Dulwich Society 559th Trustee Meeting

Monday 12 May 2025 at The Rosendale

Attendees:

Kenneth Wolfe - Honorary President

Officers
James Thompson - Chair
Sue Badman - Vice Chair
Heather Stubbs - Secretary

Activity Group Chairs
Jeremy Prescott - Gardens
Peter Roseveare – Wildlife & Trees
Penny Stern – Planning & Architecture
Ian McInnes –Local History

Christine Brandon - Membership Secretary
Sharon O'Connor - Communications and Media
Claire Richards - Journal Editor
Richard Wingfield - Development
Jane Jones - Trustee

In attendance: Kimberly Mears; Celia Randell

The Chair welcomed Kimberly Mears and Celia Randell, both of whom have expressed an interest in being nominated as Trustees.

Kimberly said she has lived in Dulwich since 2013 and has children at local schools. A corporate marketer by background, she has been Secretary of Safer Routes to School and is keen to develop communities in Dulwich, bringing together people of different ages and with different backgrounds to make it more cohesive. She lends her skills to initiatives tackling climate change and helping nature thrive. She volunteers with the Dulwich Community Patrol, supports a local community garden in partnership with the London Wildlife Trust, and is a keen supporter of our local schools.

Celia has lived in West Dulwich since 1987, originally attracted by the gardens, and her career was in publishing garden and art books, including as an editor of the Royal Horticultural Society's Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants. She has a diploma in Garden Design and continues to provide gardening advice as a way of fundraising for local charities. She was also a trustee and fundraiser for Sparrow Schools Foundation, and for 12 years, was on the Board of Dulwich Prep and Senior, acting as safeguarding lead, eco governor and Chair.

1. Apologies

   Patsy Bramble - Chair Licensing
   Laurie Johnston - Chair Environment

Russell Lloyd - Treasurer

2. Register of Interests

JT said he would shortly be stepping down as Chair of Stradella Road Residents Association and as Auditor for the Dulwich Festival.

JP's wife is no longer a committee member of Dulwich Park Friends.

No other interests to declare other than those on the attached register.

3. Co-option of Jane Jones as a Trustee

Jane Jones was welcomed to her first meeting as a Trustee having been co-opted by unanimous agreement of the Trustees by email on 25 March.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of 17th March 2025 were approved for signature by JT.

Action: HS to post the approved minutes of 17th March on the website.

5. Matters Arising

5.7.i) **Action: RL to ensure that action points arising from the review of Internal Controls have been completed.**

6a) **Action: Trustees were asked to log into the new email system if they have not already done so**.

6i) SO'C said the young people's local history walk had been successful and was well-attended by children and adults.

9iii) HS said that she was now exploring the acquisition of art materials for residents of Barry House through other channels and there was no further action required from the Society.

6. DS Matters

a) Chair's Report

The Chair's Report was received.

i) Political Elected Office

The Chair presented his paper (revised following comments on the draft) outlining the Society's position on Trustees who become candidates for local council elections or elected councillors in Southwark and Lambeth. Following discussion, the policy paper was agreed, and it was noted that Trustees should apply the policy at the point of nomination and election, and that whilst there was no requirement for a candidate/elected councillor to stand down as a Trustee, the Society reserved the right to terminate their position as Trustee if this was felt to be in the Society's best interests.

ii) AGM Procedures

The Chair presented his paper outlining changes in AGM procedures arising from the adoption of the new Constitution on 20 May 2024. This included eligibility for voting to

commence after 56 days' membership, the continuation of the rule that proxy voting is not allowed and clarification of the rule that there is only one vote per household (the named member).

Action: JT to post the paper on changes to AGM Procedures on the website.

iii) AGM Voting Methods

JT outlined proposals for the voting methodology at the AGM, i.e. a ballot paper for the special motions on the constitution, to be handed in and counted after the meeting, and all other votes including election of Officers and Trustees to be by a show of hand, which if not conclusive (in excess of 50%) will be repeated and counted by scrutineers. The proposals were approved by Trustees.

iv) Ballot Paper

The wording for the ballot paper for the two special motions on the Constitution was agreed.

b) Vice Chair's Report

The Vice Chair's Report, her note of a Dulwich Village Community Meeting on 28 April and a list of non-SoM matters for discussion with the Dulwich Estate were received.

i) Dulwich Village Community Meeting

SB said the meeting had been well-attended, with RW and herself from the Society, Councillors Leeming and Newens, and the local police sergeant, but no representative from DE. The meeting organisers are talking to the Estate about a future meeting possibly in the autumn. Much of the meeting focussed on traffic and LTN issues, leaving insufficient time to discuss future plans for Dulwich Village. Councillor Leeming said there were no current plans for further traffic changes in Dulwich and that the LTN would not be removed while Labour controls the Council.

There was discussion regarding the role the community meetings might take in the future of Dulwich Village, and it was agreed that if this is to be an organising role, DS should play an active part. SB said there is a working party which is seeking volunteers.

ii) Dulwich Estate and other local issues

White Posts and Chains

SB reported that DE has designated people to clean and repair the white posts they control, but Southwark lacks a regular maintenance plan and funding source. SB has requested a meeting with Councillors Leeming and Newens to discuss. RW suggested that CGS funding might be sought to repair the posts.

Action: JJ and SB to flag in the diary to ensure a CGS application is made in Autumn 2025 for White Posts and Chains. Applications are usually required in September and October.

Dulwich Sports Club Planning Application

DSC has applied for planning permission to develop its sports ground, including a formalisation of the hours when floodlighting will operate till 10pm. A number of local Residents' Associations have held meetings to discuss this. JT declared an interest in that his house is adjacent to the grounds and did not take part in the discussion.

PS is compiling data on local sports clubs and noted that most switch off the lights at 9pm or 9.30pm. She has submitted a response on behalf of DS. Southwark's planning meeting has been deferred twice and is now awaiting traffic data.

Brockwell Park Events

SB reported a very active campaign to cancel the music events at Brockwell Park on environmental and social grounds. She noted that Lambeth's system of road closures and traffic marshals during previous events has been effective.

An article is planned for the Journal recommending greater control over the impact of music festivals, but not recommending the cancellation of all festivals.
[*Post Meeting Note: There has been a High Court ruling that the Lambeth permission was given unlawfully. Lambeth Council is reviewing its position*.]

West Dulwich LTN

SB noted that the High Court has also ruled the West Dulwich LTN unlawful on one of the 3 grounds of challenge. Lambeth is reviewing what action to take.
[*Post Meeting Note: Following a High Court ruling, Lambeth has now removed the West Dulwich LTN*]

Grove Tavern

The Society continues to make strong representations to DE for the development of the site to be addressed urgently when the current lease ends, and to find a satisfactory new location for the skateboarders. DE has agreed to install hoardings and attractive street art when it acquires the lease.

Dulwich Estate Staffing

DE staffing is now stable. SB has pressed DE on how best to raise concerns with the new architect and administrator. A surgery for SoM matters is planned.

North Parade

D. Village has closed and Megan's is progressing work on its decking.

Rosendale Playing Fields

Lambeth will cease to manage Rosendale Playing Fields in 2026.

Action: SB to investigate use of 147 Half Moon Lane. (Post-Meeting Note: SB has identified the landlord of 147 Half Moon Lane and been informed that the current retail unit is closed. The unit is being refurbished for a new tenant.)

c) AGM 19 May 2025

i) Venue/Refreshments

The booking of the Function Room at the Crown and Greyhound, and wine, soft drinks and crisps for after the meeting, has been confirmed.

ii) Registration/Scrutineer arrangements

CB will manage the registration process, (which is not on Eventbrite this year), and will need assistants to sign people in and issue ballot slips (one per member).

Voting will be as outlined in item 6 (ii) above and scrutineers will be needed to decide whether each show of hands is conclusive and count votes if necessary.

Action: HS to seek volunteers for registration/scrutineer duties.

iii) Nominations for Officer Trustee Roles

Action: HS to finalise the list of Nominations for Officer/Trustee roles on 13 May, (once the deadline has passed), and the short biographies of candidates. SO'C to post these on the website.

iv) Annual Report and Accounts

The Accounts have been signed by the Treasurer, Chair and Independent Examiner, combined with the Annual Report and posted on the website.

d) Development/Member Engagement

RW went through the draft objectives agreed at the Strategy Day on 15 March. The 7 objectives each have two or three Trustees who will lead on delivering them. The objectives were agreed by the meeting. RW invited new and potential Trustees to put their names forward to assist with one or more objectives if elected.

Action: All Trustees to monitor the Strategic objectives on a quarterly basis.

RW provided an update on social media. He has met with a social media professional to see whether she can assist with the Society's Instagram account.

e) Society Events

(i) Dulwich Festival

The Society is an official sponsor of the Festival and is organising 10 local history walks as part of the Festival programme, most sold out. SB said the maypole dancing in Dulwich Village had been very successful.

(ii) Garden events

JP said the coach trip to Sissinghurst & Pashley Manor and local visit to Southwark Integrated Waste Management facility are both sold out with waiting lists. Places are still available on the Horniman Museum Gardens and Brockwell Park Community Greenhouse.

(iii) Future Flagship Events

JT has made contact with potential speakers for a flagship event to be held in 2026 on Science/Medicine. Opinions varied as to whether this should be a free-standing event or linked to International Women's Day.

f) Membership Report

The Membership report was received.

CB said that membership stands at 1,335, with more new members coming in. Nine current members have not paid the 2025 renewal or responded to reminders and will be removed from membership on 1 July. Some Journal deliverers are delivering membership leaflets to non-members in their street.

Action: CB to identify a Zone Co-ordinator to replace Jane Jones. CB to update the Directory over the summer and email the contacts page to new Trustees in confidence.

g) Editorial Committee/Journal

CR reported that she is currently putting the Summer Journal to bed. The process is running later than usual as she is waiting to include the names of Trustees appointed at the AGM. She expects to receive copies of the Journal on 31 May. She highlighted the need for reports on East and West Dulwich, planning and traffic issues and local schools, and recommended that each group endeavour to produce an article for each edition of the Journal.

7. Communications and Media Report

The Communications and Media Report was received.

8. Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's Reports were received.

JT said Gift Aid income would be higher than usual this year as a one-off, as a number of people had joined in April and May 2024 and Gift Aid can also be claimed for them on renewal in 2025.

9. Consideration of Applications for Society Grants

The Grants List for YTD May 2025 was received.

10. Other Dulwich Issues and Points from Activity Group Reports

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

PR said he hoped that an individual who has shown an interest in the Wildlife and Trees Group, and who has an award from the London Bee-keepers' Association, would prepare a Journal article on Gardening and Wildlife.

11. Dulwich Estate

RW, who is now the DS representative on the DE Scheme of Management Advisory Committee (with PS) said that at the last meeting of the Advisory Committee, the revised terms of reference had been presented. RW/PS emailed DE after the meeting to stress that changes to the terms of reference should be consulted on. Whilst the Estate has agreed to consult, there has been no process has started to date, but a key member of staff has been on leave.

RW also reported that representatives of DS (2) and local residents' associations (2) serve a maximum term of 4 years on the Advisory Committee, but one of the residents' association representatives has served for longer. RW/PS have raised this with DE, but have received no response to date.

JT was pleased to report that the Advisory Committee meeting which had been removed from the schedule had now been reinstated, so there are now three meetings a year as before.

CR suggested RW/PS prepare an article on the work of the DE SoM Advisory Committee, and the DS representatives on it, for the Journal.

12. AOB

IM reported that the Local History group has recommended two ideas for promoting Dulwich Village:

- Green plaques to be posted on buildings of interest describing the history. This is already in place in Upper Norwood in local shops.
- A Dulwich Village local history day, incorporating talks and walks, and a visit to the local burial ground amongst other activities.

Both ideas were met with enthusiasm.

Action: The Local History Group to develop the Green Plaque and Local History day proposals.

13. Dates of Next Meetings:

Monday 19 May at 8pm (AGM). Crown and Greyhound Function Room.

Monday 14 July at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

Monday 15 September at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

Monday 17 November at 7.30pm. Macandrew Room Bell House

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

Heather Stubbs, Secretary **May 2025**

Signed: *James Thompson* **Date: 14 July 2025**

(James Thompson, Chair)

Appendix 1 Trustee Register of Interests (as of 12th May 2025)

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

James Thompson (Chair) - 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; Lay member of Chelsea Deanery Synod; Teacher of English as a Second Language (Chelsea – part of All Souls Church Free English group); Member/Attendee of Dulwich Village Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel.

Heather Stubbs (Secretary) –Organiser of Walks and Tours for Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery; Member/Attendee of Dulwich Hill Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

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

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

Claire Richards - Member of Lambeth Wind Orchestra and a committee member of Dulwich Symphony Orchestra; Secretary of the Herne Hill Music Festival.

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

Richard Wingfield - Chair of Southwark Liberal Democrats; Dulwich Society nominated member of the Advisory Committee of the Scheme of Management of The Dulwich Estate

Christine Brandon is vice-chair, publicity officer, events manager and website manager for The Arts Society Dulwich.

For Information

The Dulwich Society is a member of the London Forum. The Wildlife/Trees Group has membership of The Woodland Trust and Dulwich Park Friends.