

St Luke's Residents General Meeting
Wednesday 28th October - 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm
Waldon Point Meeting Room

1. Welcome and apologies – Julie Brandon (Chair)

Julie welcomed everyone and gave apologies as follows:

Hazel McArthur
Sue Cornelius
Gerry Gilraine
Cllr. Mandy Darling
Cllr. Andy Lang
Aston and Myra Parker

2. Declaration of Any Other Business

See items under AOB

3. Matters arising

a) Council owned property around Waldon Point and other problem areas

Problems identified during walk round – plus issues with lights outside Waldon Point. Cllr. Excell fed back that he has encountered problems due to confusion about who is responsible for the maintenance of these areas. **ACTIONS – Julie** to contact Hazel in order to discover, from the lease, who owns which part of the land. Julie then to liaise with **Robert Excell** to try to facilitate action by appropriate agency.

b) 60/61 bus

Robert Excell fed back that he had no success in arranging a meeting between residents and Derek French. At present Mr. French is receiving a subsidy for his routes on only 5 days per week, which is why there is no service on a Saturday. Mr. French would need £350 per week to run the bus for another day in the week. Pam Woolley, resident, voiced her grave concerns about elderly people, all along the route from Paignton, being isolated over the whole of the weekend. The meeting felt that reliable, regular transport is vital in reducing isolation and depression, which fits very neatly into the remit for 'Ageing Well'. Cllr. Excell revealed that the present subsidies could well come to an end next year, owing to more budget cuts. If this happens, it is unlikely that Mr. French will find many of the routes viable.

ACTIONS – Kevin Dixon and Cllr. Excell to look into whether 'Ageing Well' funds could be used to help with this issue. They will raise it at the next CDT meeting. **Cllr. Excell** to speak to Derek French about running the bus on Saturdays and cutting one day in the week. **Cllr. Excell** to ensure that SLRA is informed about any proposed changes to transport subsidies to ensure that there is time to put forward a strong case before decisions are made.

c) Handrail

Cllr. Excell and Julie have been working on this issue and the fitting has been agreed. Julie has spoken to Gerry who will deliver the rail to her garage, where it will be stored. There will be a site meeting to look at how it will be fitted and Julie will liaise with the owners of the property on the corner, if it is necessary to anchor it to the wall. Well done Julie and Cllr. Excell! With a bit of luck this will soon cease to be a standing item on our minutes!! **ACTIONS – as above for Julie and Cllr. Excell.**

Following on from this item, Cllr. Excell informed the meeting that the salt bins would be filled up early this year and suggested that residents take a small container-full of salt as soon as possible, to store for use on drives etc. as this will then enable the bins to be re-filled ready for the bad weather.

d) Dog Fouling

Different views on whether this problem has been better or worse of late. It is clear that we need to give the Environment Enforcement Team evidence about when and where the fouling occurs. Chris reminded residents that there is an easy tool on the website which enables people to 'map' occurrences, which can then be shared appropriately. Alternatively, the contact details on the cards, available at the meeting, can be used to report incidents. Phone number for reporting: 01803 208025. **ACTIONS – Residents** to report fouling.

Following this item, Anthony Payne, resident, suggested that it might be helpful, both for the reduction of littering and of people leaving full bags of dog mess in the street, if there was to be a litter bin installed. **ACTIONS Cllr. Excell and Julie** to liaise with Cllr. Mark King who has responsibility for waste.

e) Feedback from Community Builder, Sean McTiernan

Unfortunately Sean did not attend the meeting. There was some discussion about the Ageing Well Festival. Concern was expressed that there seemed to be poor communication about the Festival and nothing set up to help people with mobility problems to attend various events. Kevin Dixon informed residents that there is to be a Town Centre Community Magazine available shortly. This was welcomed.

4. Agree and adopt minutes of meeting held on 21st July 2015

Andy Baker proposed and Mike McHugh seconded. Minutes passed.

5. St. Luke's Street Party

Pauline and Val fed back that this was a successful event – once again, the sun shone and a good time was had by all. Thanks were offered to everyone who helped on the day. Although the party is more about people getting together than making money, it was good to report that we made a total of £168.51, with a donation of half (£84.26) donation to South West Children's Hospice which was well received. Val asked for thoughts/ideas about next year's party.

6. Website and IT news – Chris

Chris fed back that he has been forced to change the service provider as the one being used had withdrawn its free service for the webcam. The new service costs approx. £15 per year. As a result of the change, the number of hits on the website has reduced. Chris feels that this is due to the address being less easily targeted by random hits. The new website is very similar to the old one, with just a few tweaks and a couple of items taken off. An anonymous user has asked for more very local news and info. Chris has asked that anyone interested in doing a bit of local journalism to provide news and gossip should contact him. In the meantime, anyone can post comments/thoughts on the website and it would be great to make it more interactive.

Julie commented that the computer sessions are still going strong and thanked Chris for his commitment to these. These sessions are very relevant to the aims of 'Ageing Well' and run at very little cost.

7. Treasurer's Report

Balances as follows:

Unprotected balance - £452.05 (For general use)

Protected balance - £816.48 (Computer club use only)

Books available for inspection.

8. Planning Issues – Julie

Maycliffe Hotel – Plans have been approved, including a community room for St. Lukes' residents. There was some discussion about how money can be raised to pay for this – either as a 'one off' payment, with a small maintenance/ground rent or a smaller initial payment and bigger ongoing costs. It is understood that some money will shortly be available under F106 rules, if the Abbey Crescent building is granted change of use. Julie asked Cllr. Excell if he would be prepared to lobby for some of this money to help fund our cause. The community space would also fit into the 'Ageing Well' remit, as it will provide a space for people to meet and reduce isolation in the area. **ACTIONS** – Cllr. Excell to look into funding this project.

Roebuck House is going back up for auction shortly. It would appear that there are multiple problems with this building and the view of the meeting was that it would be better to demolish it and start again.

The Pavilion – new plans are out for consultation.

Shedden Hill/Conway Court – Julie informed the meeting that plans have been agreed for both these properties but that the owners of the properties are being very slow in making progress. **ACTIONS** Cllr. Excell agreed to look into whether enforcement action can be taken.

9. Overhanging bushes St. Luke's Road

Pauline has worked very hard to get this matter dealt with and it has finally happened! It required many phone calls and a great deal of tenacity so the meeting expressed thanks to Pauline for her hard work!

10. Neighbourhood Plan

The idea of the Neighbourhood Plan was for local people to have a say in how Torbay will develop and look over the next 20 years or so. It began in 2011, with groups from Torquay, Paignton and Brixham getting together to put forward views and ideas to form part of an overall strategy for the Bay. The plan will shortly be put forward for approval and, if agreed, will become a legal document which must be taken into account when developments are being considered. All interested parties are welcome to attend meetings – please see the website as follows: <http://torquaynp.org/calendar>

11. Spreading the word

Despite the website, notice boards and regular posters on bus stops etc., it would appear that many residents don't know about this group and/or are unsure what it does. There was some discussion about the name and whether the word 'Association' could be rather off-putting. It was decided that, from now on, we would be known, informally as 'St. Lukes' residents'. Chris pointed out that, for formal purposes (banking etc.), it would need to remain as the SLRA but there were no objections to this. In the meantime, Val asked everyone to speak to neighbours and ensure that anyone who would like to take part in activities, knows what it is all about.

12. Christmas Party

Julie has very kindly offered to host a Christmas party, along the lines of the cheese and wine party, held last year. A charge will be made to cover the cost of cheese and wine and there will be a quiz. Date – Saturday 19th December – please keep an eye on the website/noticeboard for more details.

13. Sparkle Ball

There is to be a ball in aid of the Community Development Trust, which oversees all voluntary groups in the Bay. It is to be held at the Riviera Centre on Friday 27th November. Cost £25. Anyone wishing to go but concerned about transport, please contact Val, Chris, Julie or Pauline.

14. Table Tennis

Pauline and Andy offered to re-instate table tennis events at their home on Monday evenings. Anyone interested please see the website or contact Pauline directly. Any standard of play is fine – the emphasis is on having fun! **ACTIONS** – Pauline to gather names and organise event – Chris to advertise on the website.

15. Any Other Business

a. Street Cleaning – Anthony Payne.

Concern was expressed about the leaves accumulating on the roads and pavements. It would appear that the roadsweeper has already been out (before the leaves dropped) and there was a general discussion about a way forward. **ACTIONS** – Mike to contact the Council to find out when the sweeper is due again. If this is not imminent, or if we can't get the information, then Mike to discuss with Gerry the use of the sweeper owned by Galliford Try. There may be a cost for this.

b. Christmas Lights

Due to be switched on on Saturday 14th November – Fleet Street, Torquay. There will be free entertainment all day, with Father Christmas arriving in Fleet Street at 11.30 a.m.

c. Police matters

Concern was expressed at the level of crime in the Warren Road area. This seems to be exacerbated by the poor standard of housing. The Clipper landlord has expressed his view that things have never been so bad in that locality. This is worrying and disappointing, as the houses can be ideal for young families if maintained to a good standard. There is a strong community group and a real desire for change. Rogue landlords are being targeted and will be pressured into making their properties more habitable. So far, the St. Lukes' area has been relatively crime-free but any resident with non-urgent concerns should contact the police on telephone number 101. Please see the website for information on our local community police officers.

d. Endeavour House

Cllr. Excell told the meeting about what is happening at Endeavour House. It is a community hub in Torre - owned and managed by Shekinah. They host a range of different activities and groups run by local partner agencies and community groups to benefit the residents of Torbay and the local area. Some of the groups and activities include: Unleashed Theatre Company, Torre and Upton Community Hub, Jatis, Eddystone Trust, Triumph Over Phobia, Torre and Upton Community Partnership, Make Amends Restorative Justice project and training/employment programmes run by Shekinah, Probation and Torbay Council. They can also host small conferences and seminars and dependent upon availability, may have additional meeting rooms for hire. Cllr. Excell has been involved in a project aimed at getting people back into employment, which involves working in the community.

NEXT MEETING – DATE TO BE ARRANGED.