



BELMONT & SOUTH CHEAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Minutes of 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on
Wednesday 24th May 2022 held over Zoom videoconferencing.

Present at the meeting were 97 attendees, including 6 members of the BSCRA Executive Committee and Councillors David Hicks and Jane Pascoe. Invited guests – Jacqueline Totterdell, Group Chief Executive Officer, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals & St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and James Blythe, Managing Director for Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust

Introduction and welcome by the Chair – Mr. Peter Matthey

PM welcomed everyone to this the 51st AGM of the Association. PM observed that it didn't seem long since the last AGM and, indeed, it was only 6 months ago. The reason for the shorter gap was due to the re-alignment of our financial reporting year with calendar years as agreed at a previous AGM to make subscription accounting simpler. This is a one off change, and the next AGM will be in roughly 12 months' time.

PM noted that the last couple of years had been unprecedented and didn't think that anyone had expected in March 2020 that we would still be holding meetings online. Organisations are now relaxing and holding physical meetings, but the committee has taken the view that up to now the benefits to be gained from having a physical meeting do not outweigh the risks. The committee has been holding routine meetings over Zoom since the start of the pandemic, and there are currently no plans to revert physical meetings in the near future.

However, members' views will be sought later on whether future members meetings like this one should return to being physical meetings in a hall or whether to stay online.

At least with online meetings no-one has to worry about refreshments or what to do in case of fire!

PM explained that the AGM would follow a similar format to usual, first the AGM formalities and then guest speakers.

Guest speakers were to be

Jacqueline Totterdell, Group Chief Executive Officer, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals & St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and James Blythe, Managing Director for Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust

Finally, there should be time for questions from the audience.

Annual Report by the Chair

PM proceeded to give his Chairman's Report with accompanying PowerPoint presentations (see attached)

Community Spirit

The Residents Association was originally founded to help members with planning issues – the first issue faced back in 1971 was to oppose the construction of motorway that would have cut through the centre of Belmont and South Cheam! But now we do much more than just planning, and community spirit is at the heart of this.

There is a summary of how the Association help's our members on our website www.bscra.com where we have refreshed a lot of the content. Members can also use our website to pay their annual membership subscriptions, but more of that later.

In addition to our e-Bulletin service which brings local news to our members, we have also sponsored the creation of over 40 road based WhatsApp groups where residents can easily and quickly keep in touch with their neighbours. We have linked these groups together in what we call the BSCRA Supergroup to allow urgent information to be rapidly cascaded. If you are not already in one of the groups but would like to be please email me later.

We are also represented on the NHS' community awareness group. This was set up at the onset of COVID to enable local information to be distributed quickly to a wide audience. But even now we are out of lockdown the group is still continuing and we are pleased to be part of this for our members.

Belmont Festival

From a community spirit perspective PM was pleased to say that a number of BSCRA committee members have joined him to form a larger committee to run the Belmont Festival again this year comprising representatives from local clubs, uniformed groups, schools, churches and local traders. This is a great community event to celebrate the end of lockdown at will take place on Sunday 3rd July from 12 noon to 5pm. This is a great family event with a

street market, fun stalls, Punch & Judy show and clowns for the children and a full programme of entertainment on the main stage. There is also the beer tent in the park where you can buy refreshments while listening to a 30 piece band or relax in the tearoom in the Church Hall. This year we are featuring a Foodfest area where we have a variety of food stalls available - So make sure that you don't eat first and come for lunch with us and stay for fun. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Royal Marsden's Oaks Centre for Children and Young people where we hope to fund equipment to distract youngsters from the discomfort of certain procedures and minimise the need for anaesthetics.

Neighbourhood Plan

Steady progress continues with the Neighbourhood Development Plan thanks to the sterling efforts of Lyonel Bell. This is being carried out in partnership with 3 other adjacent residents associations although chaired by BSCRA. At the end of last year, we carried out a full public consultation on our draft plan. This involved distributing flyers to around 5,500 households. The feedback from this exercise which also included responses from the Council from the NHS, from TfL and several other statutory bodies is taking some time to digest. We have obtained a grant to engage a Planning Inspector to advise us about what changes to our plan we need to make. This remains work in progress.

Membership

PM said that the Treasurer would speak a little more about this later, but we consider our subscribing membership base to be around 2,300 households. This represents around 80% of the households in our area. This is a little difficult to be more precise as we have not been collecting subscriptions since the onset of COVID, but we believe this number to still be fairly accurate.

The Association cannot function without the support of our Road Steward network. Our Road Stewards are the eyes and ears of the Association in their roads and enable us to distribute paper literature and to collect subscriptions. We need over 130 Road Stewards to cover our area.

Maintaining the network is an ongoing task as people move out of the area or have mobility problems and we always have some vacancies. Email is all very well but it requires residents to be asked to register for it to be of any use! We have very recently recruited a number of new road stewards to fill vacancies and I would like to thank both existing and new road stewards for their vital work to support the association.

As for the upcoming elections I am delighted that all of our current officers have agreed to stand again.

PM personally thanked Paul Arnold and Tony Butler for their hard work and support for the Association and for agreeing to stand again for the coming year.

He also thanked all the members of the Executive Committee who provide us with an invaluable sounding board for setting our direction and priorities and for volunteering to help with the organisation of many of the Association's activities.

All of the members of the Committee have agreed to stand again. In addition, PM welcomed Chris Noon, a member from Chiltern Road, to join the committee.

PM also thanked members, for their ongoing enthusiastic interest and support. If the committee has an issue to solve we know we can rely on members to support us, and hence their neighbours in getting a resolution.

Thank you all.

Treasurer's Report (Paul Arnold)

Paul explained that his report would cover several areas namely

- 9 month financial period ending 31 December 2021.
- online subscriptions process.
- Thank colleagues for their support.
- Proceed to the election of officers and our independent examiner.

Our 9 month financial period ending 31 December 2021.

PA commenced by saying that Members will recall from our AGM in July 2020 that the executive committee agreed to suspend the collection of subscriptions during the pandemic to reduce the risk of exposing road stewards and members to Covid-19. This together with the change to our financial year means that up to 31 December 2021 we had no significant income for 21 months. But we also reduced our expenditure.

For the 9 months to 31 December 2021 BSCRA had a deficit of £432, this was within expectations and overall, our total net assets remain just over £9,000.

Membership numbers are based on the number of paid up members, but as we have not actively collected subscriptions until recently and the last time we did so was impacted by the pandemic we believe it is reasonable to use a membership number from an earlier year of approximately 2300 members.

An online subscription payment process was introduced earlier this year in response to road steward feedback about not finding residents at home, residents not answering doors even when at home and residents no longer using cash. So far 440 residents have paid BSCRA over £2,670 via Square and a further 23 residents have paid £137 via BACS. This means that on average members are paying for about 3 years membership at a time.

At our last AGM a motion was passed to increase the annual subscription charge from £1 to £2. This was our first increase in subscriptions since 2008. Previous AGMs have asked for suggestions on what the Association should spend subscriptions on. Paul was sure members are familiar with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and within that there is a significant wish list of projects for the BSCRA area. These are summarised in Chapter 4.2 titled "Our Community Projects", alongside other projects for the wider geographical area covered by that plan. We are not suggesting that BSCRA funds should be used to pay for all of these items, but your committee may decide that selected projects warrant funding if other sources are not available. If you 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 election of officers Paul wished to thank:

1. Road stewards for delivering the AGM flyers and for keeping us up to date on resident changes and email addresses and;
2. Alison Griffiths for being our Independent Examiner
3. Ralph and Dave from Nork Residents Association for freely sharing their knowledge and experience when building their online payments system.

Election of Officers

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.

PM explained that as the meeting was held via Zoom all Officers had previously been proposed and seconded and therefore he would simply request members to vote to re-elect them individually. The votes for each officer were carried with a substantial majority with no votes against.

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. The members who are standing for election to the Committee for 2022-23 are: -

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

As with the election of Officers, PM explained that as the meeting was held via Zoom all Committee Members had previously been proposed and seconded and therefore he would simply request members to vote to re-elect them en bloc. The vote was carried with a substantial majority with no votes against.

Election of Accounts Examiner

PA confirmed that Mrs. Alison Griffiths is willing to continue in the role of Accounts Examiner and again by vote of those present on Zoom was unanimously elected as Accounts Examiner for the coming year.

PM advised the meeting that the 2023 AGM would be held on 26th April, 2023.

PM asked by way of indicative vote if those present would indicate if they would prefer such meetings to be held on Zoom or in person. 72% of attendees preferred Zoom although, of course, the attendees excluded any members who are not "Zoom competent". The committee would consider the issue further.

This brought the formal motions and procedures to a close.

Members Forum

PM re-welcomed Jacqueline Totterdell, Group Chief Executive Officer, Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals & St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and James Blythe, Managing Director for Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust to the meeting for them to make their presentations (see attached).

This was the first occasion the presentations had been made to a gathering outside Government, Council and Health bodies.

The key messages from the speakers were:

- The hospitals remain two separate trusts, but with one executive team and departments working together to help improve outcomes for patients
- Proposal to co-locate renal in £80m new state-of-the-art facility at St George's
- Local people will have greater and more seamless access to highly specialised services – such as neurology and cardiology – with waiting times reduced.
- For example, there would be no renal unit at the new hospital and renal and cardiology patients will be treated at St George's.
- This will enable the two trusts to work together to reduce waiting times for both outpatients and inpatients.

For Epsom & St Helier

- The Government remains committed to the Building Your Future Hospitals programme. The go ahead has been given to build a new Specialist Emergency Care Hospital (SECH) on the Sutton Hospital site. The hospital is one of 40 hospitals in the Government's New Hospital Programme and is still one of the lead Pathfinder implementations.
- However, there is a central government need to standardise as much as possible on implementations (e.g. ward sizes, ratios of single rooms to wards etc) which is giving rise to delays.
- They continue to wait for feedback and confirmation of next steps from the New Hospital Programme, which is expected to be received in the Summer.
- A strong case has been made to the national programme for more upfront investment so planning applications can be submitted and building work started more quickly.
- The impact of this is that the new hospital is now not expected to be ready until **2027** (was 2025) at the earliest.
- As a consequence, there was little to report on specific transport proposals nor the proposed new car park.
- There is no debate about the location of the new hospital; it will go to Sutton (Belmont)

Other points:

- Blue light ambulances cases will be taken to either St George's or the new Sutton hospital having been triaged by the paramedics.
- Walk in A&E cases will continue to be treated at Epsom or St Helier as now, or at the new hospital.
- The majority of patients – 85% of the people who need care will still be seen and treated at Epsom and St Helier hospitals respectively. There will also be urgent treatment centres open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at both sites.
- The new hospital is not anticipated to have outpatient facilities which it was said would reduce transport needs to the site.
- A new patient and public involvement network has been launched – the People's Panel – and they invite our members to join. Members will be invited to get involved in a number of programme and projects across the Trust. www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk/peoples-panel

Following the presentations PM raised questions derived from the Zoom chat function (see attached) the responses to which are largely summarised above. The desire of the Association and its members to engage with the process was emphasised. JB expressed a willingness to work with BSCRA as progress continues. PM restated that an holistic plan is required to cover anticipated volumes of traffic, reduce likelihood of accidents and provide for parking needs.

PM thanked Jacqueline and James for their presentations and openness. He assured them that BSCRA was behind the building of the new hospital (residents have been waiting 30years plus) but the areas of concern had to be addressed.

PM concluded the meeting by thanking all attendees for their presence. Feedback on the meeting would be welcomed.