clear on Youngs Brewery plans for the site and if this has progressed. Were also invited to a meeting on a sculpture that will be put outside Morden Wharf and a local artist has been engaged.

Gas Holder – Department for Environment have given greenlight for demolition as soon as possible, all the council can do is discuss management of demolition process which they are doing. The current proposal been declined.

12. Volunteer opportunities (Louise Fletcher)

As always we continue to look for volunteers to help us with any or all of the initiatives we've spoken about today. If you'd like to become a member of the exec committee or take on one of the named roles, get more involved with greening or planning, or if there's

anything else you'd like to champions for the association please let us know by emailing info@EGRA.london or speaking to one of our exec committee after the meeting.

13. AOB

There was a big response to the large signs & illuminations on the riverside in front of Bellway, these were completely illegal and the planning enforcement officer threatened them with legal action and they removed them. Bellway have come back against advice from officers for a new application. Bellway have still not signed their S106 and have been threatened that they will have to stop work on site if don't sign within the month.

The next public meeting will be on Tuesday 10th April at the Star & Garter Pub.