

Minutes of SNBA Committee meeting 6.15pm at Sunstone Mon 2 July 2007

Present: Rosanne Berry, Michael Sinclair, Bridget Pedgrift, David Rowley, Ian Aarons, Sarah Graham, Ricky Catwell, plus **Andy Cunningham Head of StreetScene** at Hackney Council

1. **Apologies:** Julian Korosec, Hamdy Shahein

2. Minutes of last meeting

Approved

3. StreetScene

Michael welcomed Andy Cunningham to the meeting. Discussion followed on:

- Stoke logo and its possible use on council signage, or a banner saying 'welcome to Stoke Newington'. Andy pointed out that traffic signs cannot be amended in any way, but other signs are possibilities. He has a 'maintenance budget' which could feasibly be utilised for such a purpose.
- Cleansing and lamppost-mounted cigarette butt/chewing gum holders - concern was raised over whether a trader can be fined if cigarette butts are found on the pavement outside his/her premises. Andy suggested we contact Mark Griffin Head of Waste Services for advice/feedback.
- Christmas lights - meeting requested that in addition to the festive white lights which are put up across the borough from October through to March, there be coloured Christmas lights in Church St and the High St. Andy replied that the only Hackney areas which have different lights are the Narrowway (paid for by Hackney Council) and Ridley Road market (paid for by traders). The lampposts in SN are not suitable for stringing lights across the width of the roadway. Costs of erecting lights, maintenance (currently once a month), electricity, removal, storage etc work out at £500 per column.
- SNOWS - discussion on loading bays, access, misuse of disabled parking permits in loading bays. Andy suggested that in future such badges may be bar-coded which would make them easier to check. Re the gyratory, he agreed that a two-way system is unlikely to be feasible. Pavements on the A10 are maintained by TfL, not by Hackney Council, while the Council is responsible for litter, waste collection, graffiti removal etc. The meeting agreed that waste and graffiti have been dealt with more positively over recent months.

Andy took notes on the various points raised and agreed to feed them into internal discussion within his department. He suggested the SNBA make contact with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Alan Laing.

The Chair thanked Andy, and he left the meeting.

4. Communication

- Again, no agenda had gone out before the meeting - Sarah needs to discuss agenda with Jo beforehand so that she arrives at the meeting with the Bookshop's opinion on any topics raised. All agreed it is vital this goes out a week in advance.
- Discussion on Michael's email intended to rally the committee - Sarah felt patronised and felt that the tone was inappropriate. Michael keen that we all move forward together and work as a group to the same ends. He expressed concern about the reaction to his PA following up on SNBA business on his behalf - this was not meant to be discourteous to anyone, it is simply about use of his time. He also felt that committee members should be able to act independently when time is tight and express an opinion or attend a meeting on

behalf of the group, without always having to get a consensus beforehand.

- Rosanne raised the subject of committee emails and felt that members should respond instead of simply ignoring them.

5. Membership

Rosanne reported negative feedback from current members who are being asked to renew their membership - she feels disillusioned, and will stand down from the role of membership secretary. Fay to be asked if it's something she might take on, under Rosanne's supervision.

Action: Rosanne and

Sarah

Ricky felt that unless the SNBA can point to something specific which it has achieved over the past year on members' behalf, it will be hard to get people to part with their money. He suggested working with the private sector to obtain sponsorship or group discounts to offer members, for example on office security. He will follow up.

Action: Ricky

6. Police meeting

The meeting with Sean Whelan, Crime Prevention Officer, on 23 June was very poorly attended, despite the invite having gone to both members and non-members alike.

7. Xmas 07

Jo has said yes to Christmas readings for kids at the Bookshop. Bridget reported that feedback on late night shopping was that it would work better to do 3 consecutive nights the week prior to Christmas rather than one night a week for three weeks.

8. Carpet damage

Michael to send follow-up letter as no reply has been received.

Action: Michael

9. AGM

To go ahead. Coach and Horses not suitable venue. Need to source and book venue.

10. SNBA website

Meeting agreed a simple version should go ahead, and two people to be trained in updating it. Michael's PA will help in pulling together info on members' businesses. Domain name to go for is stokeybusiness.com

AOB

- Angela Sheeran has resigned from the committee. The meeting thanked her for her commitment, and agreed that like Heidi, she should remain on the distribution list for committee minutes

- David said the Christmas tree outside the Fire Station is looking very unhealthy and he's worried it may be dying. Meeting agreed he should speak to Rupert Bentley-Walls for advice.

Action: David

- Jamie Carswell meeting - Bridget has had a reply from Jamie saying that he is still willing to set up this meeting. Committee felt that at this stage individual approaches to relevant councillors or Council personnel would be more effective. Bridget to thank Jamie and explain.

Action:

Bridget

- **Stoke Newington Forum** would like the SNBA to be present at the next meeting on Thurs

19 July to respond to questions from residents *'regarding plans for the High Street, in particular, how the smoking ban will be addressed and what steps are being taken to create an environment for the growth of retail.'* It was agreed that Ricky and Ian would attend, and possibly Bridget too.

Action: Ricky and Ian

DATE OF NEXT MEETING; Tuesday 7 August 6.15pm at Sunstone