

13 July Council Meeting made for a lively Zoom debate



Memory of an RA Pre-Covid Summer Party – hopefully to be reinstated next year (Photo: Tony Brand)

EMMA HOWARD

RA Council now meets (via Zoom) four times a year from 8pm to be updated by its Executive and to discuss various matters. As usual, the July meeting was a lively one attended by 12 Council members and two visitors. Suburb Residents are most welcome to join these meetings and can ask a question at the beginning of the meeting but are not able to join in wider discussion.

We have welcomed several new members to our RA Council recently and I am pleased to say that Philip Okrent (our new pavement supremo) joined in July. If you are interested in taking part in Council, then please contact chair@hgsra.uk. You will also be expected to join one of our standing committees or take on a role in the RA: there are always things to be done!

At the meeting, we discussed finances and membership, grants and donations, as well as events, including a possible summer party and a forthcoming events questionnaire. Our editor of Suburb News updated Council members on feedback on the new style Suburb News which seems to have been a hit with readers welcoming the new format.

Our Trees & Open Spaces committee is making good progress on working with volunteers and LB Barnet to create a new community fruit orchard in Lyttleton Playing Fields and to preserve and renew our street trees. More updates on matters of very local interest below:

1. CHARITABLE GIVING: RA Council members have the usually pleasurable role in agreeing grant support for local charities and bodies doing good work. So far in 2021, we have agreed the following contributions:

- Proms at St Jude's Music and Literary festival: £3,000 grant to support the weekend 'Lit Fest'.
- St. Jude's appeal to restore the tower and steeple of this much-loved Grade 1 listed building: £10,000.
- Fellowship House runs a series of high-quality chamber concerts in the autumn, and we have donated £500 in support again.

- Northway Gardens Organisation: £1,375 to support expenses incurred here.

- Noah's Ark Children's Hospice: the RA ran a matched fund appeal to help this charity that supports so many very sick children and their families at times of great need. We gave £10,000 which was equalled by local donations enabling the Hospice to proceed with a therapy pool at the new hospice building in Barnet.

- Hampstead Heath's management team has committed to installing new playground equipment in the existing location on the Extension and aimed at a wider age range up to 12 years. RA Council agreed to support a further match funding appeal which the RA will contribute up to £5,000 towards.

2. ROAD AND TRAFFIC MATTERS: although there is no longer an RA R&T committee, volunteers have continued to work hard to seek improvements in our area. LB Barnet have now agreed to proceed with the following:

- Addison Way: the installation of improved restriction to entry from Falloden Way as this has become a short cut causing a lot of issues for residents. The new design should be installed soon and will include narrower entry points to enable small vans and cars only to enter the road here. It will also be more robust as the current posts are frequently knocked over by vehicles.

- Hampstead Way/Meadway roundabout: LB Barnet paid for an extensive survey here at the request of the RA in order to try to improve pedestrian safety at crossing these busy roads and to improve traffic safety at the roundabout. They are finalising a plan which will include crossing shelters on Meadway for pedestrians, and a narrowing of Meadway near the roundabout so that drivers will be forced to slow down and take more care here.

- Willifield Way/Asmunds Hill junction: LB Barnet have agreed to repaint the roundabout markings and related road markings here.

3. LITTER PICKING: the RA has been working with residents and LB Barnet for over two years to provide equipment and support for volunteers who would like to help keep our roads, pavements and open spaces free from litter. We have resident Michael Green to thank for setting this up 2 years ago, but we now need a new volunteer to liaise with Barnet, receive and distribute equipment and liaise with volunteers as needed. Please contact chair@hgsra.uk if interested either in litter picking or co-ordinating this for the RA.

4. ALLOTMENTS: Committee Chair, Philip Harlow, was unable to attend the meeting, but reported that the allotments are looking in good shape this year – maybe all that rain has helped and Covid restrictions have meant people have had more time to tend their plots. There is now a long waiting list for plots: if you are interested in taking one on, please email allotments@hgsra.uk.

5. PUBLICATIONS: the most recent issue had seen a substantial revision to style and size and the Editors reported receiving excellent feedback on topics covered, size and stapling, and the fresh new approach. The volunteer distribution team had reconvened after the long Covid enforced absence and reported that they had survived this well. We still need volunteer distributors in several locations: please email lornapage@talktalk.net if you can help, especially on Brim Hill, Falloden Way/Market Place and Winnington Road and Close.



Olivia at the playground (Photo: Sally Patterson)

Playground upgrade – RA match funding campaign

COLIN GREGORY

The City of London is making improvements to the playground on the Heath Extension, following a local campaign in 2020 by 10 year old Olivia White, who sold jam to raise funds for the project. The improved playground will have an increased variety of play equipment, catering for children up to age 12. It will retain its rustic feel and make use of natural materials, including logs from elsewhere on the Heath. The City has drawn up a design and is currently consulting Olivia and other members of the local community before the

proposals go to the Heath Consultative and Management Committees and for planning consent in the autumn.

The work will be carried out in the winter so the new playground should be ready by next spring. Following its successful matched funding campaign last year in aid of the Royal Free Charity, the Residents Association will run a similar campaign in support of the project. Hampstead Heath is a registered charity and contributions for the playground will be made via the charity, up to a total of £10,000; £5,000 from residents and £5,000 from the RA. (Raising about 25% of the estimated cost.)

New Environment Committee for the Suburb

EMMA HOWARD

Hampstead Garden Suburb is currently one of the greenest and cleanest suburbs in London with its parks, woodlands and Hampstead Heath on its doorstep. But there is much to be done in order to enhance our environmental credentials and to make the Suburb fit for the future. In order to make sure we do our part in the huge challenges presented by the need to reduce our carbon emissions, we will all need to ditch our petrol and diesel cars; heat our homes with

renewable energy; improve our home insulation and plant more trees in our streets and gardens.

I am keen to set up a new Committee to focus on practical initiatives that we can do locally over the next 5-10 years in order to help meet these urgent challenges now – not just for future generations. I would like volunteers willing to roll their sleeves up and run an energetic committee which will drive changes for the good for our children and grandchildren. If you are interested, please email me on chair@hgsra.uk.



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