



**Mill Hill Park**  
Residents'  
Association  
Acton

## **Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Mill Hill Park Residents' Association**

As a result of Covid-19, the 2020 AGM was held by email. The various reports and proposals were sent to MHPRA members on 27 October and they were asked to return their comments, if any, by 9 November. For the issues that required votes, it was explained that the MHPRA would take silence as agreement.

### **1. Welcome**

Jonathan Darby (Chair) welcomed members to the virtual meeting:

The committee had hoped to hold some form of physical event for the AGM - or even some form of social activity. But the guidance for Covid-19 still advises against large gatherings, and as such, we did not feel that doing so would have been advisable.

Instead, welcome to our virtual AGM.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM 2019**

Corinna Stowell reported that we had not received any comments about the minutes following their publication after the AGM, nor when they were circulated with the notice of this meeting. I propose that the minutes are accepted.

*The minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved.*

## **a. Actions from the 2019 AGM**

### ***Traffic speed: Mill Hill Road***

The issue of traffic and speeding in Mill Hill Road was raised. Ann Brennan said that Section 106 funding from the redevelopment of the West London College site would be available for improvements locally and that she would see if she could be involved in the process of deciding how the funds could be spent.

Section 106 funds have been allocated for traffic measurements, but are not due for some time. At the October 2019 Ward Forum, a member raised the issue of speed and traffic and ward funds were agreed to carry out measurements. The counts took place in February 2020. A Council briefing report on these counts showed an increase in traffic on Avenue Road and Mill Hill Road with an increase in speeding on Mill Hill Road. Ann Brennan emailed Cllr Mik Sabiers, our local councillor and then portfolio holder for Environment, which includes Highways, to raise the following points/requests:

- Issues with traffic and speeding on Gunnersbury Lane, Avenue Road and Mill Hill Road by vans, cars, motorbikes and mopeds as highlighted in the Council's briefing report.
- Mopeds using Mill Hill Terrace to access Mill Hill Road. The mopeds don't stick to the 20mph speed limit, they are noisy and travel late at night.
- The number of vehicles travelling up Mill Hill Road (westbound) despite the no left turn at Langley Drive. The road often gets blocked when vehicles travelling east and west meet. This is particularly bad during the morning and evening rush hours and when parents are picking their children up from Ark Acton Academy.
- We request a study of the traffic pathways in our area and measures to reduce the traffic and speeding.
- We also request the raw data for the briefing report so that it could be compared to previous counts.

Cllr Mik Sabiers responded in October 2020, saying that he had requested the data from Highways. The data was sent on 11 November. Ann Brennan agreed to review and compare the data with that of previous counts. Cllr Sabiers said there was a limited budget available and the Council was unlikely to run a formal consultation on traffic calming and speed reducing measures.

### ***Former Mill Hill Pub development***

A member commented that there were a lot of loose wires hanging down the back of the development (visible from Mill Hill Road) and wondered what could be done about this. Ann Brennan said that the MHPRA had been successful in having the Juliet balconies removed from the back of the building (as they had been in breach of the planning permission granted) and so it would be possible to raise this issue. Action: Ann said she would follow up with Planning Enforcement on the planning breaches. Update: Ann has emailed Planning Enforcement and is awaiting a response.

### 3. Review of the Year's Activities

#### a. Membership and Treasury

##### Financial statements for the 12 months ending 30 June 2020

<b>Receipts</b>	
Opening balance – current account	£1555.51
Opening balance - cash	£0.00
Subscriptions	£648.50
Donations (Misc.)	£14.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2218.01</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
Printing and stationery	£315.00
2019 AGM costs	£130.00
Website	£161.43
Tea party expenses	£136.79
Ealing Civic Society	£20.00
Acton Arts Project donation	£100.00
Closing balance – current account	£1320.79
Closing balance - cash	£34.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2218.01</b>

*The accounts for the year ending 30 June 2020 were adopted.*

## Membership

Membership Type	Rate	Number of Members	Total Income	Number of Households
Dual household standing order	£7.50	106	£397.50	53
Dual household cash/cheque	£12.00	0	£00.00	0
Single household standing orders	£5.00	23	£115.00	23
Single household cash/cheque	£8.00	17	£136.00	17
TOTAL	-	146	£648.50	93

### b. Licensing

All licence applications in Acton continued to be reviewed. These included applications for gambling premises, alcohol licences for pubs, bars, clubs, off licences, cafes and restaurants and late-night takeaways that wish to sell hot food and drink between 11pm and 5am. Over the year there had been a relatively low number of applications. The majority had been for storage facilities where alcohol is purchased online. As this type of premises is not open to the public, they are a lower risk in terms of giving rise to crime, anti-social behaviour, noise and litter.

The MHPRA submitted a representation for a new off-licence, raising concerns about local issues with street drinking. As a result, Horn Lane Supermarket (160 Horn Lane, W3 6PH) had 18 conditions added to their licence. These included restricting the sale of high strength beer, lager and cider, no sale of single cans of beer, lager and cider and no sale of miniature bottles of spirits.

### c. Neighbourhood Watch

Sadly, there were three serious incidents in the year 2019/20, with a rape in Mill Hill Road, an assault in Avenue Gardens and a suspicious death in Heathfield Road.

There was a marked rise in motor vehicle crime with the theft of two cars (not recovered) and a number of thefts from vehicles (including catalytic convertors).

With the coming of lockdown, there were several reported break-ins and a number of bicycles stolen from within properties.

While MHPRA is taking no actions in connection with these developments, Members are reminded to contact the police for non-emergencies by calling 101. If a matter is urgent, call 999.

#### **d. Environment**

##### ***Pocket Garden***

Social distancing requirements meant that formal working sessions had not been organised, however individual members had weeded, planted and picked up litter on an ad hoc basis. The garden is now looking quite established - a testament to the hard work of members in previous years.

##### ***Saturday litter pick***

In September 2019, the MHPRA started a fortnightly litter pick to improve our streets and parks. Pre-lockdown we could meet for coffee thereafter but, sadly, that aspect had to go. The litter pick itself has continued and now takes place weekly. We have a [Facebook page](#) too.

We have linked with LAGER Can (Litter Action Group of Ealing Residents) and Ealing's Senior Ranger, Vanessa Hampton. Vanessa has provided us with more equipment so more volunteers are always welcome! It really is enjoyable (and just a little bit addictive!).

#### **e. Planning**

The information below covers the MHPRA's activities in the year to 30 June 2020:

- We reviewed 26 planning applications relating to Mill Hill Park and the surrounding area. We commented on seven.
- We reviewed 16 applications for tree works and commented on two.
- We contacted Planning Enforcement to report a breach of planning conditions in relation to one application granted permission. As a result, a planning enforcement officer took action and we await further news.
- We followed up with Ealing's Principal Planner for Regeneration on queries raised by members in relation to the Phase 9.4 Acton Gardens development on Enfield Road.
- We attended the two public exhibitions on TfL's proposals for Bollo Lane and arranged a meeting with TfL managers for committee members. We submitted responses to the two consultations on behalf of the MHPRA.

#### **f. Social events**

On Sunday 8 September 2019, over a hundred people enjoyed a very successful family tea party in Mill Hill Gardens with games, food and a band. A huge thank you to all who helped, particularly Sandy Nicol, Lucy Vidal and Naomi Wright who made this such an enjoyable afternoon. We also held three drinks parties, including the traditional Christmas event, hosted by Members. Sadly, the lockdown has prevented more formal social events, but we look forward to their return, as and when this becomes possible.

#### **g. Acton Ark Academy**

With the resumption of activities at Acton Ark Academy, the MHPRA has written to the Principal, Oliver Knight, wishing him well with the challenges he and his colleagues face in the coming weeks and months, but reminding him of his undertakings given at previous meetings with MHPRA to

ensure good behaviour by students on the streets of MHP as they arrive and leave the campus. We will continue to monitor the situation.

#### **h. A plaque to the genre and war artist, Margaret Dovaston**

With the agreement of residents, Paul Hill and Richard Zeng in Roman Close, a green plaque commemorating the residence and studio of the celebrated genre and war artist, Margaret Dovaston (1884-1954), was mounted on the outside of their house. Although an actual unveiling by local MP Rupa Huq on 23rd May had to be abandoned because of Covid-19, MHPRA held a “virtual unveiling” instead: <http://millhillparkacton.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Virtual-Unveiling-Dovaston.pdf>

#### **i. Coronavirus support group**

We set up a coronavirus support group in March covering Mill Hill Park. We emailed members to let them know they could ask for assistance or volunteer to help and had an excellent response. We also distributed leaflets about the support group to the addresses of non-MHPRA members in Mill Hill Park so they would be aware of its existence. We communicated by email, WhatsApp and phone, depending on individuals’ preferences. Thank you to Carlotta Saporito for suggesting the creation of a WhatsApp group and to Lucy Vidal for co-ordinating it - and, of course, to all those who gave or offered help.

There is still uncertainty about what will happen next. Should the need arise, it is re-assuring to know that there is a huge reservoir of goodwill within our streets to offer help to our friends and neighbours.

### **4. Constitution Amendments**

The practicalities of remaining Covid safe has, for totally legitimate reasons, meant the Committee has been obliged to adhere to the spirit, if not the letter of our Constitution. In particular:

6. The business of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of four officers, namely Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary, and ordinary members not exceeding 12 in number. The role of the Chair may be discharged by a single, named member of the Committee or, at the discretion of the Committee, by a sequence of named members of the Committee. The Committee shall appoint an Honorary Auditor. The Committee shall meet at least three times a year. The quorum for committee meetings shall be six.

Though we hope this is not the case, Covid-19, or indeed, viruses like it may feature as part of life in the future. Accordingly, we propose adding at the end of this paragraph: **“If necessary, Committee Meetings, Annual General Meetings or Extraordinary General Meetings may be conducted by virtual or other alternative means.”**

*The amendment to the Constitution was approved.*

## 5. Election of the Committee

The following people agreed to stand for re-election to the committee.

- Sandy Nicol: Treasurer. Social Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch representative
- Corinna Stowell: Secretary, Web Manager
- Elisabeth Curlet: Membership Secretary
- Ann Brennan: Licensing
- Jonathan Darby: Communications
- Marcia Hurst: Environment
- Ray Batchelor: Committee member
- Wlodek Mier-Jedzejowicz: Committee member
- Eleanor Stewart: Committee member
- Lucy Vidal: Committee member
- Naomi Wright: Committee member

*The above-named committee members were re-elected.*

The Committee will continue to share in fulfilling the role of Chair “by a sequence of named members of the Committee”, as set out in Paragraph 6 of our Constitution (see above). Jonathan Darby agreed to continue as Chair on this basis.

## 6. Any Other Business

### a. Greener Ealing

In July, Ealing Council’s company “Greener Ealing” replaced Amey in handling the borough’s waste. It is early days, but there appears to be an improvement in our parks and green spaces which have been so important to us all this year. Greener Ealing is keen to work with residents on fly tipping and litter. Elisabeth Curlet produced leaflets in July to encourage people beyond MHPRA to join our litter picking group. And we’ve recruited folks with whom we’ve chatted as we’ve been out collecting.

### b. Gunnersbury Park.

Greatly used over lockdown and greatly littered as well.... There are now five MHPRA members going every Sunday at 10am to litter pick. Litter picking in the Park also takes place on Fridays from 10-11am and, from mid-September, on Saturdays from 10-11am. We can already see the difference. Despite May’s fire which destroyed the café, the Park remains popular. Entrance is free, but Gunnersbury has redoubled its appeal for donations.

<https://www.visitgunnersbury.org/support-us>

**c. Fly tipping**

This is increasing. Please download the “[Love Clean Streets](#)” app and use this to report fly tipping. The sooner it’s reported, the sooner the Council will remove it.

**d. Mill Hill Park list of recommended businesses**

We do not maintain a list of local tradespeople or services, but are happy to circulate requests members might have to the wider membership.

Alternatively, members might find it useful to look on these community websites:

- ActonW3 site <http://www.actonw3.com>
- Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

or these commercial ones:

- Checkatrade <https://www.checkatrade.com/>
- Ratedpeople <https://www.ratedpeople.com/>