

Belgrave Residents Association

***Annual General Meeting
in
Beechwood Community Centre,
on
October 13th 2017***

Minutes of Meeting

**Chair: Mary Crosbie (Chairperson)
Planning Officer: Cliona Buckley
Secretary/ Treasurer: Nicholas Simms**

Apologies: Fiona Gallagher and Kevin Darcy, Louise Kennedy, Thomas Mulloy, Gobnait O'Donovan, Eamonn Walsh

Welcome from the Chair and Chairperson's Report

Mary Crosbie welcomed those attending and thanked them for their interest. She also thanked the committee members for their work during the year.

Following the discussion on security at last year's AGM, the Committee had met with Sergeant Kelly from Terenure and Community Garda Brendan O'Byrne in December. The discussion had covered such issues as how Rathmines was policed, the locking of park gates at night, street begging and cyclist behaviour.

In March there was an information meeting in which Jim O'Callaghan TD discussed the making of wills, inheritance tax and power of attorney and Councillor Claire O'Connor spoke on buying out a ground rent.

In June, the Association's newsletter had been produced, designed by committee member Edward Kelly.

She recalled the very successful 'Fair in the Square' events that had been held in 2014 and 2015, and said it was likely that a similar event would be held in June 2017. Preparations for this would involve a great deal of work with Dublin City Council and organisations throughout Rathmines. Volunteers to help with this work and on the day would be very welcome.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 14th October 2016, having been circulated by email and distributed in the hall, were taken as read. They were approved on the proposal of Catherine Griffith, seconded by Patrick Crosbie.

Treasurer's report

The Association's accounts for the year ending 2017 (attached) had been previously circulated by email and distributed through the meeting.

Commenting on the accounts, the treasurer, Nicholas Simms, noted that the Association had a surplus of €951 in the year ending 30 September 2017, compared with a breakeven position last year.

This was mainly due to reduced expenditure under a number of headings, of which the largest was last year's €500 subscription to the Rathmines Initiative centenary publication on 'Rathmines in 1916'.

There was also a modest (€50) increase in the subscription total. 16 new members joined during the year, bringing the total number of paid-up members to 155. 20 subscriptions were paid on-line, up from 12 last year.

In response to a question, Nicholas Simms said that the 155 paid-up members could be compared with a total of 350 who paid in some years and the approximately 800 households in the Association's area.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

Planning Report

The Planning Officer, Cliona Buckley, described said that while there was a substantial amount of new building work in the city centre, development in the Association's area was mainly taking the form of a large number of extensions

She referred to the following cases where the Association had submitted observations to the planning authorities:

- 35 Upper Mount Pleasant Avenue
- 1 Belgrave Road
- 36 Belgrave Road

She paid tribute to the work of Eón Ó Cuív in drafting these letters based on the planning guidelines and the Dublin Development Plan

Commercial Developments

The new Fallon & Byrne development in the Swan Centre at the Castlewood Avenue side was to be open by Christmas.

The old Lenehan's hardware shop was to be reopened as a restaurant.

The Stella cinema was to be re-opened by Christmas and she felt the developer had done a fabulous job.

She also drew attention to the new boutique hotel being built in Ranelagh and to the Clayton Hotels development in Charlemont Street.

In discussion, Arnaud Cras of Mountpleasant Avenue thanked the Association for their support, especially Eón Ó Cuív for his 'magnificent and exhaustively researched' letters of observations.

Amendment to Constitution

Nicholas Simms introduced an amendment to the Association's Constitution that:

Article 3 of the Constitution of the Association be amended to include Nos. 32-37 Upper Mount Pleasant Avenue and Kensington Villas among the roads affiliated to the Association.

This amendment had been passed by the Committee meeting of 2nd October 2017 and included in the AGM Notice.

On the proposal of Emmy Morahan, seconded by Nuala Mac Dwyer, the amendment was passed unanimously.

Community Gardaí

At this point, the meeting was joined by Garda Sergeant Brendan Kelly from Terenure and Andrew O'Sullivan of Rathmines who is the Community Garda for an area that includes the Association's area.

Sergeant Kelly said that while car theft and burglaries were slightly down, thefts of property from cars were on the increase.

During a wide-ranging question and answer session, Sergeant Kelly said that one recent recommendation was that householders should mark their property with their Eircode, using an ultra violet pen that could be got at any stationers.

There was some discussion about a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Sergeant Kelly said the value of such a scheme depend largely on the commitment of the co-ordinators.

Mary Crosbie thanked the Gardaí for their visit and said the number of question showed the members' great interest in the subject of security.

Open Forum

Mary Crosbie drew attention to proposal for a Dodder Greenway enhanced cycle path, similar to the one from Clontarf to Sutton. In discussion, concern was expressed about the effect on wildlife and the tendency of cyclists to speed and disregard pedestrians when cycle lanes were improved.

There was appreciation for the fact that Belgrave Square was now being locked at night, though some young people continued to get in

The difficulty of parking on Oakley Road, particularly at night, was raised, with requests for spaces to be returned.

Blocked gullies were mentioned as being liable to cause flooding.

Election of Road Representatives

The following were proposed as road representatives:

Annesley Park	no nominations
Belgrave Square/Place/Villas:	Nicholas Simms
Belgrave View	no nominations

Belgrave Terrace	Emmy Morahan	
Belgrave Road:	Eón Ó Cuív	
Beechwood Park	Nuala MacDwyer, Catherine Griffith	
Castlewood Park/ Avenue/Tce	Eamon Reilly	(new)
Cambridge Road	Cliona Buckley	
Charleston Avenue:	Shelagh Jennings	
Church Avenue/Lane:	no nominations	
Church Gardens	Denise O'Connell	
Dunville Avenue	no nominations	
Killeen Road	John Lynch	(new)
Moyne Road:	Rex Coghlan	(new)
Oakley Road:	Nicholas Ffrench	
Ormond Road	Mary Crosbie	
Palmerston Court	Susan Ward	
Palmerston Road	Edward Kelly	
Windsor Road	Eamonn Walsh	

There being no other nominations, all those proposed were deemed elected.

AOB

Eon ó Cuív mentioned that the refurbished Stella Cinema would be on pre-view at the Open House event that weekend

There being no further business, Mary Crosbie closed the meeting.

A short drinks reception followed.