

SNBA. Minutes of the Meeting on 16th February 2009.

Present: Rosanne Berry, Michael Sinclair, Sarah Graham, Anne Wilkinson, Bridget Pedgrift, Fae Graham, Guy Smith.

Apologies were received from Julian Korosec, Ricky Catwell and Ian Aarons.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting** of 13th January 2009 were approved.
2. **Christmas Tree** – Rosanne reported that the tree has been damaged. The top has been broken off, which may have happened when the lights were removed. However, Rupert, the tree man, says that it will re-grow, but more slowly.
3. **Yum Yum's night** – the turn-out was poor, as far as new people was concerned, and it was annoying that some people who said they would come, didn't turn up, and several said afterwards that they hadn't realised what it would be like...It was felt that the only way to remedy this is to hold more events, regularly, so that people are encouraged to turn up if they keep hearing good reports.
4. **Parking problems** – Tom from the Old Shillelagh has had problems with deliveries, because the zigzags for the crossing are right outside his shop. Bridget confirmed that the crossing has been there about 2 years, and everyone confirmed that there is an absolute ban on parking on zigzags. The only idea anyone could give was to try to get deliveries to go into a back entrance.
5. **Problems with A-boards and tables on the street.** Rosanne reported that Linda Smith, the councillor, is trying to get the rules clarified.
6. **Map** – Fae has been distributing forms and will soon have details of all the people who will go on the map. Guy is having another look at the logo.
7. **May Day** – Rosanne contacted the Morris dancers that Julian came up with, but there is no chance of getting them on that date. Other members of the committee were asked to come up with ideas for a summer event, if they are prepared to make the arrangements. Paul at the Fire Station is prepared to co-operate.
8. **Louisa Thompson, the new Labour Councillor**, attended the meeting. Committee members expressed surprise that the Council did not give better support to businesses in Stoke Newington, considering that the area is so unique in Hackney. Michael mentioned that some funding was provided about 3 years ago (£10,000), but that nothing came of it except the SNBA logo. We seem to be missing out on the support that is going to Shoreditch, Dalston and Mare Street.

Louisa asked whether we had considered marketing opportunities for 2012, but it was felt that this would be aimed mainly at restaurants and no one else. We felt there should be more effort made in promoting Clissold Park and Abney Park. Michael mentioned that Sunstone had been approached in relation to training for the Olympics, but nothing further had been mentioned. Rosanne had recently visited the old Town Hall in relation to the renovation of the Assembly Rooms, and wondered whether Hackney would be promoting that and providing info for local catering businesses who might be able to benefit.

It was also suggested that Hackney might consider funding the map, although we felt that we would rather produce the first one ourselves and then hope Hackney might provide funding for follow-up editions. There was also discussion of a street map in a prominent place, such as outside Abney Park to guide visitors, and also banners from the lamp posts.

We pointed out that Stoke Fest had been cancelled, despite, or because of, its success in bringing more people to the area. What could be done instead? We told Louisa about the carol singing, plastic bag day and other events we had contributed to, and what the aims of the society are. We also asked her to express our feelings that the ban on A boards and tables would ruin the atmosphere of the area and was to no one's advantage.

The cost of recycling was also mentioned as an on-going problem.

Louisa thought she might be able to establish more contact with the Turkish and Kurdish communities and that the Dalston Town Centre Partnership and Hackney Enterprise Network might be organisations that we could learn from. She would let us know her thoughts when she had done some research.

9. **Date of next meeting** – 10th March 2009, at 6.15 at Sunstone.