# Dulwich Society Executive 551st Meeting Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Bell House

Attendees:

President
Kenneth Wolfe (from 8pm)

Officers
James Thompson – Chair
Sue Badman - Vice-Chair
Russell Lloyd - Treasurer
Heather Stubbs– Secretary

Sub-Committee Chairs
David Beamish - Trees
Patsy Bramble - Licensing
Laurie Johnston - Environment
Diana McInnes - Membership Secretary
Ian McInnes - Local History and Journal Co-Editor
Jeremy Prescott - Gardens
Claire Richards - Journal Co-Editor
Peter Roseveare – Wildlife
Penny Stern - Planning and Architecture

In attendance
Richard Wingfield

1. Apologies
   None

2. Register of Interests

   Laurie Johnston is Volunteer Chair of Southwark Living Streets, the Southwark branch of the national charity Living Streets which campaigns for everyday walking and wheeling.

3. Co-option of Richard Wingfield to the Executive Committee

   JT introduced Richard to the meeting. RW said he has lived in Herne Hill for 8-9 years, works for a human rights organisation, is a Trustee of the Kaleidoscope Trust and has stood as a Liberal Democrat candidate at the local elections. He has a long-standing interest in the Dulwich Society and would like to explore how the membership and areas of interest of the Society could be diversified. To this end, he had circulated a paper on Development which would be discussed under item 6f.

It was unanimously agreed that Richard Wingfield should be co-opted to the Executive Committee.

**Action: HS to send RW a Trustee Declaration Form and Essential Trustee Guide.**

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of 13th November 2023 were approved and signed by JT.

**Action: HS to post the Minutes on the website.**

5. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere

Item 4) Internal Controls

**Action: RL to complete outstanding action points from the Minutes of 13th March 2023.**

6. DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

Further information was requested about the Friends of Dulwich Square. JT said that they, along with DS, are a key stakeholder in the Phase 3 Dulwich Village proposals.

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's report was received.

SB reported that she has spoken to Reverend Liz Barnett regarding the Christmas Eve St Barnabas camel procession and could confirm that it had gone well this year with crowd control and animal welfare well-managed.

SB asked if DS had any CGS bids to be announced at the South Ward Council meeting on 16th January. It was noted that DS has no bids this year. JP said there were 3 successful bids in 2023 and these had involved a considerable amount of work. DMcI suggested a piece in eNews explaining the process and inviting ideas. DB recommended speaking to Councillors first to ascertain what type of bid might be approved.

c) Streets for People - Phase 3

JT outlined Southwark's proposals and said DS is represented in the discussions by PS, Julie Greer (a member of the Planning & Architecture Sub-committee) and himself. Julie Greer has put forward some helpful suggestions about the proposals to ensure that a usable public space is created in Dulwich Village which maintains its heritage character through use of heritage quality materials and clearly separates routes for cyclists and pedestrians.

CR asked about the proximity of trees to buildings. DB said this is covered by LBS rules.

LJ said she is involved in pedestrian safety and from a safety rather than a design point of view would like to see a raised footway and appropriately located loading bays.

The next meeting of the stakeholder group considering the plans is on 30th January. The Executive Committee agreed to give delegated authority to its representatives on the Committee (JT, PS and Julie Greer). Individual members are also encouraged to respond to the online consultation which closes on 17 January.

d) Streets for People – Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs)

JT said that, as noted at the previous meeting, Southwark has withdrawn its proposal for a CPZ in Dulwich Hill and Dulwich Wood and has put forward proposals for a reduced CPZ in Dulwich Village. JT circulated information on this before Christmas. The consultation closes on 17 January.

SB had attended a public meeting and said that Residents Associations of streets in Dulwich Village have advised residents to respond to the survey or make written submissions.

The issue of the introduction of double yellow lines was raised as they reduce parking in areas without a CPZ.

It was agreed that DS would not make a written submission to the consultation but will continue to encourage individual members to respond. (Post meeting note: the consultation deadline has been extended from 17 January to 28 January).

e) Rules Review

JT said the consultation on the proposed new Rules had closed in November and there had been three written responses, which had been discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting, where it had been agreed that where possible the Charity Commission framework for Rules should be adhered to and the Objects of the Society must not be changed. The main areas raised by the respondents were:

- The minimum number of members required to call a General Meeting.
- The process for nominating Trustees.
- The notice period for General Meetings.

JT and SB held meetings with two of the respondents and endeavoured to meet the third but this proved not to be possible.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- Whilst 10% of the membership is a high bar for calling a General Meeting, this requirement should be retained as it is line with the Charity Commission guidelines and calling a special meeting is an exceptional step so the bar should be set high. In addition, the number of members required to call a meeting can be halved (i.e. 5%) if an AGM is outstanding.
- The process for nominating Trustees should be made clearer. Therefore a clause should be added to the Rules saying that anyone who has been a member for at least 56 days may be nominated as a Trustee by two members of the Society in writing and endorsed by the candidate at least 7 days before the meeting.
- The notice period for calling a General Meeting should not be increased from 14 days to 21, as 14 days is in line with the Charity Commission guidelines and the Society needs to consider the total time involved to call for a members' SGM.
- Further clarification is required on whether the proposed new Rules indicate voting at General Meetings on an individual or household basis.

**Action: JT to amend the draft Rules prior to publishing on the website.**

f) Development Paper

RW had circulated a paper exploring ways in which the Society could increase the number of active members and the range of activities the Society undertakes. Ideas for achieving this included a member survey, a mapping exercise of organisations and activities in Dulwich, a review of the Society's priorities, improvements in communications and outreach and a more diverse range of events.

RW was thanked for his paper. DMcI said it was important to consider bigger questions first, such as where the Society wishes to be in 5/10 years time. It was agreed that as DMcI has experience of membership initiatives, she and RW should meet to develop these ideas and then lead a longer session at the next Executive Committee. It was also agreed that a half-day Strategy session should be convened.

**Action: DMcI and RW to meet to discuss development and lead a session at the Executive Committee meeting on 11th March. A half-day Strategy session will also be arranged.**

g) Preparation for AGM

(i) Notice of AGM

The draft Notice of the 2024 AGM was approved with the following recommendations:

- Amend "Approve Accounts..." to "Receive Accounts ...."
- Provide more information on why the Rules are being amended
- Dr Spence's talk to be at the start of the meeting
- Meeting to start at 7.30pm rather than 8pm.

**Action: HS to amend the Notice of the AGM in line with comments and send to CR for the Spring Journal by 25 January and to SO'C for the website.**

(ii) Nomination Form for Executive Committee

The Nomination Form was approved

(iii) Annual Report

**Action: All members to send HS the annual report for their area by the end of February. RL to send HS the draft Accounts for 2023 by the end of February. HS to collate the draft DS Annual Report for circulation before the March Executive Committee meeting**.

(iv) Voting procedure at AGM

Following discussion, JT agreed to clarify issues relating to voting procedures at General Meetings

**Action: PB/JT to study the Rules and report back on the recommended voting procedure at the next meeting.**

h) New Environment Sub-committee

LJ had circulated the final version of the Terms of Reference for the Environment Sub-committee. DMcI noted in relation to the statement that the Environment Sub-committee will consider the full extent of the area covered by the Dulwich Society, that technically DS does not cover a specific area. LJ said this was included to demonstrate that the Sub-committee will consider the wider Dulwich area. The Terms of Reference were approved.

LJ said she had been elected Chair at the first meeting of the new Environment Sub-committee and had agreed to serve until the AGM in the first instance.

The following members have been appointed to the Environment Sub-committee: Amy Aeron-Thomas, Barry Coker, Tom Harrison, Mark Hughes, James Leabetter, Mark Marshall, Gill Mein, Helen Pickering, Katy Savage (Secretary). All have expertise in environmental issues and have a designated role within the Sub-committee. There are vacancies for members with expertise in noise pollution, heat pumps and waste/pollution. JT had attended the first meeting of the Environment Sub-committee and said it was very lively with all members keen to make progress. The Executive Committee congratulated LJ on a successful start to the work of the Environment Sub-committee.

LJ will attend the next meeting of the Wildlife Sub-committee to discuss areas of collaboration.

**Action: CR to include an item on the Environment Sub-committee in the Spring Journal. DMcI to check that all the members of the Sub-committee are DS members.** (Post-meeting note: DMcI has confirmed all the above-named members of the Environment Sub-committee are DS members.)

i) Society Events

IMcI reported a number of online Local History talks which are planned or have taken place. Take-up has been variable recently, though the talk on East Dulwich pubs attracted more than 80 participants. It was suggested that future talks could be in person rather than online, but the group will review the position after the next two talks.

A tree walk is planned and it was agreed there should be a fee to deter non-attendance.

A number of garden talks and trips are also planned.

j) Membership

The Membership Report was received.

DMcI reported a very busy period chasing subscriptions. Membership was 1225 at the end of 2023, with 87 members gained and 59 lost during the year. DMcI will need to handover to her successor as Membership Secretary by the end of May. The new Membership Secretary will need to produce the distribution list for the Summer Journal.

**Action: CR/SO'C to advertise the vacancy for a Membership Secretary in the Journal/eNews.**

k) Editorial Committee/Journal

l) CR said she is chasing progress on articles for the Spring Journal. JT reported a new rate card for advertising in the Journal, which most advertisers have agreed. Local estate agents are issuing the journal to those buying property in the area.

m) Review of Safeguarding Policy

SB had circulated a revised Safeguarding Policy and said this would be followed by a procedural document for internal use. She emphasised that DS does have safeguarding requirements in relation to vulnerable older members and children attending events. It is therefore necessary to have a published Policy, to tell people about it and advise them how to raise a complaint. It will also be necessary to confirm a Trustee Safeguarding Lead.

IMcI had asked what the practical implications are for those running events. SB had circulated a note in response and said that any safeguarding issues should be recorded and assistance sought to resolve the issue.

DMcI said further guidance on DBS checks would be helpful.

**Action: All members to send comments on the draft Safeguarding Policy to SB before the next meeting. SB to provide information on DBS checks.**

7. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report from Sharon O'Connor was received. It was noted that the numbers listening to the recordings at the listening posts by the Edward Alleyn statue and at Cox's Walk were very encouraging.

8. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

RL said that there was a deficit of approximately £3,500 at the end of 2023.Cash in Barclay's bank was £11,400 and elsewhere £44,000, (now £48,000 with subscriptions coming in).

RL will circulate the draft 2024 budget for comment in the next few weeks.

JT said the deficit is not currently an issue as our excess reserves have enabled the Society to make grants in excess of operating income, but in view of inflation and a relatively static membership, it was necessary to have a medium term financial strategy. JT, JP and RL are considering this and will bring a paper to the next Executive Committee. RL has produced a schedule of underlying income and costs.

JT said he hoped the Society could continue making donations and grants at the current level. JP recommended publicising the grants which have been issued. PR said the Wildlife Group would be requesting a grant for Swift Bricks.

**Action: RL to circulate draft 2024 budget. RL/JT/JP to circulate a paper on long-term finance strategy.**

9. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The Grants Lists for FY2023 and for YTD January 2024 were received.

It was noted that Alastair Hanton's bench and plaque are in place, but this item remains on the 2024 list as Southwark paid for the restoration of the bench and it has been agreed that DS will make a donation towards the purchase of a bench in a different location.

JT said the application from LWT for up to £10,000 funding over 4 years for the Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Wood upgrade must wait until the Society's long-term finance strategy has been agreed.

10. Other Dulwich Issues and Points from Sub-committee Reports

    Reports were received from Planning & Architecture, Local History, Gardens, Wildlife, Licensing & Events and Trees.

    Trees: DB reported that the Trees Sub-committee needs new members. Two potential new members have been identified and it was agreed that a request for additional expressions of interest should be published in the Journal and eNews.

    **Action: DB to approach the two potential new members regarding joining the Trees Sub-committee. CR/SO'C to advertise for new members of the Trees Sub-committee in the Journal/eNews.**

11. Dulwich Estate

    JT said the terms of reference of the SoM Advisory Committee have been tweaked. It was noted that service levels in relation to Estate-managed properties are still unsatisfactory.

12. AOB

    There was no other business.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

    Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Macandrew Room at Bell House

The meeting ended at 10.00pm

**Heather Stubbs, Secretary**

**Signed:** *James Thompson* **Date:** 11th March 2024

**(James Thompson, Chair)**

**Appendix 1**

**Executive Committee - Register of Interests (as of 15 January 2024)**

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

Sue Badman (Vice Chair) - Safeguarding Officer and Member of Parochial Church Council, St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea, SW3; also member of Chelsea Safeguarding Group; Teacher of English as a Second Language (Chelsea – part of All Souls Church Free English group); Member of "Re-imagining Herne Hill" working group (Part of the Herne Hill Forum); Member/Attendee of Dulwich Village Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

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, Vice-Chair of the Parochial Church Council; 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; Volunteer at Dulwich Village Infants School.

Patsy Bramble – Member of Sydenham Hill Ridge Neighbourhood Forum

Peter Roseveare is a member of the Burbage Road Residents Association.

Penny Stern – Chair of Frank Dixon Way & Close RA; Dulwich Society-nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of the Dulwich Estate

Jeremy Prescott - Wife is a committee member of the Dulwich Park Friends.

Claire Richards - Chair of Lambeth Wind Orchestra and a member of Dulwich Symphony Orchestra.

Laurie Johnston - Volunteer Chair of Southwark Living Streets, the Southwark branch of the national charity Living Streets which campaigns for everyday walking and wheeling.

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