

**Shad Thames Residents' Association
Annual General Meeting
at Southwark Council Offices, on Wednesday, 23 October 2019 at 7.00pm**

Present: 29 residents

Anood Al-Samerai, local Lib Dem Councillor
Hamish McCullum, local Lib Dem Councillor
Humaira Ali, local Lib Dem Councillor
5 members of the STRA core group

Introduction

Nick Napier welcomed everyone, and said he was pleased to see some new and some more well-known faces. He welcomed Humaira Ali, local Councillor, and said that Anood Al-Samerai and Hamish McCullum, also local Councillors would be joining the meeting shortly.

Nick said that the core group are volunteers who represent local residents, these are: Nick Napier, Andrew McKelvie, Julian Griffiths, Jilly Frisch, Kathleen Ehrlich, and Janet Morris (who is also the Chair of STAMP).

Three other people who had been members of the core group had stepped down, but were thanked for giving their time, they are Hilary Shack, Maria Blazquez, and Peter Humphrey.

Michael Place, who had been the STRA Treasurer for a number of years, had recently sadly passed away.

Election of Officers

According to the STRA Constitution election officers of the core group should be ratified by the AGM. As the following had all agreed to act in the following capacities, he asked if all present would be agreement with these appointments – this was agreed.

Chair – Nick Napier

Vice-Chair – Andrew McKelvie

Secretary (and member of Potters Fields Park Trust) – Jilly Frisch

Treasurer (and Police Ward Panels member) – Julian Griffiths

Communications Officer (and member of the Friends of Butlers Wharf Group) – Kathleen Ehrlich

Nick said the key activities he had been involved in were:

liaising with Southwark Council about street cleaning and noise issues –

Cleaning – he said that STRA funds additional cleaning, particularly the area from Potters Fields Park to Shad Thames, at weekends, this has mainly been successful (except for one recent bank holiday weekend when the cleaner went home sick). We're hoping the Council might cover this in the future. We also cover cleaning along Shad Thames, closer to Lafone Street, and this mainly consists of sweeping up dog ends.

Noise – if residents encounter noise issues a noise report can be completed on the STRA website, which we pass on to our local councillors, who in turn liaise with the Council, so that they are aware of the main noise issues – many of these are that local businesses employ a number of different garbage collectors, who pick up garbage at random times.

Filming and Photographers – Southwark Filming Office contact us to check with us if the terms of the filming are agreeable.

Financial issues

Julian Griffiths, Treasurer said that STRA's source of income is from FilmFixer, and we aim to spend money within the local community – he said that if there are projects local residents would like to suggest, we should like to hear from them.

STRA's funds

Opening balance was £17,308.50, and closing balance £16,292.59,

Income from FilmFixer had been £3,750, which included a £500 compensation fine for Wheat Wharf, leaving a net income of £3,250.

Expenditure was £4,016.63 – the two main items were street cleaning £1,797.28 and the event, Evening of Exploration, £1,638.24.

Committed expenditure is street cleaning £3,500 and the long-standing greening project

Julian and Kathleen had attended monthly meetings with Thames Water, they were instrumental in making sure the work was safe throughout, monitored the fire alarm, that trees will be replanted. Thames Water had offered to make a donation to a local project – they had been asked to improve the exterior of the Pump House

Julian had attended meetings of the two Police Ward Panels – items covered were phone thefts around transport hubs, and recently around Lafone Street, and that there has been an increase in drug use in the area.

Colin Hartridge – Coordinator of the North Bermondsey Panel meetings said that if anyone present was interested in attending the Panel meetings, or receiving minutes of the meetings should let him know after the meeting. He said that attendees can nominate issues upon which they'd like to see the Police concentrate for the coming three months. One key issue which the Police had dealt with was the closing of a ca. 200 cannabis plant operation.

Potters Fields Park

Jilly Frisch, representing Shad Thames residents on the Park Board said a range of events had been held over the summer, viz 3 food festivals, arts events, a community yoga day, several marketing/PR events, charity runs/events, and Festibowl, when free bowling had been offered to local schools and residents.

Most events are open to everyone free of charge. The Trust's primary source of income is from hiring out the Park for events for a limited number of days a year, a 10% discount is offered to charities. Events are only offered free of charge where there are tangible benefits to the local community.

Lawn maintenance is underway, and will be finished by mid-November.

The annual lantern parade and carols with the children from Tower Bridge Primary School will be at 4.00pm on Thursday, 28 November 2019.

On St Johns Churchyard work on restoring the railings and stonework from ca. 1750 was completed in April; other refurbishment works are out to tender; other agencies, such as Team London Bridge and Southwark Council, are being consulted to deal with the boys on bikes who congregate there regularly; and, that no commercial activity takes place on SJCY, only occasional events involving the local community.

Jilly said STRA puts forward objections to local planning and licencing applications, when local residents make a case for this – such as the penthouse extensions at the Circle, the various Watch House applications, and the Tower Bridge Court planning application, and had organised a meeting for local residents to discuss the issues with Hamish McCallum, local Councillor.

Communications

Kathleen Ehrlich said STRA's business cards – on the tables – provided STRA's contact details, as well as the website – where noise complaint forms were to be found – Twitter feed, a NEW Neighbourhood Facebook page has been started with STAMP, where anyone can post items – we'll keep this going,

STRA held an event at the Anise Gallery, an exhibition of neighbourhood photos, and an Archaeology Group came to show us what they had found in our area.

STRA has a Walkabout every 6 months, with all the relevant departments from Southwark Council, we agree on things that have to be dealt with – A-boards, bollard wraps, the state of the pavements is an issue, this will now be looked at now that the Thames Water work is finished.

Discussion on ideas for community events

Nick asked what we could do to have a bit of fun? What would people like to attend? The following suggestions were made –

Early evening drinks event in cordoned off area – maybe piggy-back on another event?

Brass Band

Barbeque

Fete

A marquee would be needed, even for a summer event

Possibly in June? An event for local residents.

Discussion with Local Councillors

Anood Al Samerai, Hamish McCullum, and Humaira Ali

Anood explained the role of Councillors, and Council Officers, Anood is the leader of the Lib Dems. Nick said that without support of our Councillors we would never achieve anything.

Anood and Hamish – North Bermondsey Ward.

Humaira - London Bridge and West Bermondsey Ward (is also the Lib Dems Parliamentary candidate, replacing Simon Hughes).

Councillors cover a wide range of issues and aim to be the voice of local residents at the Council – while they have to speak for the whole community, they want to support you through various issues, and they want to do a good job for you. Please contact us.

TBC is one of the main planning issues going through at the moment.

The Watch House is running a business without the necessary planning permissions in place.

The Dixon Hotel was, however, a successful operation, with benefits for local people, the resulting S20 money has to be spent locally, this is still a discussion with the Council.

Rubbish is an issue, but this is across London.

Streets project – phase 1 has been completed, Council is doing the work in phases –

Parking at evenings/weekends is being looked at, CPZ is for the whole of North Bermondsey, but there is a need for more special attention to be paid to Shad Thames.

St Saviours bridge – still being randomly closed, it gets stuck when it is open.

Butler's Wharf – supporting friends of BW.

Walkabouts, thanks to Kathleen, who is the STRA focal point for the Walkabouts, for following up on completion of the issues raised during the Walkabouts.

Hamish – Friends of Butlers Wharf – meeting tomorrow at 6.30pm.

Kathleen has been working with Emma, on HS and lighting, to improve the area, a path through the area, a place to breathe clean air – we would like to see it being more than it is.

Noted that the landlord of many premises along the river have no interest in funding the project. STRA funded with start-up funds for Friends of BW.

There are still not enough bins in Shad Thames – Hamish said that extra bins and bin emptying have been funded, but as there are clearly still not enough bins, this could maybe be taken into the next walkabout, so that it can be followed-up.

Noisy party boats – too late and too loud – Hamish said they get their licences from where they are moored, which is not here, City Cruises are however moored locally. The question of the Ocean Diva will need careful monitoring. If precise information of the name of the boat, date/time of noise, etc. could be emailed to Councillors, they would try to take some action.

Bikes and motor bikes along Butlers Wharf river front – new signage states cyclists should not use that route, it's private land. Could Friends of BW deal with this in the future? Kathleen said this is part of their project.

Bollards along Shad Thames – outside Spice Quay are looking good, further down Shad Thames they need attention. Could this also be part of the Walkabout? Hamish confirmed that visual integrity of the area is something Councillors are keen to promote.

Humaira Ali

On the Licensing front, the late-night levy is now applied.

Boys on Bikes – a public meeting, 100 people attended, August – a second meeting, a workshop, what are the issues young people feel strongly about – a portion of those on SJCY are from Southwark, there are not enough places where young people can go, Humaira she is having discussions with charities, etc.,

Community Councils have been replaced with meetings at Ward levels, first meeting brought people together – Empowering Communities Events – where funding can be applied for.

Environment and Highways – will meet with TfL to discuss the TfL/Southwark Council strategy, from the perspective of pollution and what can be done locally

Southwark Council's Cabinet is a public meeting – it will meet at 4.00pm next Tuesday – there will be a debate on the cycle highway, building more cycle spaces, building a bridge between Canary Wharf and Rotherhithe bridge

Plans to introduce a new civic award to celebrate diversity.

There is an ongoing Consultation on [lack of] public toilets. Clarification on whether public toilets in QPark are public, or not? There may be information on this on the Southwark Consultation Hub, search for toilets.

Watch House – Hamish said Shad Thames is a unique area, Councillors consistently state that businesses must be sympathetic to the local area.

Unreasonable noise/disturbances from Butlers Wharf restaurants needs to be taken up again, Hamish said he would speak to the restaurants concerned.

Pumping station – the outside in finished, but Thames Water are still working on the inside.

RV1 – thanks to everyone and local Councillors for trying to save it.