BRITANNIA SQUARE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

**Annual General Meeting of the Britannia Square Residents’ Association**

**And Neighbourhood Watch**

*held at*

**The United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace, Worcester**

*at*

**7.30 pm on Friday 16 November 2018**

1. **Welcome and opening remarks:**

Anna Hooper welcomed everyone, particularly our guests Councillor Simon Geraghty, Councillor Lynn Denham and Paul Denham, Councillor Allah Ditta, Lisa Smith, Community Engagement Officer, Worcester City Council and Dr Paul Collins, Planning Officer, Worcester City Council. We are most grateful to the United Reformed Church for the use of their building for our meeting and to our Councillors for their support of our activities and for assisting us in our endeavours.

Anna Hooper welcomed our guests and residents.

1. **Attendance:**
   1. **Apologies were received from:**

Councillor Jabba Riaz, PC Cath Broadfield, Sandy Greenhill, Viv Roberts, Jenny & Michael Goode, Maureen & John Ball.

* 1. **Those present were:**

**Committee members:** Anna Hooper, Ian Terry, David Greenhill, Carol Inman and Robin Dallaway.

**Other members**: Toby Hooper, Rob & Julia Holdsworth, Angela Lanyon, Stephen Inman, Vanessa Terry, Susie & Tony Bettinson, Nic Aston, Maureen Ball, Liz & John Prosser, Nicky & Bryan Neville-Lee, Pat & Andrew Oddy, Corinne Flannigan, Ann & Nick Gilbert, Clive & Noreen Collings, Jenny & Stephen Preedy, Ella Blankstone, Sue & Ed Llewellyn, David Whiteman, Adele & Christopher Rimell, Jill & Colin Friedlander.

**In attendance:**  Councillors Lynn and Paul Denham, Councillor Simon Geraghty, Councillor Allah Ditta, Lisa Smith and Dr Paul Collins, Worcester City Council

1. **Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2017 were approved (with one spelling correction.) There were no matters arising.

1. **Election of Committee for 2018/19**

Our Committee consists of a maximum of seven elected members and three co-opted members. There were two resignations from the 2017/18 Committee: Kate Tait and Anna Hooper. The following members stood for election or re-election to the Committee:

Carol Inman

Ian Terry

David Greenhill

Robin Dallaway

John Ball

The above members were proposed, seconded and elected unopposed. Clive Collings has expressed his willingness to continue to serve as a co-opted member, for which the Committee is most grateful.

Any resident wishing to join the Committee was invited to approach a Committee Member after the meeting and attend as a guest at our next meeting on Tuesday 20 November.

1. **Committee Members’ Reports:**

***Copies of the Committee Members’ reports and minutes are published on our website:*** [***www.britanniasquare.org***](http://www.britanniasquare.org)***. Please find the event on the calendar and click through to see the documents or click on Residents’ Area in the header and select Document Library.***

***Additional and significant matters are noted below.***

**5.1. Neighbourhood Watch Report:**

Carol Inman monitors incident reports from the police and circulates those of relevance to residents who have opted into this service. She also attends the Cathedral Ward PACT meetings as our representative. For full details please see Carol’s report.

**5.2. Events Report:**

Anna Hooper highlighted the main topics of her report on our many successful events over the past year.

Anna thanked particularly all the residents who had volunteered for our street cleaning day, supported by Worcester City Council.

Anna expressed the Committee’s gratitude to the United Reformed Church and RGS Springfield for providing venues for our events throughout the year.

For further details please see Anna’s report and the events via the calendar on our website.

**5.3. Financial Report:**

The Treasurer, Ian Terry presented the accounts for 2017/8 which were approved by the meeting.

**5.4. Planning Report:**

David Greenhill explained our active role in reviewing and commenting on planning applications which is core to our purpose as an Association. David made available a file of all the applications that we had dealt with this year. Full details of all the Planning Applications may be viewed on Worcester City Council’s website. Members were advised not to rely solely on public displays of Planning Notices but to make use of the Council’s excellent website to inspect plans and make comments.

The Planning application recently approved for 36A Britannia Square prompted considerable discussion. This is not a Listed building but lies within our Conservation Area. The plans, broadly are to convert the two separate flats into a single dwelling. Whilst the Committee and adjacent residents welcomed the general improvements to the exterior of the building many objections had been lodged to the proposal to broach the boundary walls to create parking within the front garden. This will also entail the deletion of a stretch of residents’ parking bays that can accommodate four vehicles. Since the relevant Planning and Conservation Officer, Dr Paul Collins was present, David Greenhill and several residents restated their concerns and objections to this, firstly because it is against the Conservation Area Policy and secondly because of the potential elimination of residents’ parking bays. Dr Collins reminded us that it is not a Listed building, so the boundary wall is not in itself protected and that he had viewed the application “in the round”. It was pointed out that Dr Collins could have applied the Conservation Policy more rigorously and that we wished that he had.

Coun. Geraghty advised that there will need to be a Highways Consultation over the potential elimination of the residents’ parking bays and whether any may be relocated. It remained unclear whether this consultation is a prerequisite of the work proceeding.

There continues to be much concern about the unkempt hedging around RGS Springfield, the failed planting of new beech hedging and the unsightly modern fencing. We understand that the school requires the fencing for the security and privacy of the primary school on the site but we remain hopeful that the replanted hedging may camouflage this to some degree. The Committee will continue to monitor this and liaise with RGS.

**5.5. Highways and Lighting Report:**

On behalf of Kate Tait, Anna Hooper presented the Highways and Lighting report. The major achievement this year has been the resurfacing of Stephenson Terrace, organised by Kate and Jason Tait, at the residents’ own expense, this being an unadopted road. We await replacement of the lamppost knocked down during this period. Whilst circumstantial evidence suggests that this occurred during the works, Coun. Geraghty is keen to receive more definite information to avoid a cost to the Council.

**5.6. Wine Club Report:**

Carol Inman presented the Wine Club’s report which John Ball had published on our website. The Wine Club were pleased that their mailing list has survived the GDPR consent process relatively unscathed, with a better response rate than the Neighbourhood Watch mailing list - an interesting reflection of our priorities!

**5.7. Website Report:**

Robin Dallaway reported on the expansion of our website to include further development of our historical images archive which includes photos kindly supplied by last year’s speaker, Sheena Payne-Lunn and from other sources.

Our future events are advertised on the home page and past events are documented via the calendar.

The site is supported by our sponsors Knight Frank, Andrew Grant and NFU Mutual, whom we thank for their continued involvement.

1. **Any other business:**

Andrew Oddy raised the matter of residents’ parking capacity, particularly in Albany Terrace due to the number of permits permitted by our scheme rules, which differ somewhat from more recent schemes. The anomalies of our scheme, the first in Worcester, have been ironed out in subsequent scheme rules but Coun. Geraghty pointed out the difficulties inherent in attempting to change our scheme rules and said there was no intention at present to take this step.

1. **Speaker** – David Greenhill presented the Worcester City Centre Masterplan proposals. We were most grateful to David for talking us through these long-term visions and to our Councillors for assisting David to respond to questions from the floor.
2. **Vote of Thanks:**

On behalf of the meeting, Stephen Inman expressed our thanks and appreciation to David.