



ridley avenue  
residents association &  
neighbourhood watch

---

email: info@rara.org.uk web: www.rara.org.uk

---

## **RARA PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

### **Monday 24 September 2007 @ St Paul's Church Hall**

#### **Present**

Mark Melliush, Huw Williams, Claire Tulloch, Antonio Dourado, Nalen Anthoni, Gareth Machin, Steven Richards, Sue Rocha, Liz Duncan, Jim Duncan, John Mitchell, John Hobson, Clare Cooper, David Fatscher, Andy Dowell, Maggie Christopher.

#### **Apologies**

Carolyn Figgett, Gordon Figgett.

#### **Introductions**

The meeting welcomed Mark Melliush, Vicar of St Paul's Church, and two new members, Gareth Machin and Steven Richards.

#### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the public meeting held on Monday 26 March 2007 were discussed, approved by the meeting and signed by Andy Dowell.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **Fencing**

Andy Dowell reported that the fencing is still in place.

##### **Neighbourhood Watch Signs**

Andy Dowell commented that the Neighbourhood Watch signs have **still** not been provided and he will continue to chase these up with the Safer Neighbourhoods team.

##### **Gas**

Some residents had reported smelling gas close to No 5.

##### **Clothing Bags and Leaflets**

Andy showed an example of a commercial clothes collection leaflet. The collections were mentioned at a previous meeting – they appear to be charity collections but are in fact commercial operations. Mark Melliush reminded people that St Paul's Church collect clothing and furniture (see below).

#### **Mark Melliush, St Paul's Church**

Mark Melliush described the voluntary work done by the Church. Volunteers assist immigrants in learning English. The Besom van is used to transport good quality donated furniture and clothing for charitable purposes. Donated clothing is laundered by volunteers. The volunteers work together with social services and meet on Thursdays. Donations of clothing and/or furniture would be welcome. Anyone with anything to donate should contact the Church office.

It was acknowledged that car parking is still a problem on Sundays. Mark Melliush said that he has told people to park in other roads, walk or cycle to the church, and added that parking has always been an issue. He said that many residents have two cars. Andy Dowell agreed to raise specific concerns as they arise.

Maggie Christopher said she had heard that the Friday evening youth group had been restructured and rescheduled. Mark Melliush confirmed that this was correct.

#### **Centenary Celebrations**

Mark Melliush advised that their centenary celebrations were planned to take place on the weekend of 2-4 November, to coincide with other seasonal celebrations such as Halloween, 5th November, Diwali, etc. The Church plan to have a jazz café, art display, display of old photographs and documents, etc. They plan to open on Saturday morning for coffee and refreshments and residents are invited. In the afternoon, there will be an event for children with an indoor bouncy castle and, hopefully, entertainment by Max Somerset (magician). They hope a senior church dignitary will speak at the Sunday morning service. Alan Kilpatrick, a former resident, will speak at the Sunday evening service. St Paul's have applied to Ealing Council to close Ridley Avenue to traffic in order to hold a firework display on the Saturday evening. Andy Dowell asked if details of the facilities provided on Saturday could be distributed to residents. Maggie Christopher asked that residents be given advance details of proposed road closures and fireworks.

## **Northfields Safer Neighbourhoods Panel Meeting**

Andy Dowell advised that he and Maggie Christopher had attended the Panel Meeting on 18th September. Crime Statistics for the area were supplied and copies were circulated during the residents' meeting.

New neighbourhood watch schemes are being set up in North and South Road and in Gumley Road. The Police had prioritised Motor Vehicle Crime and had made three arrests locally. Covert and overt surveillance is in operation. Warning signs have been erected. The meeting was advised that it takes 10/15 seconds to break into a car. Residents are advised to leave nothing in their cars, and police are distributing warning notes to people who do so.

There is an increased problem with cannabis in the area since the drug was downgraded to Class C. Plain clothes police observed five dealers in one afternoon in Walpole Park. There are problems in Brentford and on the Trees Estate. Police have issued over 100 warnings. Since re-classification they can only move the problem on rather than solve it. Police have a newly-formed drugs squad.

Burglary statistics have increased recently due to open windows and doors during summer. Police are seeking one regular local burglar who gains entry through skylights as well as other methods, at varying times of day and night. A scheme is in operation whereby residents aged 70+ can have spy-holes fitted in their front doors without charge. Andy Dowell has contact details for if any residents are interested in finding out more. The spy-holes are being fitted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Three or four arrests have been made for graffiti. Police have a database of images of tags. 'Donald Duck' tag has returned.

The priorities for the current period are burglary, drugs and motor vehicle crime.

Andy Dowell commented that there is relatively little crime in the Ridley Avenue area. One car was damaged outside No 3 in February and one theft outside No 6 in April. There was one assault in Midhurst Road and a burglary at the Community Centre. Mark Melliush stated that bicycles are stolen from outside the church but not reported, and the bicycle rack has been vandalised. Andy Dowell commented that we have a good local Safer Neighbourhoods police team.

## **Community Police Council Meeting**

David Fatscher reported on the Community Police Council Meeting which he had attended:

- Police claimed a 1 in 4 clear up rate, and that overall crime is down. Borough-wide ASBOs are employed elsewhere but local police focus on dispersals. There are now 50 PCSOs in the borough. Police will be launching a borough-wide initiative during November and December aimed at reducing seasonal crime. They anticipate an increase in attempted muggings and theft over Halloween and 5th November.
- A presentation was given by the Ealing Mediation Service. Their service is free, impartial and confidential and they report a good success rate. Further volunteers are sought.
- The Community Police Council meet every three months. David brought free security leaflets for residents to the meeting.

Andy Dowell reported that there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour outside the building on Northfield Avenue opposite Northfields underground station. The office building is currently used as a hostel. Students sit outside the building drinking etc. There is no planning permission in place for residential use, but a retrospective application has been made.

David Fatscher reported that there is a proposal for part of Ealing Common to be used as a skating rink during November and December, which will take up police time.

Andy Dowell advised the meeting that there will be a 'Not in My Neighbourhood' week commencing on 15 October to highlight the work of Neighbourhood Watch, which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

## **Any Other Business**

- Andy Dowell advised the meeting that Amanda Savage has moved to Midhurst in Sussex. Amanda has been a member of the RARA Committee from the inception of the Association. Andy thanked Amanda for all her efforts and services to the Association from the outset, and for providing a venue and hospitality for the committee meetings.
- John Mitchell asked if there is any news of the proposed 20mph speed limit in the area. No results of the survey have been published to date and it was noted that the survey coincided closely with the refuse collection survey, which appears to have taken priority. Andy Dowell will email the Council asking for an update on the present position.

**The next RARA Public Meeting is planned for Monday 28 January 2008.**

Minutes signed by: ..... Acting Co-ordinator, RARA

Date: 28 January 2008