**WESTWOOD HEATH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**AGM**

**TUESDAY, 25th June 2019**

Chair Ian Stevenson (IS) opened the meeting by reviewing the last year with the following highlights:-

Formation of the History Group

Planning and Development

Crime and Security

Traffic

Other lined Groups

Our Aspirations

**History Group**

Jill Khashi began by referring to an article from 1920 advising that the Westwood area was changing visibly almost each month - a point still extremely relevant today.

The History Group started last September by producing a commemoration of the First World War from details found at the Church and from local knowledge. As it is 80 years since the start of WW2, they will be looking at this too.

The Group has looked at the old school with help from Peter Hancock and Jill thanked him for this. The Group also visited the Greek Orthodox Church, which is the former school building, where they were warmly welcomed with a tour and presented with a book by Father Theo. The Church is well worth a visit and both the Group and RA look forward to developing our relationship with the Church.

A visit was made to Stoneleigh Church, again well worth visiting.

Memory Monday is a regular feature on the Facebook page which has proved very popular and hopefully these will be uploaded to the RA website. Jill thanked those had provided information and requests and welcomes input going forward.

Plans for the future include looking at more subjects (the Grange, the monks etc), organising one or two trips.

If anyone is interested in coming along to the meetings, or would like the Group to look at a particular project or have any local information (eg does your property have some interesting history?) and would would like to share please contact Jill by emailing westwoodheathhistory @gmail.com.

**Planning and Development**

IS provided a recap on the planning developments and the challenge facing Westwood Heath. The legal challenge did not proceed on solicitors advice and thanks to those residents who provided additional funding to allow this to be investigated. One bonus of this was the production of some fantastic aerial photos which are on the website.

In summary, 129 of the proposed 425 on the land on Westwood Heath Road have received planning permission and preliminary work started by removal of some hedging. Crest Nicholson have been invited to engage with the RA and initially accepted but a personnel change may delay this.

There is no further news on the 240 houses off Cromwell Lane.

The University Of Warwick’s proposed Hybrid Plan was accepted despite objections to the car parking.

**Crime and Security**

We now have 24 Streetwatch volunteers and are the fastest growing group in Coventry, if not the West Midlands. 52 patrols have been undertaken with several suspicious events, several lost animals (found) and one 999 call. Streetwatch is a great way to meet people and to get to know your area. Anyone interested please email our co-ordinater, Louise Hughes, at streetwatch@westwoodheath.org.uk.

Private security patrols are still being assessed re feasibility. A survey across Westwood Heath showed interest was sparse on the west side but more positive in the east. Progress has been slower than we would like as it is a complex issue fraught with risk.

IS has represented the RA at regular meetings held by the Police and at the Ward Forums.

**Traffic**

Parking restrictions have been introduced which have all but eliminated the problem at the east side.

Speed Watches have been held in conjunction with our local PCSOs.

IS has been liaising with Cllr Tim Mayer regarding extending the 30mph limit along all of WHR.

An Air Quality Conference led by Prof Reza Ziarati was held in Coventry last week. Apparently the most deadly Is not monitored as it is not a legal requirement, it appears the Council has no interest unless legally obliged to act. The cross border issue was a stumbling block for air quality in the recent Planning application.

IS has attended meetings with other local RAs and Greenbelt action groups.

**Aspirations**

Social activities. We would like volunteers to organise a social event(s) - the Committee is small and fully stretched so any help would be very welcome.

Better liaison with Developers, the University, HS2 and the A46 Link Road.

Extend Speed Watch - a coordinator is needed to help with the production and analysis of realistic figures.

And more!

**Financials**

Bittu produced the Financial report. From 83 paid households originally there are now 97.

The financial position was outlined as attached.

It was proposed to raise the annual subscription to £5 and carried unanimously. Proposed Bittu Chabra, Seconded Ian Stevenson.

**Election of Officers**

There being no other candidates, the Committee was re-elected en bloc.

**AOB**

If anyone would like to support the Committee in various projects, please contact us.

Meetings will be held quarterly, dates to follow.

Subscriptions are due!

Meeting closed 8.50pm.