

AGM
4th November 2019
The Tabernacle

Attendees from the Committee: Calum MacInnes (CM), Tassy Barham (TB)
Nathalie Faure-Beaulieu(NFB), , Catherine Derrough (CD), Melode Parker (MP)
Apologies: Kit Davis (KD), Mary Cameron (MC)
Resigned: Ed Lockhart Mummery

Attendees from the garden: Mark Travis (MT), Nick Bellet (NB)

Minutes from last year's AGM were approved
The Committee members resigned.
CM thanked the committee for their hard work.

Chairman's report:

The big issues for the year were:

The upgrading of the children's play area at the Ladbroke Grove end of the garden.

To provide the garden with a good financial footing for the future with NFB's help.

Make improvements to the gardener's compound.

Hosting Shakespeare in the Square which was a sell out showing a greater involvement from residents and engagement with the garden - the impression CM has is that there were a lot more people participating in garden events this year.

Organising the garden party (both during the day and the evening);

Organising the Open Day, which was a success - as well as the fireworks which were spectacular.

Improvements in Committee's sights for 2020:

Pergola to be replaced and upgraded in the horse-shoe garden.

Gates to the central garden to be upgraded. (Melode to provide suppliers/companies to quote).

Finials have fallen off. Metalcraft to come back and repair.

Bench replacement.

Enhance the swings area (rubber matting & flower bed).

Andrew Pilkington, an architect, had a suggestion to plant more trees besides the garden gates of Ladbroke Grove and Elgin Crescent.

Gardeners request to have a leaf blower (Billy Goat) but committee reluctant to agree due to noise and carbon monoxide pollution.

Treasurer's report

Uneventful year except for HSBC closing down the account in the summer and sending back our cheque. The account has now been re-opened.

NFB proposed Precept to go down from £80,000 to £70,000

Tree report

Melode reported that the Lime tree by the Sargent's house, which had a picus test recently and showed that while the fungus has increased, they (the tree surgeons) recommended that we keep the tree as it is. Their recommendation is to keep pollarding. MP has taken it up with the council, wanting to understand the benefits of keeping the tree; We are only prepared to keep it if the council take the responsibility should it fall. CM suggested that they come to visit; CM flagged up the dangers to the residents of the trees.

There has been a request to pollard the limes on KPR. MP to follow up on this request.

Mark Travis asked if it was possible to pollard every year but Committee explained that the agreed policy was it to take place every two years.

Nick Bellet raised the question of the cherry trees. What succession plans are in place? TB said recollection was to wait until they die then spend money on more mature trees.

Garden

The main beds which had the most 'makeover' this year were outside Nick Bellet's flat, and on the Elgin side/ in front of the mulberry bush. Otherwise it was a year of continued maintenance.

New sheds were bought and erected in the compound.

TB showed pictures of the pergola designed and built by friends of Chris and Anna's. Cost including delivery and installation will be £6,450 for the 3m diameter pergola with galvanised steel stand-offs. It was felt that we should get alternative quotes first but the idea was unanimously passed.

Also gardeners will complete the upgrade of the compound

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CM raised the question of putting in a Table tennis - something for the teenagers. A concrete fixed table to be placed by the swing area.

Committee came out against it - an eye sore, hard to justify removing the swings. Alternative areas are by Natalie's house, or by the wild meadow (south east corner). Both areas would not suit the local residents.

MT - what about a fold away table? CM - Who takes responsibility ? where does it go? Very difficult to administer.

CM thinks both ideas (fixed and fold away table) are unworkable.

NFB suggested too much emphasis given to the teenagers who represent a small proportion of the garden residents.

CM putting the idea on hold

Social events - same again next year; Open day, Shakespeare, Summer party, Bonfire & Fireworks

Wildlife

Hedgehogs only tend to get adopted by those areas where there are already hedgehogs. The rabbit sadly died in August.

The number of foxes also seem to be decreasing.

Bees nest at the south east corner of the garden was found and protected by the gardeners.

MT - how to encourage song birds in the garden. CM to talk to Kit about what steps can be taken. MP - has sparrows, blackbird, robins. TB mentioned problems with squirrels eating the food put out for birds. MP to share her birdfeeder with us.

Kids

NB raised the question of the balance of the garden in the summer - that kids should not 'take over' the garden after school through to sunset, having screaming children all day. Central garden being taken over by kids. We need to find a way that everyone can enjoy the garden without it being overtaken by the children.

It was requested that two new notice boards are put up, at the entrances of KPR and LG

Committee to improve communication with parents; football prohibited to be reinforced.

A Spring bulletin to remind residents & laminates on the gates.

It was agreed by the residents of the garden that the Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman are authorised to use, receive and make payments on the bank account.

Precept passed at £70,000

Any new committee members? Nick Bellet has joined the committee.

Ed L-M resigned, all other members wish to continue.

Tassy Barham.