

Dulwich Society Executive 530th Meeting Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7pm via Zoom videoconference

Attendees:

Colin Niven – President (first part only)

Ian McInnes – Chairman

Kenneth Wolfe – Vice-Chairman

Sue Badman – Secretary

Russell Lloyd – Treasurer

Diana McInnes – Membership Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairs:

David Beamish – Trees

Patsy Bramble – Licensing

Bernard Nurse – Local History

Jeremy Prescott – Gardens

David Roberts – Planning and Architecture

Sigrid Collins – for Angela Wilkes, Wildlife

Harry Winter – Travel and Environment (till 8pm)

Apologies: Alastair Hanton (Travel and Environment)

Angela Wilkes (Wildlife Sub-Committee Chair)

Brian Green – Journal Editor

Introduction

Alastair Hanton has stood down as the Chair of the Travel and Environment (T&E) Sub-Committee and Harry Winter was welcomed as the new T&E Chair.

Declarations of Interest

See Appendix 1. Harry Winter informed the committee that he is the Vice-Chair of the Herne Hill Forum and a member of “Mums for Lungs”.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The Minutes were agreed and will be signed in due course.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere:

Travel and Environment Sub-Committee:

Alastair has stood down as Chair of the T&E Sub-committee after 30 years and we are considering how best to recognise his contribution. One possibility is a Southwark blue plaque at a suitable location, and this is being progressed for the next selection round. IMCI will write an article about Alastair’s retirement in the next Journal. IMCI will also thank other members of the T&E sub-committee moving on.

Pamela Monblat has stood down as secretary and Harry has arranged flowers on behalf of the Society (Thank you, Harry)

A new Secretary has been appointed – Katy Savage from Townley Road – and two other new committee members are joining one of whom lives on Melbourne Grove. **Action: HW to ensure the new committee members have submitted their membership forms.**

IMCl has written to several longstanding T&E committee members – they have agreed to stand down and IMCl has thanked them for their service.

DS Matters

- a) AGM arrangements – The AGM will be rescheduled as a Zoom online meeting in September. **[Post-Meeting Note: This is in line with the Charity Commission’s advice on Covid-19 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>] Date to be agreed.** A new notice will be required by 26 July for the journal and noticeboard. The meeting can be promoted in the enewsletter and via social media. We will also need to consider the methodology for voting, if required. There is a polling facility on Zoom. IMCl will also approach the Chairman of Estate Trustees to talk after the AGM. For the AGM we can put together an agenda slide and IMCl will produce a deck of slides for the Chairman’s review. **[Post-Meeting Note: The AGM will be held on 24 September at 7.30pm on Zoom]**
- b) Meetings and Events in 2020 – Until further notice it will not be possible to hold face-to-face meetings including Executive Meetings. The September Executive meeting will be held online. IMCl referred to his recent successful Zoom talk to the St Barnabas Men’s Group & other local talks now taking place on Zoom e.g. organised by Bell House. It was agreed that we would schedule a programme of monthly Zoom talks starting with a talk by Ian McInnes. **Action: IMCl will discuss other topics with BG and DB.**
- c) Meeting dates in 2021 – **Action: SB will circulate a list of dates for agreement at the next Executive meeting.**
- d) Society PR and Marketing – Carried Forward

Treasurer’s Report and Grants

RL presented the latest budget statement and accounts (year to date) for FY2020.

- FY2019 accounts – draft complete and sent to the independent examiner.
- The FY2019 grant figures were reconciled after checks by IMCl and SB.
- The bank summary shows nearly £53k in our accounts, and £12k in our Barclays account. RL asked that those depositing money into the account should provide identifying payment detail.
- Nearly £426 was transferred from closed NatWest account to the Barclays account.
- Receipts are £18k YTD and payments £17k YTD
- RL reported there was no change to the Mary Boast balance – only changes to the balance will be reported in future.
- The Society paid for the mural design in Burbage Road, and IMCl, DMCl and SB attended a socially-distanced launch of the mural.
- DB raised the Footbridge Oaks seeking a steer on a further contribution from the Society. The Executive agreed to contribute £250 in principle subject to SB checking on what funding the campaign now required. DB checked the campaign website later in the meeting and found they had in fact met their target so there is **NO FURTHER ACTION** on this item.

- London Wildlife Trust project – JP said we paid for the bridge work materials but further funding (for labour) was dependent on project progress. JP is in regular contact with LWT and hopes to hear from them soon.
- The FY2020 and FY2019 Grant spreadsheets were circulated.

Full details in RL's Executive Report.

Traffic, Our Healthy Streets and Covid-19 measures

The Post Covid-19 measures have been implemented in Melbourne Grove and the Dulwich Village Junction. There are traffic queues in Dulwich Village and clearly a problem at the traffic lights at East Dulwich Grove, particularly northbound. TfL have looked at the lights and Southwark Council has asked TfL to visit again as the problems continue. The right turn at the lights is the cause of the problem but until some changes are made, we will not know how it will work. It is the summer – the Foundation schools have broken up so there are no coaches and the State schools are due to break up in the next 10 days but any changes need to be done by 1st September.

It was noted that OneDulwich who want a timed camera solution at the junction has about 1000 supporters, many are residents in Zone B.

The Society has a statement on its website should anyone want clarification of our position regarding the phase 1 post Covid-19 changes.

SB referred to the impact of Covid-19 changes at Herne Hill which is having a serious impact on Southwark residents and users of Croxted Road, Norwood Road and Herne Hill where queues are lengthy. The Dulwich Village ward councillors intend to seek a meeting with their Lambeth counterparts to discuss the issue.

SB also said that she had advised correspondents that they should follow the instructions in the Experimental Traffic Order and write to Southwark Highways. There is also a set of pages on the Commonplace website where feedback can be left. SB referred to concerns about the Commonplace site (pre-set answers, needs to be neutral) and the Council has promised to modify the questions.

While acknowledging the traffic difficulties, BN said he would not like to see the Covid-19 pavement measures at Herne Hill removed. HW said the Herne Hill Forum is calling for segregated cycle lanes under the bridge as it is unsafe for cyclists and is promoting active travel.

SB acknowledged the benefits of the pavement widening & active travel but it was the knock-on effects of the carriageway narrowing which is the issue including more rat-running in the North Dulwich roads between Half Moon Lane and Herne Hill (road), the backed-up traffic in roads such as Croxted Road and delays to bus services. SB said the situation was unsustainable and we could not live with continual queues which show no sign of diminishing. A solution is needed.

DB supported BN's view and mentioned the pavement widening in Lordship Lane (opposite the Picturehouse) which was a success – there were no traffic impacts – and DB wants it to continue while social distancing is in place.

HW acknowledged the valid traffic concerns but reminded the meeting that the number one priority was public health. It will take a few months for the situation to settle down and before motorists start taking alternative routes or using other methods of travel. BN and SB said the Ruskin Walk one-way experiment which has been in operation since June was working well and as expected. A

few drivers went down the wrong way for a couple of weeks and the signage was poor but drivers appeared to have quickly got used to the change. Ruskin residents are monitoring driver behaviour and doing occasional traffic counts. Hollingbourne and Holmdene residents were however unhappy with the Ruskin system and have met the councillors who are considering further measures for these roads. At present they are stymied by the Herne Hill traffic queues. BN suggested that Hollingbourne was also a candidate for a one-way system.

Post Covid-19 Phase 2 measures are to be announced in August for implementation in September. At present we can only speculate on what further changes will be announced.

Questions have been raised about the Foundation coaches next term and how they will operate.

Action: HW to ask Laurie Johnston about coaches.

Society Representatives for the Our Healthy Streets Working Group and the Safe Routes to School –

Action: SB to write to IMcl and HW.

Dulwich Estate

JP reported on the meeting with Gerald Eve about the formulation of the Management Charge. It was a useful meeting and GE explained their well-established process for calculating the management charge. It was done fairly and in a consistent way. There was a discussion about the banding (costs are allocated in accordance with the Council Tax bands) and indeed whether there was a case for creating a “super” Band I for the larger houses (which would involve a substantial exercise to deliver). This was not seen as a sensible way forward. The main issues are how the costs get spent rather than how they are allocated.

IMcl reported on the June Advisory Group which was held online. The new Chair of Trustees made a good impression at the Advisory Group meeting and was asking pertinent questions. DE staff are working from home and it is not clear whether the normal schedule of Estate work is continuing including visits to Estate sites. DR reported that the P&A Sub-Committee was meeting online on 15 July. The Scheme of Management processes were working as usual, and documents circulated. DR expects to get comments back from Oliver on 16 July.

BG has reported that the Estate is handling shop rents on a case-by-case basis. There will come a crunch point and IMcl has reminded the DE of the potential PR implications were any of the shops forced to close because of rent demands when they have no business. The situation will be monitored.

IMcl confirmed the former Barclays Bank is a listed building and there is a plan to convert it into a restaurant. Exploratory works are in progress. A concern was raised about parking and how the proposed enterprise would impact the character of the Village. There are other restaurants in the Village, and it is unlikely that the new restaurant will cause additional parking problems.

PB asked how much feedback the P&A sub-committee received to their comments from the SOM. DR said that all objections must be addressed and be put before the SOM Committee. The SOM Consultant Architect reviews objections from all sources including the P&A sub-committee and produces a report before the applications go to the Committee. The Committee considers reports from the Architect and other SOM staff as part of the process. PB wondered why so many applications under consideration have objections to less than 50% soft landscaping of front gardens and lack of parking when Southwark do not want people to have cars at all! The Council and DE each have their own set of standards. DR referred to the recently published SOM guidelines

produced for new builds which are much tougher on new houses and are muting back land developments.

BN referred to a local property which has been empty for 20 years and drew a distinction between the Council and the SOM. The SOM only has powers to enforce external upkeep of the property whereas the council has powers to compulsorily purchase an empty property. The council has promised to progress this but while other London boroughs are active in compulsory purchase of empty properties, this is not happening in Southwark. DR referred to an old case where the DE had taken over an empty property and sold it on behalf of the owner transferring the proceeds to the owner after the sale. It is not thought that this approach would be acceptable to the owner of the empty property in question.

Licensing and events

PB reported Peachy Goat has been granted a licence which went part way to what they wanted, with some extended hours. They have also applied for a pavement licence. Highways insist there is sufficient space in front of the restaurant despite the abundant street furniture.

PB outlined that the Business and Planning Bill going through Parliament includes a provision for new pavement licences. There will be a 14-day consultation period. As a result, we can expect more requests for variations of licences from local restaurants & cafes, and more promotion of takeaway offerings. The main concern is the impact on Dulwich Village and its residents. However, there is also the need to promote local businesses and restaurants as we emerge from the lockdown. We will have to monitor what is happening and check the pavement licences (as far as we can) – restaurants cannot simply add more tables and chairs. They will need to have a licence for every single table and chair they put outside.

Action: PB will canvas views of residents who might be impacted by changes to the Village restaurants e.g. Pizza Express before the Society decides on further action.

Commercial events in Southwark have been cancelled. The Lambeth County Show will be a virtual event.

Full details in PB's Executive report.

Consultations and Planning

- a. Gilkes – residents are unhappy about the condition of the site. The developers have not responded to requests to tidy up the site and our MP has asked for a meeting. In the meantime, the Society has requested the councillors investigate serving a section 215 planning notice to force the site owners (McCulloch's) to improve the condition of the site – they would be legally obliged to tidy up the site and fix the hoarding.
- b. Alleyn's Junior School has been granted planning consent for their extension despite 98 objections/2 supporting. Unfortunately, traffic impact - the main thrust of the objectors' case - does not count as a material planning consideration.

Local Police

The Borough Commander is circulating regular newsletters which reach most residents' associations and neighbourhood watch groups. These cover crime trends and incidents across the whole of

Southwark and Lambeth, and messages for residents about safety, crime prevention and police management of the lockdown. Regrettably, there was a stabbing on the Kingswood Estate. The police acted quickly and there have been arrests.

An SNP meeting is due soon. Pavement cycling continues and escooters are in use on our local roads although they are illegal. UK pilot trials are due to start soon.

While opening of school playing fields has been generally welcomed by residents during lockdown, there have been some litter and noise incidents. Regrettably there have also been medical incidents and concerns raised about ready availability of resuscitation equipment. **Action: IMCI is following up on defibrillator locations.**

Litter picking and pruning

The Society held a successful litter pick and pruning exercise in Gallery Road following concerns raised by individual residents. Further litter picks will be organised, and they will be advertised so Executive members can join in. Gallery Road remains a priority for litter picks and Rosendale Road is another location. Roads at risk are near takeaways and sports grounds. Dulwich Park Friends are also planning litter picks. With the council focusing on Covid-19 priorities it is unlikely they will be able to organise or manage a litter pick but might be able to help with removal of rubbish collected. **Action: All - please pass on any potential locations to IMCI for our target list.**

The Society has asked the Dulwich Estate to prune overgrowing foliage at several locations.

Other Dulwich Issues and Any Other Business

- a. The Grove Tavern – the car park is being used a skateboarding park. No action from the Estate or its tenant yet.
- b. Lydenhurst – SB reported she had seen new legal documents dated 1 July 2020 on the Lydenhurst planning application which looked like the S106 agreements. **Action: DR to follow up.**
- c. Journal – SB said that BG has received at least one letter opposing the junction change and if he decides to publish the letter will be looking for a balancing article or letter. It was agreed that we would need to put both sides of the argument in the journal. **Action: SB will ask a supporter of the junction (ideally someone in Zone B) to write an article for the journal. The deadline is 26 July.**

Date of next meeting – 14 September 2020 – Zoom meeting, details to be confirmed.

Sue Badman, Secretary – The Dulwich Society

2020 Meetings – 9 Nov 2020, Zoom meeting

2020 AGM – to be rescheduled to late September

2021 Meetings – to be confirmed.

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Declarations of Interest

Ian McInnes – Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery (Chairman); Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panels (Member + Deputy Chair of DV SNP). Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

Diana McInnes - Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

Sue Badman - Dulwich Events Partnership (DS rep), Safe Routes to School Group (Attendee)

David Roberts – Volunteer at the Village Orchard in Dulwich Village.

David Beamish – Parish of St Barnabas, Dulwich (Deputy Churchwarden); Dulwich Deanery Synod (Hon. Secretary); Southwark Diocesan Synod (Member); Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery (Committee Member); Member of the Southwark Diocesan Council of Trustees and Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance; Volunteer at Dulwich Picture Gallery; Dulwich & District U3A Committee Member; Volunteer at Dulwich Village Infants School.

Adrian Hill – Camberwell & District Allotment Society; Stradella and Springfield Residents' Association (Committee Member); Friends of Crystal Palace Subway (DS rep); Abbeyfield Dulwich Society Ltd (Trustee and Executive Committee Member).

Harry Winter – Vice-Chair of The Herne Hill Forum; Member of “Mums for Lungs”