

Dulwich Society Executive 534th Meeting Monday 15th March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom videoconference

Attendees:

President

Colin Niven

Officers

Ian McInnes – Chairman

Kenneth Wolfe – Vice-Chairman

Sue Badman – Secretary

Russell Lloyd – Treasurer

Sub-Committee Chairs

David Beamish – Trees

Patsy Bramble – Licensing

Bernard Nurse – Local History

Jeremy Prescott – Gardens

Penny Stern – Planning and Architecture

Harry Winter – Travel and Environment

Committee Members

Brian Green – Journal Editor

Guest

Heather Stubbs – prospective Secretary

Unable to attend:

Angela Wilkes – Wildlife

Adrian Hill – Committee Member

Apologies:

Diana McInnes – Membership Secretary

Register of Interests (renamed from “Declarations of Interests”).

See Appendix 1. SB has deleted her entry as the Dulwich Events Partnership is currently defunct. HW’s memberships have been updated. SB confirmed that the register of interests includes memberships of organisations, specifically local organisations.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Jan 2021 meeting minutes approved.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere: None.

Guest - IMCI welcomed Heather Stubbs to the meeting as the prospective new Secretary. Heather has been Secretary of the Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery hitherto.

DS Matters

- a) Retirement of the President - Colin Niven has given notice that he intends to stand down as President at the AGM. Colin mentioned that he had been a Society Vice-President and President for nearly 30 years and felt that now was the right time to stand down. He thanked Ian and the Committee for being excellent colleagues and said how much he had enjoyed his role. Colin will remain a member of the Society.
- b) Committee Changes - IMCl confirmed that Kenneth Wolfe has agreed to stand for President at the AGM. Kenneth said he was pleased to take on the role and looked forward to it. This will lead to other committee changes with effect from the AGM as follows:
Sue Badman will stand for Vice-Chairman, replacing KW.
Heather Stubbs will stand for Secretary, replacing SB.

IMCl has also approached Sharon O'Connor from the Local History Sub-Committee, who runs the Local History Twitter feed to join the Executive Committee and take on the role as Social Media Lead. Sharon is considering the offer but would like more details of the brief. SB outlined the current position – the Society runs three Twitter feeds (General, Local History and Gardens). The General and Local History feeds have over 2000 followers each. The Gardens Twitter feed which is run by JP has generated interest in gardens, parks and local wildlife. We also have a new YouTube feed and two Instagram accounts which are useful for photos and maps. We do not run a Facebook page. We get substantial traction on the Twitter feeds – BN referred to the success of the Local History feed and its value for identifying old photographs and SB referred to the recent tweets on the General feed about AK Food & Wine which had generated interest, and which had been helpful to the Dulwich Estate.

SB also mentioned the need for rebranding the Society and a new logo which is something Sharon might be able to take on.

HW suggested that the sub-committees might want to start their own Twitter feeds and it was agreed that HW and the T&E Secretary (Katy Savage) would talk to IMCl and Sharon about this in due course.

Action: IMCl to brief Sharon about the Social Media role.

- c) AGM Arrangements: **Action: SB**
- 24 May, 7.30pm on Zoom.
 - Notice issued via Journal.
 - Nomination Form circulated. Forms must be returned by 10 May to SB.
 - Documentation to be posted on the website.
 - Annual Reports required by IMCl by mid-April.
 - Certified accounts – RL says auditor is ready to start.
 - Talk – IMCl and BG will consider options for a short talk – we could also ask Helen Hayes as IMCl and SB are due to meet her in a catch-up session shortly.
- d) Review of Rules is in progress. Working group has concluded that we ought to consider a move to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which would help to mitigate the liability issue. We will not be able to achieve this in time for the AGM and it will therefore be

done in the future. In the meantime, we will make essential changes to the wording of the current rules for approval at the AGM. It should be noted that we do not have the power to change the Society Objects which would involve a scheme process with the Charity Commission. **Action: Revising the Rules wording will take a few weeks and the working group (SB/ADH/PB) will circulate a draft version for the Executive Committee to consider.**

- e) Online Talks – continue and are going well. We have donated more than £2000 to charities. The Gardens Group also has a talk on 15 April. In the long term, it is likely that we will continue the talks on Zoom as it is good PR for the Society even if it does not generate new members. We are also posting the talks on YouTube.
- f) Post Cart – KW reported on the plan to move the cart from Rosebery Lodge to a garage in Burbage Road. KW has plans to restore the cart and ensure it is protected from further decay and weather damage. While the wheels are mobile and the cart could be moved by hand, it was felt that the journey from Rosebery to Burbage Road might be a journey too far, and the consensus view was that we should seek a quotation from a “man with a van” to move the cart speedily and safely to Burbage Road once lockdown is over. **Action: KW**
- g) Society Archives – the issue had arisen due to the handover of the chairmanship of the Planning & Architecture Committee. There is no official Society Archives policy, and the storage of archives was arbitrary. After a discussion about the availability and location of committee hard-copy archives, it was agreed that Executive Committee members should let SB know how many files they were storing and then we could decide how best to move forward in terms of storage facilities. Digitisation is also a possibility but needs careful planning. BN also said that he would still like hard copy records to be retained even if the records are digitised.
- h) Alleyn Statue Maintenance - The Committee has agreed over email to pay for the maintenance work on the statue (£1459 incl VAT). This was ratified at the meeting and SB will now proceed to tell AB Fine Arts to proceed with the commission. **Action: SB**

Dulwich Estate

i) SOM Guidelines

The DE Scheme of Management Office has issued some modest changes to the Guidelines for comment. The changes are largely to modernise the guidelines. Although notice has been short, the Advisory Committee members and Planning & Architecture Sub-Committee have submitted comments.

ii) Advisory Committee

JP reported back on the March meeting. The aim was to have more of a conversation around the agenda than a rigid Q&A. The meeting had been strongly led by the Chair of Trustees, but the two RA representatives had made high calibre contributions and the meeting had gone well. The accounts and new charging structure had been approved. The enforcement process was going OK. The SOM has recruited a new third party surveyor to deal with inspections relating to the new licensing process. The resident representatives had raised climate change as a topic, but this was too large a scope for the DE and their preference is to comment on specific measures e.g., solar

panels. Generally, the meeting was constructive and was an improvement on previous meetings. We hope to receive revised Terms of Reference from the SOM office shortly.

The one controversial issue concerned the process for licence applications. The SOM is keen to receive comments from all parties and welcomed the comments from the Society Planning & Architecture Sub-Committee (PAS) which are highly valued. The SOM will make decisions based on the comments received. However, they are unwilling to share neighbours' comments with the PAS as all input received must be "unbiased".

The four AC representatives were told they could also provide comments on the licence applications, which was unexpected and not felt to be part of the AC brief. **The rationale for this change is unclear and the AC has asked the SOM office for clarification.** There will need to be further discussion about this at the next AC. In the meantime, the process is that AC members will receive weekly lists of applications and can raise questions about individual properties if required including asking for sight of the drawings.

- PS made an offer to all AC members to attend a Planning & Architecture Zoom call to familiarise themselves with the process.
- Any information on individual properties gleaned by AC members from the SOM is strictly confidential and cannot be shared with any other member of the Dulwich Society or other party.
- HW raised the AC's liability regarding any comments made about applications and that this needed to be covered by insurance if the AC decide they will make official comments.
- It was felt that having both the AC and the PAS comment was unnecessary duplication as the PAS is more experienced and better qualified to assess the applications.
- Not seeing the neighbours' comments is unhelpful as the drawings and design statements often did not provide the level of detail required to make a decision. It was not possible for the PAS to visit every site, but neighbours' insightful comments often added value to the process.

Action: SB on behalf of the AC will follow up with the SOM office in connection with the rationale for change in the licence assessments and report back to the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report and Grants

RL presented the latest budget statement and accounts for FY2020 and start of FY2021 (Circulated prior to the meeting):

- The bank summary shows £57,561 in our accounts.
- Payments are £549 for FY2021 incl £151 for reminder letter postage and receipts £12,601, mainly subscriptions. Gift Aid application is TBC.
- The Accounts for FY2020 have been drafted by RL and commented upon by IMcl, JP and SB. Both payments and receipts are down – fewer activities and lower advertisement income.
- The FY2020 accounts will now go to the auditor for examination.
- **RL has circulated the budget for 2021 for comment by the Executive Committee. RL has included provision for grants for projects on hold. Action: Executive Committee**
- **RL also asked Committee to let him know about costs arising from events post-Covid. Action: Executive Committee**

Society Grants

- Several projects on hold (Sunray Gardens, St Barnabas fingerpost, Listening Post)
- The fingerpost near Eynella/Court Lane junction – C Johnson unwell but it will be done.
- Court Lane raised flowerbeds – CGS only awarded a small sum. Await further advice from Court Lane residents. No action at present.
- Sydenham Woods – part of grant still outstanding, awaiting completion of works.
- Horniman Museum South Circular greening – £500 paid and acknowledgement letter received
- Mais House Judicial Review funding – Lewisham. £100 paid
- St Stephen's Church Concert Group – declined.
- Further request from Sydenham Woods about restoration of footpath damaged by heavy footfall – awaiting further detail.

Licensing and events

Large Outdoor Events

Several large-scale events are planned locally to take place in green spaces and parks. Whether they go ahead is dependent on the Covid lockdown easing, event pilots, transport capacity and whether social distancing is eased.

The first to take place is Pub in the Park in Dulwich Park at the end of June. This has the appropriate permits and is selling tickets.

Festival Republic, Crystal Palace – Zoom meeting due on 30 March. Discussions ongoing for two 3-day weekend events. One is Wireless 2021 in September (10th-12th)

South Facing Festival, Crystal Palace - Mix of music concerts – rock, pop, opera to be held in front of the CP Bowl. Month long festival in August. No applications yet.

Gala Festival, Peckham Rye – this will be the 3rd annual event and has been moved from end May to July. Planning in progress and meetings due with stakeholders later in March.

Premises Licences

Peace and Riot, Café/Bar/Childcare, West Dulwich

Society requested conditions and application adjusted to cater for concerns of residents and the Society. Hearing held and decision notice awaited.

RISE, Storage Unit in Giant Arches Road, Burbage Road

PB talked to Burbage Road RA, no particular concerns. Licence hours are for a few hours during the daytime on Saturdays. The Society has not objected.

Consultations and Planning

Gilkes – No further updates. Works continue on neighbouring site in old showroom for the new Megan's Deli.

5G Masts + cabinets:

- SCST – upgrade only; no objection
- Dovercourt Road – we objected
- Dulwich Wood Park – we objected earlier, now on appeal
- Junction of Townley Road/East Dulwich Grove by Alleyn Junior School – will object

IMCl mentioned correspondence received from a resident who felt the Society was not making enough fuss about the 5G masts. This is not true as the Society has written to the Council and lobbied councillors. It is vital that individual residents object to any masts they are unhappy about. It is not sufficient to rely on an objection from the Dulwich Society which will just count as one objection. PB pointed out that there was a huge local effort to raise awareness about the DWP mast with flyers, and more than 100 residents objected.

Putting masts on the roadside is supposed to be a measure of last resort yet three of the masts above were precisely that – on the roadside. More effort needs to be put into mast sharing. The Estate has suggested that a mast could be erected alongside the path between Court Lane and Woodyard Lane.

SMCC

The original application was withdrawn. A revised business case has been circulated around the Executive Committee. It was felt that the Society could not support the application due to concerns about MOL and the travel arrangements and SMCC have been informed.

T&E Sub-Committee

Dulwich LTN Review

Nothing has been heard. We have asked when election purdah commences and been assured that a communication would go out to residents about the consultation before purdah commences i.e. before the end of March. The Society has sent a checklist of what we expect to see in the consultation. IMCl and SB plan to raise this in a catch-up session with Helen Hayes MP shortly and stress that the traffic changes have been divisive and the council's failure to get a consultation going has been unacceptable.

T&E Remit

A change was proposed at the last Executive Committee Meeting to add a further clause to the remit regarding carers. This was discussed by the T&E Sub-Committee and it was agreed that no further changes were required as this was covered by the quoted "protected characteristics". It was thus agreed that no further changes were to be made to the remit and the current version on the website would stand.

Councillors' attendance

The T&E sub-committee asked councillors not to attend the last meeting. It has been agreed that one councillor would be invited occasionally as a guest, from any of the Dulwich wards.

Two new sub-committee members

Two potential members had attended the last meeting as guests and IMcl and HW will have further discussions before appointing them formally to the sub-committee.

Trees

Cox's Footbridge Oaks – There has been a provisional TPO, and the council is reviewing the position on the oaks. The bridge remains closed.

Other Issues/AOB

- **Recycling bin** by the burial ground has been subject to graffiti and vandalism. We will write to councillors seeking to get the bin removed until we can decide an appropriate location for the bin.
- **Heritage Listing** – there is a new SPD that will be subject to a consultation. Nothing more has been heard. In the meantime, a search for boundary stones has turned up 30 examples across the area many from the late 18th Century. Only three are on the local heritage list and the others will need to be added to the list.
- **Meeting with Helen Hayes MP** – IMcl and SB are due to meet with HH shortly for a catch up. Executive Committee to raise any concerns that need to be aired with HH. We await the agenda from HH's office. **Action: Executive Committee**

Date of next meeting – 10 May 2021, 7.30pm – Zoom meeting, details to be confirmed.

Sue Badman, Secretary – The Dulwich Society

2021 Meetings - 2021 Meeting Dates: 10 May, 12 July, 13 September, 15 November 2021 (on Zoom until further notice)

2021 AGM – Monday 24 May 2021 via Zoom.

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 15 March 2021)

Ian McInnes – Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery (Chairman) till 31/3/2021; Member of Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panels; 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)

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) till 31/3/2021; 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, Herne Hill Forum; Member of “Mums for Lungs”; Safe Routes to School (attendee); Springfield and Stradella RA (Committee member responsible for Environment).

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way/Close RA