

Buckingham, Hamilton and Ruskin Association

Minutes of the meeting held 17 September 2019 at 19 Hamilton Drive

1. Frances Goldman welcomed those present.
Present: John Elder, Frances Goldman, Christine McGuigan, Colin Miller, Susan Triesman
2. Apologies: Joanna Clarke, Tony Hughes
3. Minutes of meeting on 12 June 2019: approved
4. Matters arising
 - a. Summer Social Event
The event on Saturday 22 June at the Viewpoint Garden went well. Colin has some photos, if there are some suitable general views they might be put on the website.
 - b. Tree surveys
Frances has received a response from the Council. They advise it's possible that someone may be available to come out for a survey of trees in the area. In the past Judith Parsons (Landscape Architect) has carried out surveys with Frances and other members but the Council advises that they no longer do that. They will not provide advice but can give unofficial comments. They are able to stop trees being cut down but have limited ability to compel trees to be made safe. A maximum of two people can accompany the Council staff member; possibly at least one committee member should attend.
 - c. Refuse collection
Frances will ask the Council about removing the excess food waste bins in Ruskin Lane.
 - d. Turning points on Hamilton Drive, roads, parking
The Council have responded to Frances and Tony. Barratt Homes are not inclined to amend the layout. The Council say that in order to allow turning they will remove one car parking space on either side of the bollards, although it appears that is more space than is required and with parking at a premium we will ask whether the existing spaces can be moved half a width instead. Frances reporting that the disabled parking bay markings at Ruskin Place are no longer legible and she has asked the Council to remedy. Hamilton Gardens is reportedly due to be included in the controlled parking scheme; the occupiers of the new development will not be eligible to apply for permits given the age of their properties although it is not known how many (if any) parking spaces there will be. Frances and Colin reporting that traffic wardens have been asking residents not to park within the curtilage of their own properties off Ruskin Lane.
 - e. Continuity of Membership
We will continue to encourage members to join or renew, in particular from areas beyond Hamilton Drive.
5. Viewpoint HPA
Frances, Colin, Debbie Donohoe and others have been quite active working in the garden regularly on maintenance and tidying. John reporting that the Council solicitor has now produced

a draft licence to occupy. He is awaiting information in relation to the likely public liability insurance premiums.

6. Hillhead Community Council

Reports: Tony attended the most recent meeting, report to follow. Frances attended a previous meeting. There were various planning applications discussed: at Kersland Street garden the Council owns 25% of the site but the owner of the remainder is applying for planning permission; at the corner of Sardinia Lane and Cecil Street there is a small plot (4.5m x 5m) where the owner is applying for planning permission; the Otago St development saga is ongoing. The Community Council meeting had questioned whether BHRA's side of Great Western Road is part of their Council area (it is) which probably highlights that it is important for representatives to attend. The police representative warned of recent burglaries and advised locking doors with mortice locks not latches. In relation to fundraising, the Trades House has gardeners and some funds available for grants, and another local organisation recently applied for and received funds from Waitrose's community grants despite not being a formal charity. Refuse collections in our area have now changed to the new 8-day cycle (4 days on, 4 days off) so we should have the same team each time, but on changing days of the week; the collection calendar has not yet been published. There were discussions about monitoring air quality at certain locations such as beside schools and at taxi ranks.

Disseminating and dealing with planning applications: The Chair's view was that we should simply disseminate the HCC minutes or other information received to our members. It was agreed that these should be put on the website rather than by sending periodic emails. Unlike HCC we are not a formal consultee so by the time we receive and disseminate information there may be little or no time left to make representations in any event. Agreed that it should be up to individual members whether to make representations on particular applications and that the Association would not do so.

7. AGM planning

Date, Venue, Speaker: Frances will circulate a survey for midweek evenings in the last 2 weeks of November. Discussing inviting a guest speaker - possibly Martha Wardrop, or perhaps a representative from G1 Group to talk about the refurbishment of the Mackintosh building at 70 Hamilton Drive. Venue – agreed that if the Coach House Trust building is available again that would be ideal.

Committee membership: Generally we would like new members from further afield within our area than the east side of Hamilton Drive. Frances will invite an individual from Buckingham Street who may be prepared to join the committee to the next meeting and we should try asking individuals from Hamilton Park Avenue, Hamilton Gardens, the Terraces and Queen Margaret Drive.

Notifying local residents: whilst the website is now active, the newsletter is important for reaching local residents and Frances will produce a draft of the next newsletter in advance of the AGM.

Another proposal was to establish social networking groups, perhaps for those interested in community gardening: apparently the residents who maintain the triangular garden in Belmont Lane have a gardening club once a month and meet afterwards in a local restaurant, perhaps a joint meeting could be arranged. Christine agreed to take this forward.

Following the success of the Summer Garden Party, Frances proposed an Autumn social event. Perhaps this could be with a focus on families with children and be held between Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night with costumes and prizes etc. Around 5pm on a Fri/Sat/Sun in the Viewpoint suggested. It was agreed to pursue this.

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

8 October 2019 at 15 Hamilton Drive.

9. AOCB

We are due to hold another residents' cleanup/leaf mould removal. Saturday 7 December proposed.