

SNBA. Minutes of the Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

**Present:** Rosanne Berry, Anne Wilkinson, Fae Graham, Pam Coscun, Sarah Graham, Louisa Thomson.

**Apologies** were received from Guy Smith, Hamdy Shahein, Michael Sinclair, Ricky Catwell, Julian Korosec.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting** of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 were approved.
2. **Works on Church Street** – The one-way traffic system is back in force again and recent correspondence from the contractors show the work is now expected to be finished by the end of March. Rosanne has received correspondence from Living Streets, criticising and questioning some of the work that has been done, but it was felt that the committee was not in a position to support these criticisms or enter into the discussion, particularly if it is likely to prevent completion of the works.
3. **Promotional Event** – Louisa had attended another meeting to discuss the future plans to promote trading in Stoke Newington. It is hoped that an event can be planned to mark the completion of works to Church Street, co-ordinated with 'sustainable Stoke Newington'. It was agreed that the best time might be the weekend after Easter, possibly outside the Fire Station, and probably on a Saturday to coincide with the Farmers' Market, which tends to be the busiest time for shoppers. It will need publicity and some support from Hackney. Music would be good, plus eg balloons to draw attention to the event. It was thought about £300 would cover some refreshments, such as was provided at the Carol Singing event and Louisa will try to get funding.
4. **The Map** – Louisa reported that the Council are interested in the progress on the Map, especially in association with promoting the Olympics, so it is essential that we complete it as soon as possible. The delay is mainly due to incomplete descriptions of businesses and the exact location of some. **We will concentrate on the Map at the next meeting and try to fill in the missing info ourselves.**
5. **Membership renewals** – this is associated with the Map, as people are being urged to pay up in order to be on the Map. It is suggested that all fees should be renewable in January, to be paid by the end of Feb to make admin easier.
6. **Town Hall opening event** – businesses in Church Street have been invited, but not the High Street, which we all felt was unfair and showed the Council's poor grasp of Stoke Newington as an entity, and lack of organisational skills. Rosanne will contact them about invitations for other people who would like to go.
7. **Further matters mentioned by Louisa** – There is still a plan to use empty shops for a light festival, and the usual ones in Stoke Newington were mentioned. There are several applications at present for late-night licences, details of which Louisa will forward to the committee for comments, as it was thought that

official correspondence from the SNBA might be beneficial. Other shops with recent frontage changes were commented on and Louisa was willing to investigate any that we felt should be questioned. There is still no progress with banners from lampposts advertising Stoke Newington. Louisa was also willing to try to find out whether there is now a definite policy on shop-front trading and A boards.

8. **Christmas** – Carol singing was successful and enjoyable, although John (Santa) was disappointed that the events at the school and in the High Street had not been organised as he had expected, and there did not appear to have been adequate publicity. He would like to come to the planning meeting next year, which we have agreed. We have given him 2 bottles of wine as a present. Other than that, attendance was good outside the Fire Station and the firemen were very helpful. Unfortunately a banner had not been made and no one knew who had organised or paid for the event. It is important that we have one for the Easter event.
9. **Refuse Collection** – There are a lot of complaints about the new system with the red bags only going out at certain times. Heidi from Early Bird had arranged a meeting with the Waste Officer, but it was postponed due to the weather, although is expected to take place soon. We should discuss the whole system soon.
10. **Date of next meeting** – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, at 6.15 at Daniel Defoe.