

THE FRIENDS OF PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

THE 21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will take place at The Cornerstone Centre at 6pm on Saturday 13th January 2018

**IT WILL GREATLY HELP IF YOU COULD LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING
IF ATTENDING PLEASE PRINT THESE FIVE PAGES AND BRING WITH YOU
TO REDUCE COSTS HARD COPIES WILL NOT BE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING**

**The Meeting will be followed by the FOPA Annual Party
6.30 to 8.30pm**

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 20th AGM (see below)
- 2) Comments on the Annual Report (see below)
- 3) Agreement of the Annual Accounts (see below)
- 4) Election of the Committee for 2018

The following Committee members have agreed to remain:

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|---|---------------|
| Peter Jukes (Chair) | |
| Sue Hitching (Hon Treasurer and Membership Secretary) | |
| Trish Thompson | David Sewell |
| David Ward | Frank Inglis |
| David Ryan | Rory Connelly |

If no objections are received all will be elected by block vote.

The Committee welcomes new ideas and help with its work
If any members would like to join the Committee please contact us before 31st Dec 2017
by writing to: info@fopa.co.uk

Minutes of the 20th AGM

If you have any objection to the content, please contact us by 31st Dec at info@fopa.co.uk

TWENTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

at the Cornerstone Centre, Saturday, 14 January 2017 at 11.30am

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
| Present | In the chair: | Susan Hitching (Acting as chairman by rotation) |
| | Committee: | Balint Bodroghy (note taker) Rory Connelly Susan Hunter David Ryan David Sewell Trish Thompson David Ward |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Apologies for Absence: | Ella Clark, Melanie Davies |
| Guest Speaker : | Cllr Ollie Sykes, Apologies |

Existence of a Quorum, with attendance by 33 (including those on the Committee) was confirmed by the note taker.

The Agenda, Minutes of the previous AGM, the Annual Accounts and results of the Communal Bins Survey had been disseminated in advance via the FOPA website and e-mail to all who have registered an interest.

Proceedings

- 1. Minutes of the 19th AGM:** **Agreed by acclamation as to content**
- 2. Annual Report:** **Agreed by acclamation as to content**
- 3. Annual Accounts:** **Agreed by acclamation as to content**
- 4. Committee Members:** **Relected by acclamation (as listed above)**

Sue Hitching informed the meeting that FOPA currently has no chair person, as those willing to act are not eligible and others have so far proved unwilling to assume the role. She invited volunteers to come forward to fill gaps in the foregoing table by contacting a Committee member in person or via the FOPA website. It was suggested from the floor that it might help to outline the duties involved; these are Susan Hunter's notes:

Chairman's role:

- Chair three meetings a year, 7.30 – 9.0 pm at the Cornerstone, and the FOPA AGM on a Saturday morning early in January (followed by Wine & Mince pies) plus a possible Xmas Party planning meeting at someone's home.
Agree a small group to co-ordinate party planning.
- Represent FOPA on the Brunswick Town Association Committee (BTA) approximately 4 times a year, afternoons from 2.0 to 4.30 pm at the Cornerstone. (Susan Hunter is attending until a new Chair is appointed, as well as David Sewell and/or David Ward re LAT (Local Action Team).
The Brunswick Town Association includes a representative from all the local Associations in the Brunswick area, usually (but not always) the chair.
- Respond to e-mails from Members, Councillors and Committees or delegate to other committee members. All incoming and outgoing e-mails from FOPA to go on info@fopa.co.uk, which is seen by all members of the Committee.
Usually share any responses to outside people prior to sending, inviting views.
- Have the info@fopa.co.uk e-mail link on your computer to separate those e-mails from personal ones.
- Agree AGM papers to be sent out approximately a month before the January meeting and write the Annual Report to be included. (Planning for this starts at the end of October.)
- Ensure Cornerstone room/s are pre-booked for all meetings and Xmas Party if necessary.
- Arrange with one of the team for items to go onto the Website and Facebook.
- All Committee members have roles; some could take on another role if needed.
- Planning – Richard Hawkes, although he has stepped down from the Committee, still looks at local applications on behalf of FOPA, then e-mails his thoughts prior to a Committee meeting and/or attends in person if available.

In her role as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, Sue Hitching reported that there are now 238 individuals on record on the FOPA website (225 at last AGM) and wished to thank all who supported the work of FOPA with donations and volunteering for particular roles, in particular Tim Kirkup for checking the Accounts.

Ella Clark stood down this year but remains available to help with FOPA matters. She had made a huge contribution to FOPA, helping to move the organization into the digital age, notably by creating a Facebook page, organising events and suggesting new ideas for promotion; her skills and enthusiasm will be sorely missed and Sue expressed her thanks on behalf of us all.

Rubbish Collection :

Proposals to rationalise rubbish collection, improve low recycling rates and facilitate mechanical handling throughout the City have been promoted by the Council and its contractors for some years. It is now obvious that these measures will be introduced regardless of any protest - all that remains now for amenity associations like FOPA is to ensure the best outcome from the point of view of residents, including aspects such as safety, architectural heritage, visual appeal, noise and preservation of parking spaces.

Tracy Phipps, of contractors City Clean, will review feedback from questionnaires sent to all residents, contact people where necessary, and (reflecting the results) propose revised bin-sitings and bin numbers. She will also submit for comment a 1st draft of a leaflet for delivery to all households explaining the proposed changes.

She disclosed that 400 bins are on order and will be deployed throughout the City on agreed sites; bin utilisation will be monitored and any that are underused will be moved to better locations. Later, bins will have means for monitoring filling levels; this information will be used to evaluate the locations and alert the collection vehicle dispatchers by e-mail to take appropriate action.

Provisionally, 10 rubbish bins and 10 recycling bins have been allocated to Palmeira and Adelaide. Tracy Phipps was informed of our main concerns, raised on the basis of our knowledge of the geography and habits of our residents:

- nobody wants bins at the north (Church Road) entry points to P&A
- concern centres on the east entry point (as on the west side there are bins already)
- nobody wants bins in the gardens or lawns
- aim to minimise the need to cross roadways to safeguard the disabled
- we would prefer visually less intrusive bins than black
- we would consider placing bins behind hedges at the former composting site
- no glass bins, to minimise noise (some can already be found at the flower stand)
- suggest trialling bins on Kingsway for residents taking walks towards the sea
- prefer concentrating bins at the figure-8 'waist' passed by the majority of residents
- suggest putting recycling bins (usually manhandled by crews) on top of the electrical substation to minimize loss of parking space

City Clean intend to organize a follow-up meeting at the Cornerstone to discuss these matters. The scheme is likely to be introduced towards the end of March and arrangements will be made to collect redundant black recycling bins now used in P&A.

Gardens:

There are additional plantings on both sides of Palmeira gardens, with 50 *rosa rugosas* bought with FOPA funds. Some were planted to hide the former compost bin site.

LATs and antisocial behaviour:

David Ward and David Sewell maintain contact with the Local Action Teams (LAT) initiative of the Police, making a strong effort to restore its original format that allowed amenity groups like FOPA to influence the choice of police priorities. The meetings are open to the public and are occasionally attended by the Crime and Police Commissioner Katy Bourne. A recent meeting considered the proposition to increase rates by £5 to allow coordinating neighbourhood action. Information is posted on the FOPA website and a detailed description of the operation of LAT is in the minutes of last year's AGM. Jane and Peter Jukes, newly resident in P&M, noted evidence of a lively trade in illegal substances in the Square. Sue Hitching thanked David W and David S for their hard work on behalf of FOPA.

Any Other Business

Brighton Bikes:

Rory Connelly, keeping an eye on the 'street scene' around P&A, reported that hire bikes, also branded 'Boris bikes', will arrive in our City in June. Twelve of the 50 docking and battery recharging stations will be on the triangular island by the Flower Stand.

Xmas Party and Raffle Prizes:

The Christmas Party had to be cancelled owing to insufficient interest - we need to sell over 45 tickets in advance to allow booking band and venue. Raffle prizes donated and advertised remained undistributed and so the opportunity was used to sell tickets and hold an impromptu draw; this raised £57. Sue Hitching thanked all those who had worked so hard to organize the event and solicit prizes.

Parking in Palmeira Avenue:

Dan Bodroghy-West is concerned by the current pattern of parking along Palmeira Avenue: four lines of cars in echelon, two centrally for metered parking and two kerbside for residents. The road space remaining is too narrow for large vehicles, notably refuse trucks. He proposes action to persuade the Council to revert to chevron parking in the centre, as it was years ago and is still found in nearby streets. In his view this would not lead to a loss of parking spaces but contribute to safety (notably of children crossing the street). The Council have no money for such purposes, so Dan regards it as a long term project with pedestrian safety implications, worthy of FOPA's interest.

Visit to the Hollingdean MRF:

A report on a visit to the Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility of Veolia, posted on the FOPA website, provides an insight into current rubbish collection and recycling practices. Visitors are welcome on weekends, with special tours laid on for children.

The Meeting closed by 12.00 noon with hot mince pies and wine served by FOPA volunteers, notably Rory Connelly (in party hat) and Chris Babbidge (more conservatively attired).

A sociable time was had by all and Sue Hitching was thanked and congratulated for providing such highly effective chairmanship.

Annual Report for 2017

This is to update members on the events of 2017 and the work of your committee on behalf of FOPA.

I should start by introducing myself; I am a 3-year resident of Adelaide Crescent (after 15 years in the Hove Park area) who joined FOPA immediately on moving here, to support any activity which sought to preserve this stunning environment. I foolishly put my head above the parapet at the last AGM sufficiently to provoke a subsequent suggestion that I might care to join the Committee as Chairman . It seemed churlish to refuse so here I am but only of course in an Acting capacity pending ratification by the AGM, so if anyone would like to put their name forward.....!

Chairing the Committee is made very much easier by the dedication of the Committee Members, all of whom have lived in the Square or Crescent for many years and are totally committed to preserving all that we enjoy here. Areas of responsibility are clearly allocated and the appropriate person deals very efficiently with issues as they arise. As a “Newcomer” I could not have been more impressed with the commitment of each committee member to our common good and we all owe them a great deal of gratitude. As Chairman I certainly could not manage without them, particularly the Hon Treas/Membership Secretary but I am extremely grateful to them all.

In the last 12 months committee members have continued to represent our interests at regular meetings of the Brunswick Town Association which brings together community representatives of all the adjacent Heritage areas in this part of Hove and also the Local Action Team which provides a valuable interface from those same areas, with appropriate parts of the City Council, the Police and our Ward Councillors Ollie Sykes and Phelim MacCafferty (who are unfailingly supportive).Our representatives are constantly addressing issues such as Planning Applications, anti-social behaviour, rough sleeping, drug and alcohol abuse and combating the spread of graffiti.

The most constant issue over the last year has continued to be the Councils’ plans for replacing house rubbish/recycling collections with communal bins. After publication of CityClean proposals their representatives made themselves available to residents at discussion meetings before holding a formal Consultation meeting in the Cornerstone Community Centre in late summer when they confirmed the intention to proceed on the basis of plans and locations which were fully aired at the meeting. CityClean undertook to reflect the concerns then expressed in the final details which would be published to all households prior to implementation which was then planned for September. That publication and programme failed to materialise and silence ensued for several months during which there were several changes of CityClean representatives. Further repeated hastening eventually led to information that implementation would proceed during December but at the time of writing this (during December !), the draft of the householder’s information leaflet with a firm start date was still awaited. Nevertheless there is little doubt that communal bins will be introduced before long with the principal Adelaide/Palmeira location being within the central parking area to ensure a reasonable distance from properties and the minimum loss of parking spaces, reflecting concerns expressed by residents. It has been a deeply frustrating process for us all whether in favour or opposed to the changes but FOPA has been as active as possible throughout the prolonged saga to try and ensure a sensible implementation process which adequately reflected the majority views within the area affected. All we can do of course is to lobby, discuss and cajole as forcefully as possible in all such scenarios to reflect members’ views and concerns and convey them to the decision-makers; that we shall continue to do whenever appropriate.

The Brighton bike scheme is now up and running and seems to be quite successful, with our closest bike station being an island on the western end of Palmeira Square. Another is outside the Lawns Café.

One committee member oversees the endeavours of the Council's Gardens Department for us, to try and maintain an adequate standard of planting and maintenance at a time of ever reducing budgets, a constant battle. At the beginning of December a small FOPA working part under her direction, assisted our allocated Council gardener (who does have several other areas of responsibility as well) with some autumn pruning and bulb-planting. Another member has also been pressing the Council hard for several years for the restoration of the retaining wall at the sea-end of Adelaide Gardens and we are delighted that the stabilisation of the wall has been completed and refurbishment is being followed up along with repair/replacement of Purbeck stone edging around the Square and Gardens. Yet another member presses the Council equally hard on environmental issues eg defective lights around the gardens or problems with abandoned bicycles; the speedy response he achieves is impressive.

A further committee member performs valiant work to maintain the FOPA website on which he has recently undertaken a major redesign and rebuild to make it as accessible and useful as possible. So please do use it – www.fopa.co.uk

There are currently proposals under evaluation and discussion to re-introduce Neighbourhood Watch in our area, initiated by the enthusiasm of a young resident who has grown up here and is now a Police Cadet. Any firm proposals will appear on the website.

We are always looking for new blood on the committee so please chat to one of us if you feel this, not demanding work would interest you. Currently we are in particular need of a Secretary, to service our 3 committee meetings per year and the AGM, plus handling routine e-mails. Again, it is not demanding.

As you know, this AGM in the Cornerstone at 6pm on 13 Jan is being immediately followed on the same evening by our Annual Party, an opportunity for FOPA members to mingle informally with a glass or two and some nibbles – all for the very modest charge of £10pp (payable in advance via party@fopa.co.uk or on the door); I do hope you will stay .

PETER JUKES - Acting Chairman

FOPA ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2017

Income and Expenditure 6.1.17 - 31.12.17 (cut off 30.11.17)

| INCOME | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Donations 2017 | £ 200.00 |
| Christmas party raffle 2016 | £ 57.00 |
| Bank Interest - Police Property Fund | £ 0.24 |
| TOTAL INCOME | £ 257.24 |

| EXPENDITURE | |
|---|-----------------|
| Annual General Meeting (14 th January 2017) Room hire | £ 40.00 |
| Christmas Party 2016 - cancellation costs | £ 168.94 |
| Water Supply Palmeira Square gardens (Southern Water/Business Stream) | £ 52.37 |
| Purchase from council of Rosa Rugosa - Palmeira Square gardens | £ 81.60 |
| Cornerstone meetings - room hire | £ 62.00 |
| UK2 webhosting | £ 85.68 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | £ 490.59 |

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| EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME | | -£ 233.35 |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|

| BANK ACCOUNTS | As at 30.11.16 | As at 30.11.17 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| HSBC - Current Account | £ 932.63 | £ 699.04 |
| HSBC - Police Property Fund | £ 525.47 | £ 525.73 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | £ 1,458.10 | £ 1224.77 |

Sue Hitching, Treasurer and Membership Secretary
30th November 2017

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE PALMEIRA AND ADELAIDE AREA OF HOVE
ESTABLISHED IN 1997 AND FULLY CONSTITUTED
WEB: www.fopa.co.uk EMAIL: info@fopa.co.uk