

# Minutes of the Stoke Newington Business Association

DATE: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2007

VENUE: Sunstone

PRESENT: Michael Sinclair, Rosanne Berry, Sarah Graham, Julian Korosec

1. **Apologies**

Hamdy Shahein, Bridget Pedgrift, Ricky Catwell, Ian Aarons, David Rowley

2. **Minutes of last meeting**

People on holiday so actions have not been taken and not all items could be discussed due to absences

3. **AGM**

The necessity of an AGM was discussed and it was agreed that one was required. It was suggested for the end of October as September is too early in terms of planning.

The Fire Station was discussed as an appropriate venue, subject to cost, but Rosanne is going to look into the possibility of using the basement of La Serra. It was suggested that the venue should be kept to the High Street to give easy access for those on Church Street and the High Street

Michael will not be available on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October, and it was agreed that a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday would be preferable days.

Ros will speak to Hamdy regarding drinks

To be decided at the next meeting

3. **Membership**

Fae ? sp is doing well and getting enquiries with money starting to come in. Fae will come to the next meeting.

4. **Tonya Cavanagh**

Tonya has tendered her resignation due to her own personal and work commitments. Michael has spoken to Tonya and tried to dissuade her from resigning but she feels that she cannot continue in any event

It was agreed that Michael would sent Tonya an email saying that whilst it is a thankless job and everyone is volunteering they understand why she is stepping down but hope that she will continue to support the SNBA by continuing to pay her membership fees

5. **Christmas Tree**

Rosanne and Sarah wanted to know whether David had done anything in regard to the Christmas tree. It appears to be dying. Does it need to be replaced, perhaps with a larger one? Are the contractors at fault for it dying as perhaps the roots have been constricted not allowing it to grow?

6. **Stoke Newington Forum**

Last Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July, Ricky attended a meeting of the Stoke Newington Forum and has sent the committee a note of what happened. He had fears relating to the following two issues:

7. **Gyratory**

Ricky had the impression that the subject was not something the council wanted to have aired and there was a feeling that decisions may have been taken already. Julian explained that we are waiting for the feasibility study. Michael has contacted Rita Krishna but she was unable to attend the meeting this evening. He will be speaking to her on Thursday and will try to ascertain whether this is just a storm in a teacup. Julian suggested an off the record chat with her. Rosanne suggested taking her out for lunch. Julian suggested sending an email with particular questions. Michael suggested that the email should be along the lines of: the SNBA feel that the perception they are being sidelined and not consulted on this issue and can we have some update on the process and what is happening. Try to ascertain what the council's position is.

Is the ultimate decision with TFL? Who at the TFL is the person to speak to?

Julian suggested writing to the Mayors office and Michael also suggested speaking to Diane Abbott.

It was also suggested that the letter sent to Rita Krishna be cc'd to all relevant councilors etc

8. **Town Centre Manager**

Ricky's second fear related to the town centre manager when he was told by Jamie Carswell that he understood we were no longer interested and that we had cancelled the meeting to discuss this. There must have been a misunderstanding. The SNBA is very interested in having a town centre manager but it isn't clear whether this was shelved because money was diverted after the London bombings. £10k was given in funding but nothing has happened since then.

MBS to draft letter to Jamie Carswell on this matter but it must be approved by the committee before being sent out

9. MBS suggested that if there is substance to the above fears then a petition should be mounted and should consist of two points:

- 1) Support for the Town Centre Manager
- 2) Opposition to the gyratory system

Julian said that it should be approached correctly, properly structured and with some speed which was agreed by all as both items will have a major impact on the local business community and it should not be neglected and should perhaps involve the media if required

A decision on this can be made at the next meeting subject to the responses from councilors etc in the meantime

Once the letter has been sent to Rita and a response received it was suggested that Jamie, Mutalib and Rita be invited to the next meeting

It was also suggested going to the councillor's forum to get to know them more and perhaps arrange to meet with the councilors quarterly to further ongoing relationships.

10. **Christmas**

Preliminary thoughts to be discussed at the next meeting;

- a) Santa – on Saturdays
- b) The bookshop is hosting two children's readings
- c) Late night shopping – suggested three nights in a row not one per week as previous

11. **Updates**

Julian apologised for no update emails but he has been very busy and under pressure. Rosanne asked if Jan could respond to emails just to let them know that he has received it. Julian agreed

12. **Recycling**

Julian has spoken to the recycling company in Camden and they are willing to collect but at a charge – their rates are reasonable but Julian is waiting for the info by post. Julian will email everyone once he has the prices.

13. **Smart Water**

Michael wanted to know if Ricky had looked into the possibility of bulk purchase. Rosanne will speak to Ricky and find out

14. **Christmas Social**

Julian is going to investigate the cost of a day out at the dogs (Walthamstow) for the committee and members

15. **Website**

Michael asked if Rosanne had spoken to Steve regarding the website as the SNBA is ready to move forward. Rosanne advised that Bridget was dealing but is away on holiday. Need to decide the domain name and then speak to Steve and get it up and running even if it only has basic information – a presence is better than none

16. **Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting has been agreed as Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, rescheduled for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September