



Dulwich Society Executive 544th Meeting Monday 14 November 2022 at 7.30pm at Bell House

Attendees:

Officers

James Thompson – Chair
Sue Badman – Vice-Chair
Heather Stubbs– Secretary (Zoom)

Sub-Committee Chairs

Patsy Bramble – Licensing
Ian McInnes – Local History
Jeremy Prescott – Gardens
Penny Stern – Planning and Architecture

Brian Green - Journal Editor
Diana McInnes – Membership

1. Apologies

Kenneth Wolfe (President)
Russell Lloyd – Treasurer
David Beamish – Trees
Peter Roseveare – Wildlife
Harry Winter – Travel & Environment

2. Register of Interests

JP reported that his wife is a committee member of the Friends of Dulwich Park.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of 12th September 2022 were approved for signature by JT.

Action: JT to post the Minutes on the website.

4. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Grants: JT has contacted East Dulwich Forum regarding a potential Grant Award and they have declined funding at present. HS has contacted the individual seeking funding for parent-to-parent community markets to seek further information on what the funds would be spent on and has received no reply.

Action: HS to mark EDF and Parent-to-Parent Community Market as Withdrawn on Grants List

Astroturf: Both the Gardens and Wildlife Sub-committees consider Astroturf is only appropriate in very limited cases and is detrimental to wildlife.

Trees: The Trees Sub-committee is currently considering a species of elm for the planting in Dulwich Picture Gallery gardens to celebrate the life of Queen Elizabeth II

BG said there is a council notice on a tulip tree in Dulwich Village which has become a trip hazard stating that it will be removed and replaced with the same species. He recommended it should be removed as soon as possible on safety grounds and replaced with a different species.

Action: HS to respond to the Council notice recommending urgent removal of the tulip tree and replacement with a different species.

Grove Tavern: JT has spoken to LB Southwark about the future of the site and JT/SB have arranged a meeting with the Dulwich Estate on 5 December to discuss.

Zoom: The subscription has been renewed by SB.

Action: HS to investigate how to enable all Executive Committee members to schedule meetings on the Zoom account.

5. DS Matters

α) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Streets for People

The Chair reported that the LTN is maturing and traffic is reducing on boundary roads. The Streets for People consultation was initially expected to be restricted to the co-design of the public realm, with DS as a key stakeholder. JT, PS and HW have met Southwark Officers to discuss public realm issues and a further meeting is arranged for 2 December.

The addition of Turney Road restrictions to the plans and the introduction of public realm changes such as stone planters and multi-coloured street furniture have proved controversial. The Society had no prior knowledge of the Turney Road proposal. Local Residents Association meetings have been negative about the Turney Road restrictions and Burbage Road residents are seeking additional mitigations for their road. The Society has received few complaints about Turney Road but has received several negative comments about the multi-coloured street furniture.

The Committee raised various concerns regarding the proposals including: impact of additional cycle lanes on the width of pavements for pedestrians, bus movements and loss of parking bays in Turney Road; insufficient consultation with local businesses; the worsening traffic congestion at the Dulwich Village roundabout and access to the doctor's surgery in Burbage Road. It was agreed that the Society should retain its neutral position on the traffic proposals but should review the consultation process with Southwark, in particular the introduction of the Turney Road closure and the street furniture without consultation and the lack of a public meeting. It was reported that local residents do not feel they are being listened to.

Action: JT to arrange a meeting with SB, PS and HW and Southwark councillors to discuss perceived shortcomings in the consultation process.

Editorship of Journal

BG will edit the Spring Journal as his last. It is proposed that the Journal continues as a quarterly printed publication and that the editorship may involve two people with an additional person to administer the advertising. JT has spoken to two people interested in the role and a notice, the wording of which was circulated to the committee in October, will appear in the Winter Journal inviting applications. It was noted that Brian's successor(s) would need to be in place by early January to have a handover on the Spring Journal which has a copy deadline of 26 January. DMCI recommended that job descriptions and a recruitment process should be drafted to ensure a fair process and that the vacancy should be flagged in the e-Newsletter at the end of November. The Executive Committee will be kept informed of progress.

Action: JT to draft an item for the e-News. HS to draft job description(s) and recruitment process.

Conversion to CIO status

JT had met with JP and RL to discuss CIO conversion. JT has drafted new Society Rules using a CIO standard template which is recommended by the Charity Commission. JP has produced a detailed process chart.

There followed discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of converting to a CIO. It was considered that the main benefits were:

- The Rules, being those recommended by the Charity Commission, are sound and up-to-date and more likely to be approved by the membership
- Liability for Trustees is limited
- It would piggy-back off the transfer from standing orders to Direct Debits
- It would enable the Society to hold large events, employ staff and purchase property should these be considered at a future date.

The main drawbacks were considered to be:

- CIO status would involve changing the Society's bank account which is an onerous task
- All members would need to change the details held with the Society however this will happen in any case as members move onto Direct Debits. The experience of other organisations which have gone down this path is that up to 35% of the membership can be lost, with an associated loss of income
- The current standing order system is working well
- The Society has other significant priorities at present
- Unlimited liability which applies to our current charitable status can be mitigated by appropriate insurance cover and sound risk management

As there were strong opinions for and against it was agreed that no decision would be taken at this stage.

Advisory Committee Scheme of Management

Under current rotation plans, JP will stand down as DS representative and JT will continue. JT proposed PS to replace JP on the AC of the SoM. This was unanimously agreed to take effect either in 2023 or on a later date if DE decides to extend the rotation period.

Action: JT to inform DE that PS will replace JP on the AC of the SoM.

Defibrillator

The maintenance regime is working well and signage is better. DMcl asked whether usage of defibrillators in Dulwich was monitored. JT said there was no information on this but we know if the DV defibrillator is used and it has not been so far. It was noted that the Society's defibrillator is one of the few that was available 24/7 for use by the public.

IT

The free trial for e-News is coming to an end for the first subscribers in September and the conversion rate to membership will be monitored.

Meetings

JT reported attending a Multi Ward meeting, an installation ceremony for the Francis Peek plaque (with SB) and the AGM of the Dulwich Village SNP, in addition to those meetings listed in his report.

Media and Communications Report

The Media and Communications Report from Sharon O'Connor was received.

β) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's report was received.

Aquinna

SB reported that the Aquinna development at Soane Place is progressing well and Aquinna has agreed to pay for the installation of the stocks stone and is submitting a planning/listed building consent application to move the stone from the Soane Place exterior wall to the burial ground. The Society has written letters of support for the planning and listing applications and will organise the information board, with Aquinna refunding the invoice.

Velodrome

Planning permission is still being sought for the nursery which is on Metropolitan Open Land. This is likely to be considered at the January Planning Committee.

Constituency Boundaries

Dulwich and West Norwood will continue as a constituency and a new grouping of East Dulwich, Honor Oak and Forest Hill will become Lewisham West and East Dulwich constituency.

E-bikes

It was noted that more parking places for e-bikes are required to prevent them being left on pavements.

Remembrance Ceremony

The Society did not hold a remembrance ceremony this year at the memorial in the grounds of Charter School, but it is hoped to do in future years.

Multi-coloured furniture

SB said she has drafted a note on this issue to be sent to Southwark.

χ) Rules Review

ι. Charitable Incorporated Organisation Status

This item was discussed under Chair's Report

ιι. Code of Conduct

HS, SB, PB and DM had drafted and circulated a new Code of Conduct. This, with minor amendments, was approved unanimously under item 12 of the Rules (Regulation and Bylaws). It was agreed that the Code of Conduct should replace the Statement on Unacceptable Behaviour.

Action: HS to circulate the final version of the Code of Conduct to Executive Committee, post on the website and announce in the November e-Newsletter and Winter Journal

ιιι. Review of Complaints Procedure

HS, SB, PB and DM had drafted and circulated a revised Complaints Policy and Procedure. This was approved unanimously with minor amendments

Action: HS to circulate the final version of the Complaints Policy and Procedure to Executive Committee, post on the website and announce in the November e-Newsletter and Winter Journal

ιιιι. Termination of Membership Procedure

HS, SB, PB and DM had drafted and circulated a new Termination of Membership Procedure, based on Charity Commission recommended wording. This was approved unanimously under item 12 of the Rules (Regulation and Bylaws).

Action: HS to post the Termination of Membership Procedure on the website and announce in the November e-Newsletter and Winter Journal.

ιιιιι. Consultation Process for Rules Review

It was agreed that regardless of whether CIO status is sought, JT will circulate the revised draft Rules based on the Charity Commission template to SB and PS in the first instance and then to Executive Committee. The membership should then be consulted prior to taking the Rules to the AGM in April.

Action: JT to send draft revised Rules to SB and PS

δ) Society events

JT has discussed with Dulwich College the use of their marquee for a summer party to celebrate DS's 60th anniversary. The College suggested the Pavilion or the Lower Hall. It was agreed that the Lower Hall would be the best location. The date is likely to be mid July.

IMCl proposed an exhibition on local history and the history of the Dulwich Society as part of the DS 60th anniversary celebrations and the Dulwich Festival in May. This was approved.

Action: The Committee to look out for any vacant premises in Dulwich Village which could house the exhibition.

ε) Membership

The Membership Report was received.

DMCl said membership was holding up well given the current economic climate.

φ) Representation on Police Panels

DS is now represented at all local Safer Neighbourhood Panels

JT and SB attend Dulwich Village SNP, PB attends Dulwich Wood SNP, Helen Pickering who is a member of the Travel and Environment Sub-committee is Chair of the Goose Green SNP and HS attends the Dulwich Hill SNP.

HS had attended the Dulwich Hill SNP meeting on 9 November and reported that they are under-resourced (one PCSO, one Constable) and that priorities are women's safety, Anti-Social Behaviour (in Friern Road among other areas) and vehicle theft.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

JT noted that advertising revenue is lower than last year. BG said this is due to late payments.

PS enquired about funding for a white finger post but it was noted that these are owned by Southwark.

7. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The Grants List for September 2022 was received.

Items on EDF funding and funding for a parent-to-parent community market are not being progressed.

Action: HS to mark funding for EDF and the parent-to-parent community market as withdrawn on the Grants List

8. Licensing and Events Sub-Committee

The Licensing and Events Report was received. PB said there is little to report this month.

9. Consultation/Planning

The Report of the Planning & Architecture Sub-committee was received. 17 applications were commented on in September and 24 in October.

PS said recent issues included applications for -raised structures such as heat pumps and bin stores in front gardens which should ideally be in a walled garden. IMCl suggested obtaining photos.

Representatives of the Local History and Planning and Architecture Sub-Committees are meeting on 16 November to progress the Local List.

Action: PS to provide specific instances of raised structures in gardens for JT to raise with DE.

10. Travel & Environment

It was noted that some time had passed since reports had been received of unacceptable behaviour associated with the introduction of the LTN and affecting members of the Travel and Environment Sub-committee. The Society conducted an investigation at the time and now has a Code of Conduct with which to address any recurrences. It was agreed that in future, subject to discussion with HW, Travel and Environment Sub-committee minutes, backdated to June 2021, will be published on the website, once approved.

Action: JT to discuss the proposal to publish T&E Sub-committee minutes with HW.

11. Local History Sub-Committee

The Local History Sub-committee report was received. IMCl asked for approval to spend £1,800 on a Listening Post, similar to the one by the Edward Alleyn statue, to be located in Cox's Walk. This was unanimously approved.

12. Gardens Sub-Committee

The Gardens Sub-committee Report and draft terms of reference were received.

13. Wildlife Sub-Committee

The Wildlife Sub-committee Report was received.

14. Trees Sub-Committee

The Trees Sub-committee Report was received.

15. Dulwich Estate

Deferred to next meeting

16. Other Dulwich issues and points from Sub-Committee Reports, AOB

None

17. Dates of Next Meetings:

Executive Committee: Monday 9 January 2023 at 7.30pm at Bell House

It will be necessary to change the meeting scheduled for Monday 8 May as it is now a Bank Holiday. HS proposed the May meeting be held on Tuesday 9 May

Action: HS to re-circulate amended dates for 2023 meetings

The meeting ended at 10pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary

James Thompson

Chairman

9 January 2023

Appendix 1

Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 14 November 2022)

Kenneth Wolfe (President) – Member of the Friends of Dulwich Square

James Thompson (Chair):

Dulwich Society nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of The Dulwich Estate

Member of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel of Dulwich Village

Chairman of the committee of the Stradella and Springfield Residents Association (Stradella and Winterbrook Roads and parts of Burbage Road and Half Moon Lane)

Honorary Independent Examiner of the Dulwich Festival

Anne, my spouse, is the Bursar of Herne Hill School

Heather Stubbs (Secretary) – Member of Dulwich Picture Gallery Friends Advisory Panel and organiser of Walks and Tours for Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery

Ian McInnes – Son Tim McInnes is Chair of the Herne Hill Velodrome Trust.

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

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

Harry Winter - Safe Routes to School (DS Rep); Stradella and Springfield RA (Committee member responsible for Environment).

Patsy Bramble – Member of Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way & Close RA

Jeremy Prescott - Dulwich Society-nominated members of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of the Dulwich Estate. His wife is a committee member of the Friends of Dulwich Park.

For Information

The Dulwich Society is a member of the London Forum

The Trees Sub-Committee has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends.

The Dulwich Society through the Gardens Sub-committee has affiliated society membership of the Royal Horticultural Society