



**BELMONT & SOUTH CHEAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes of 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on**

**Wednesday 20th October 2021 held over Zoom videoconferencing due to Covid19 pandemic.**

Present at the meeting were 95 attendees, including 9 members of the BSCRA Executive Committee and Councillor David Hicks. Invited guests – Carolyn Dwyer, Strategic Director for Development, Growth and Regeneration at the London Borough of Sutton, Ciara Hanson, who has project responsibility for the Council's aspirations for the London Cancer Hub, and George McCullough, who is responsible for the Council's plans for Sutton Town Centre presented to the meeting.

**Introduction and welcome by the Chair – Mr. Peter Matthey**

PM welcomed everyone to this the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Association taking place during the Covid19 Pandemic. PM hoped members would like the Commemorative logo to be used to mark this anniversary. As members were only too aware the past 18 months had been far from usual and the BSCRA Committee decided that the benefits of using Zoom outweighed the benefits of a physical meeting. PM congratulated attendees on accessing the meeting via Zoom videoconferencing and explained he would mute attendees and asked that any questions to be posed be channelled through the “chat” facility. PM outlined the Agenda for the meeting.

**Annual Report by the Chair**

PM reported that this AGM marked his 15<sup>th</sup> year as Chair of the Belmont and South Cheam Residents' Association and trusted that most members were aware of the wide range of activities the Association has been involved with over the last year from the information circulated in the electronic bulletins.

The year since the last AGM in October 2020 had been dominated by Covid19 pandemic. The Association has been of assistance to the Council and NHS by keeping in touch with members via email, eBulletins, Facebook and Whatsapp. There are now over 25 WhatsApp Groups providing communication around the area. The Association has sought to ascertain who needs help and found volunteers via Road Stewards and neighbours. Loneliness has continued to be an issue. Information about scams and how to avoid them has been distributed.

A massive amount of work has been put into the The Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan includes almost 100 policy statements, projects and transport proposals to improve the local area. The draft Plan document has been published and following a period of public consultation the Steering Group will review the document using feedback received. The Plan document will then be passed to the Council for them to undertake their own review and further consultation process.

When approved the Plan will impact planning applications across the area and detail a variety of projects to be undertaken to improve the area.

The Association has continued to take a great interest in the London Cancer Hub, especially in respect of transport, traffic and parking issues, and the further use of the former Sutton Hospitals site not least in respect of the proposed new Specialist Emergency Care Hospital (SECH).

Unwanted planning applications have been fought and issues concerning the ever-greater number and size of mobile telephone masts, often painted light grey, have been raised.

Crime has reduced during the pandemic – certainly in respect of burglaries. Car crime continues not least the theft of catalytic converters. Advice has been given in respect of measures to prevent this. Victims of crime, however small, should report the matter to the Police, if only online. Such reports enable the Police to have a fuller picture of where crimes occur.

The Association has dealt with many other issues including:

- Parking
- Street Cleaning
- Speeding and
- Tree planting

In addition to sending out information by email, the Association's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/BSCRA.UK](http://www.facebook.com/BSCRA.UK)) provides rapid information to our members, plus giving them the ability to add their own comments.

The Belmont Festival was a casualty of the pandemic but the 2021 Remembrance Sunday Parade will proceed on the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

PM thanked the Association's Road Stewards for their work during the year. Road Stewards are a vital part of the Association's work. There are some vacancies. Membership now stands at around 2,300.

Thanks were also given to the Officers and to the Executive Committee whose meetings have been held over Zoom. Hernan Lozano has now stepped down from the Committee after many years of service, many as

membership Secretary liaising with Road Stewards. Thanks were given to Hernan for his commitment especially when he stood in for Road Steward vacancies.

A new committee member awaits election

Rashid Khan

Thanks, too, to Ward Councillors Garratt, Hicks Pascoe (for Belmont) and Allen, Colburn and Ramsey (for Cheam) for their ongoing support.

Finally, PM thanked his wife, Helen, for her patience and endurance of the time he spent on Association business.

### **Treasurer's Report (Paul Arnold)**

PA explained that he was to cover several areas in this update.

- BSCRA financial year ending 31 March 2021
- Briefly mention why members will see changes in the way subscriptions are collected, and proposed changes to the collection dates.
- A proposed increase in the annual subscription amount, with reasons why this is being proposed
- Thank colleagues for their support.
- Proceed to voting on the motions in the agenda

BSCRA financial year ending 31 March 2021.

Members will recall from the AGM in July last year that your Executive Committee agreed to suspend delivery of printed newsletters, and the collection of subscriptions during the pandemic to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 between members and Road Stewards. This together with the change to our financial year agreed at our last AGM means that up to 31 December 2021 we will have had no significant income for 21 months.

In response to this, your Executive Committee have changed the way BSCRA operates to reduce costs. For example Zoom has been used to replace face to face meetings and email used to replace our traditional twice per year printed newsletters.

With no significant income in 2020/21 but reduced expenditure BSCRA had a deficit in the year of £617, this was within expectations and overall, our total net assets remain just over £9,500.

Membership numbers are based on the number of paid-up members of which we had approximately 2000 members at 31 March 2020. But with the disruption in collections caused by the pandemic late in that financial year it is reasonable to use a membership number from an earlier year of approximately 2300 members.

On the subject of membership, we remain indebted to our Road Stewards who during the pandemic have continued to keep us updated with details of changes in residents to keep email distribution lists up to date. Prior to the pandemic Road Stewards made us aware of the challenges faced when collecting subscriptions. These include simply finding residents at home, residents not answering doors even when at home and residents no longer using cash. In addition, one of the challenges faced when recruiting road stewards is the cash collection part of the role. To work out how best to address these concerns Secretary, Tony Butler contacted other local residents' associations to see how they have tackled this problem. In summary Tony's findings are that BSCRA is not alone with these challenges and no one else has a ready-made solution. Furthermore, we expect these challenges to have increased since we last asked Road Stewards to collect subscriptions. Details on the changes proposed on subscription collections will be shared with Road Stewards later this year for comments before sharing with members.

Members will have noticed there are two motions on the AGM agenda:

The first is to simply align our subscription collection period with the revised financial year approved at our last AGM. The implementation of this has been eased by the subscription holiday since the start of the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown meaning that we start clean and tidy in January 2022.

The second motion is to increase subscriptions from £1 to £2. The annual Subscription has been fixed at £1 since 2008. Not surprisingly over that time our costs have increased. Although in the past year we have carefully managed our costs by using Zoom for meetings and cutting back on distributing printed newsletters, we expect this to change in the future and we anticipate our costs will increase further. For example, we are considering enhancing our website facilities and expect that to incur additional costs. More importantly in previous AGMs members have been asked for suggestions on what BSCRA should spend your money on. You are all familiar with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and within that we now have a significant wish list of projects for the BSCRA area. These are summarised in Chapter 4.2 of the Neighbourhood Plan titled "Our Community Projects", alongside other projects for the wider geographical area covered by that plan. It is not being suggested that BSCRA funds should be used to pay for all of these items, but the Committee may decide that selected projects should warrant funding if other sources are not available. If members are not familiar with these projects, please take a look online or at one of the printed versions available locally.

Before we move to the motions I want to say thanks to a few people:

1. Our Road Stewards for keeping us up to date on resident changes and;
2. Alison Griffiths for being our Independent Examiner and also a special thanks to
3. Hernan Lozano, who as Peter mentioned earlier is standing down from his role as Membership Secretary and from the committee. Hernan has been a fantastic support to me and to my predecessor as Membership Secretary and has gone above and beyond that role by covering many of the vacant Road Steward patches personally. A big thanks to Hernan who will be missed.

Now to the motions to amend the BSCRA Rules

**Motion 1: To change the Subscription Payment Period**

Rule 7 of the Association's Rules to be changed from "Subscriptions are payable on joining and thereafter on 1<sup>st</sup> April in each year. " to "Subscriptions are payable on joining and thereafter on 1<sup>st</sup> January in each year." This is to align the subscription payment period with our accounting year.

The Motion was carried unanimously.

**Motion 2: To increase the Annual Membership Subscription**

In accordance with Rule 7 of the Association's Rules, the Executive Committee of the Association recommends members to agree that the subscription be increased from the current £1 per annum to £2 per annum with effect from the year commencing 1st January 2022.

The Motion was carried unanimously.

**ELECTIONS**

PM reported that the current holders of the positions of Chairman, General Secretary, and Treasurer, namely himself, Tony Butler and Paul Arnold had agreed to stand for the coming year. There are no other nominations. They will be elected individually. The Executive Committee members will be elected as a block.

**Election of Officers**

PM handed back to the Treasurer for the election of the Chairman.

Prior to nominating PM as Chairman, the Treasurer emphasised with thanks all the hard work put in by PM on behalf of the Association. In view of current circumstances all Officers have already been Proposed by members of the Executive Committee and were seconded by

Peter Matthey - Chair	Paul Sarfaty
Tony Butler - General Secretary	Rashid Khan
Paul Arnold - Treasurer	Jane Stevens

The proposed Officers were unanimously elected for the coming year.

**Election of Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee members were to be elected as a block. As reported above, all the committee have agreed to stand again for election except for Heather Shaw. The members who are standing for election to the Committee for 2021-22 are: -

Margaret Bentley	Sesi Katakam
Catherine Clarke	Lyonel Bell
Jon Jackson	Paul Lincoln
David Riley	Arran Sutherland
Phil Vennard	Rashid Khan

The proposed Executive Committee members were unanimously elected en bloc for the coming year.

**Election of Accounts Examiner**

Mrs. Alison Griffiths is willing to continue in the role of Accounts Examiner.

Mrs. Alison Griffiths was unanimously elected as Accounts Examiner for the coming year.

**This brought the formal motions and procedures to a close.**

# **MEMBERS' FORUM**

## **Guest Speakers**

Presentations were given to members by

Carolyn Dwyer, Strategic Director for Development, Growth and Regeneration at the London Borough of Sutton, Ciara Hanson, who has project responsibility for the Council's aspirations for the London Cancer Hub, and George McCullough, who is responsible for the Council's plans for Sutton Town Centre

Ms Dwyer explained that key priorities for LBoS for the development, growth & regeneration of Sutton were

1. London Cancer Hub – to put Sutton on the map by leading a ground-breaking innovative regeneration scheme to create a life-science cluster - boosting productivity, investment, and new businesses, and creating high quality jobs
2. Sutton Town Centre Regeneration – to create vibrant, thriving, and resilient town and district centres by repurposing underused sites, creating new diverse spaces to work, shop and visit
3. Economic Development – to strengthen the economic resilience and growth of the borough post COVID through robust economic recovery plans
4. Climate Emergency – to boost the positive impact for businesses and residents of tackling the Climate Emergency by embedding sustainability throughout our schemes
5. Transport – to improve transport connectivity to unlock the economic prosperity of the borough and the sub region

**(See presentation slides for more details)**

PM thanked Ms Dwyer and her colleagues for the presentations.

### **Q & A**

Q. PM summarised that the regeneration of the Town Centre proposals meant moving away from retail to cultural and hospitality activities

A. GM Yes, to improve the Town Centre and will in due course deliver additional income as well as other benefits

Q. PM asked where competition for the High Street comes from

A. GM – Epsom, Croydon, Kingston

Q. PM noted that Manor Park was a significant asset but was separated from the Town Centre by the gyratory one-way system. Could it not be brought within the gyratory?

A. GM Yes, the key east/west route between the Town Centre and Manor Park is through Throwley Road – improvements are being made by the conversion of the night club in Throwley Road and the G4S site.

Q. CC noted that the gyratory was like a “high speed ring of steel” around the Town Centre. Could it be made less forbidding?

A. GM the Council is looking at ways to reduce speed around the gyratory without reducing space. There remains hope that the tram may ultimately still come to Sutton.

PM suggested the gyratory could be diverted behind Manor Park.

Q. Could live theatre be introduced?

A. GM this may be difficult in view of Sutton's proximity to London but there are local small scale theatrical venues.

Q. Is the night-time economy a good fit with the residential accommodation being built in Sutton?

A. GM Residents may well expect good quality night life – the Council is looking to bring in first class operators

Q. Epsom appears to have fared well compared with Sutton – what lessons can be learnt?

A. GM businesses in Epsom are much more visible than in Sutton – Sutton Town Centre is much bigger

Q. PM how will progress be communicated, how can progress be tracked?

A. GM the Council website will provide updates – communication is vital.

Q. PM asked is there still an approved Traffic Management/Transport Plan in relation to the LCH?

A. CS a lot of work is being done to try to improve movement.

Possibilities include

- Twin track railway to Belmont and Banstead stations
- ParknRide at Banstead Station
- Improved accessibility at Belmont Station
- Better pedestrian /cycling links between Belmont and LCH
- Tram is still policy
- Better buses

Additional measures will need to be introduced if the Specialist Emergency Care Hospital is to proceed.

PM emphasised that a plan is required NOW so that action can be taken in small steps in advance of the substantial increase in traffic (of all types) that is expected. Cambridge is good example of such management.

PM thanked CD and her colleagues for their presentations and wished them success.

PM thanked members for attending.

The meeting closed at 9:42pm

**Date for 2022 AGM – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**