

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT

The Residents Association launched a campaign against noise in the suburb caused by petrol driven gardening equipment. A Noise Abatement Working Group was set up and yellow cards to enable neighbours to make complaints about noise were distributed. The Association received much publicity with reports in the Daily and Sunday Telegraph, BBC News Today, London TV News and local newspapers, radio stations and the HGS Trust and Barnet Borough to stop using blowers. To obtain a

order for the Brooklands Schools together with a large 20 mph zone with a 10 mph limit. The Association was not consulted on the original scheme which it was amended in 2015 which filled the enlarged room at Fellowship House with some of the proposals and passed a resolution criticising the plans with a committee report.

Attention on the Suburb. Although we live in a low crime area, crime in the neighbourhood Watch might be revived. If anyone is interested in setting

up a campaign to stem the flood of paving-over of front gardens. This is an issue.

Work on the trees in Central Square which have been long neglected. Spearheaded a project and to another project in Northway Gardens, see the Trees

The Committee particularly for organising two popular annual events, open to all; the Membership Committee which has an important but busy role in Suburb News and the Suburb Directory; together with the Association's various projects, pick up litter, repair memorial benches or organise our

work on the Suburb and deserve our thanks. If you would like to

DAVID B LEWIS (rachair@hgs.org.uk)

LAND AMENITIES (CONSAM)

Aspects of conservation in the Suburb, including opposing the significant paving over of gardens. The Committee's work was actioned by means of the Barnet Borough of Barnet, including via the Property & Plans Committee of the Council (which advises Barnet planners). The chairmanship of the committee has ended at the end of October 2015; I am grateful to John Sells, the late Geoffrey

PETER McCLUSKIE, Chairman (raconsam@hgs.org.uk)

Arrangements • New basement guidance scrutinised • Paving/hard-landscaping • A number of public realm issues, including signage and parking posts successfully resisted • A number applications for mobile phone transmitters established

Neighbours at the Residents Association AGM
 at the Herta Barnett School Hall, Central Square
 Time • Refreshments



MEMBERSHIP

During 2015 efforts were made to further reduce the operational cost of the membership committee. Increasingly email is used as a means to contact residents reducing the cost for postal mailing. In June 2015 around 650 membership renewal envelopes were hand-delivered via the usual volunteers and helpers further reducing the need for postal communication.

A New Residents Party was organised in November to which 148 new households were invited. The party was well attended and new residents had an opportunity to talk to RA Council members about the work of the RA and benefits of joining. While there is still a concern over declining membership numbers efforts are being made to benefit from existing advertising channels such as those of the Events committee to promote RA membership. Current membership numbers are: 1,609 Members, 50 Associate Members, 17 Life Members with Total membership: at 1,676.

HELLA SCHRADER, Chairman (ramembership@hgs.org.uk)



PUBLICATIONS

The Suburb Directory saw a complete redesign for the 2015 edition, which was overseen by Judith Samson with the help of our designers, 1st Impression. The result is a more attractive and more easily readable publication. It was for the second year running delivered with the spring issue of Suburb News. Charles Gale continues to find the local shops and businesses willing to participate in the Discount Scheme, and now also looks after the advertising.

Suburb News continues to be published quarterly and aims to provide all who live in the Suburb with local news of interest, profiles of residents and details of future events in the Suburb. We would like to thank all those who contribute to the paper and are very grateful for their efforts, which help make it a community publication. It is distributed free of charge to about 5,000 households throughout the Suburb by a team of over one hundred volunteers co-ordinated by Lorna Page.

Copies of both publications are available on line on the website created and maintained by Steve Morris at www.hgs.org.uk,

Introduced in December 2011 Suburb eNews, which appears when required, continues to promote activities and events in the Suburb. All RA members will receive this if they have provided us with their e-mail address. Please let us know if you are not receiving it and would like to do so by sending an e-mail to ramembership@hgs.org.uk.

The advertising in our three publications continues to cover the cost of production and in 2015 produced a small surplus for the RA. Suburb News needs an Advertising Manager to deal with all aspects from finding to retaining advertisers and the committee would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in volunteering for this role.

TERRY BROOKS, Chairman (rapublications@hgs.org.uk)



ROADS AND TRAFFIC

The Roads & Traffic Committee had a typically busy 2015. During the early part of the year many residents were concerned about proposed alterations to the no. 13 bus route, which would have seen it withdrawn from Golders Green. Passengers wishing to travel to the West End would have been left with only a single alternative service, which was slower and often overcrowded. The R&T Committee joined other local organisations in lobbying hard for the retention of the no. 13, which happily was achieved.

The Committee also made representations on other important local matters. We opposed Barnet Council's proposed use of CCTV cameras to enforce banned turn and box junction restrictions on borough roads. We did this not because of any lack of concern about motorists breaking rules but because where local authorities have awarded themselves such rights elsewhere in London it has often led to unnecessary restrictions whose purpose seems to be to trap the unwary rather than better traffic control. It is too soon to know how Barnet will use its CCTV powers but a repeat this year of the practice of sending traffic wardens to enforce school yellow lines on bank holidays was not a good augury.

We commented also on Transport for London's proposed new cycle lane scheme at Henly's Corner noting that good separation between cyclists and vehicles will be essential at this extremely busy intersection. As construction of the lanes is likely to involve some work and possible overnight closures to parts of the junction we have suggested TfL take the opportunity to upgrade signage on the gantries because some residents tell us they find the present arrangements confusing.

Other developments noted by R&T during 2015 have included Barnet's installation of parking sensors in Temple Fortune (which are designed to relay information about pay & display bay occupancy), the timing of pedestrian crossing and traffic signal intervals at the Market Place, Falloden Way and Temple Fortune and the conversion of double red lines to double yellow at the Market Place junctions.

The Committee will always try to help residents overturn unjustified parking tickets. We have been involved successfully in many such cases again this year and we continue to monitor the effects of local parking restrictions and the way they are policed. In March we reported a TfL vehicle, which had illegally parked in one of that organisation's disabled bays in the Market Place and a Barnet Council lorry, which had been left in a similarly prohibited manner with its wheels on the kerb in Willifield Way. We are conscious too that displacement from the expanded controlled parking zones has again put pressure on residents living far from the source of the problems, which the CPZs were ostensibly created to resolve.

Using the RA's speed measuring equipment the R&T Committee undertook speed checks during the year in many prominent Suburb roads. We have found speed limits to be generally well observed although it is interesting to note that actual driving speeds were slightly higher in the 20mph zones compared with those we recorded in the 30mph roads. A full list of results may be found on the RA website at www.hgs.org.uk/ra/roadsandtraffic/index.html. Residents who would like to have their roads speed checked are invited to contact the Committee.

2015 ended anxiously for residents of more than a dozen roads in the Brooklands area as they awaited the result of a major traffic scheme consultation. Animated by the School Travel Plan the proposals seek the establishment of a large 20mph zone and a zebra crossing directly outside houses close to Brookland School. Around 120 residents attended a public meeting in December to explain to our ward councillors and school governors why these proposals were so objectionable to the school's neighbours. We must hope that 2016 will not bring forth any similarly intrusive proposals elsewhere in the Suburb.

GARY SHAW, Chairman (ratraffic@hgs.org.uk)

