

DRAFT

St Luke's Residents General Meeting Wednesday 23rd August 2017 - 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm Waldon Point Meeting Room

Followed by: Garden Party, Trevadlock, St. Luke's Road North

1. **Welcome and apologies** – Julie Brandon (Chair)

Julie welcomed everyone and gave apologies as follows:

Harry Gorst, Aston and Myra Parker

2. **The Tale** – Michael Prior

Michael kindly attended the meeting in order to offer residents the opportunity to experience a new arts adventure for Torbay. The Tale is a creative, imaginative and alternative guided tour of the backstreets of Torbay and well known locations across the Bay, inspired by the ideas of Philip Hoarse who loves the area. It will allow participants to experience the familiar in a different way. The journey can either be taken on a full day or two half days and Michael has offered to tailor it to suit, if residents decide they would like a shorter tour or have other ideas about what they could manage. This is a great chance to do something different at a heavily discounted rate of £10 each. Residents are encouraged to contact Julie or any of the SLRA officers to express interest. Transport can be arranged at a small cost; residents could be picked up locally, have use of the mini-bus throughout and be dropped back home. Anyone with mobility problems will be supported throughout. Surely, this is an opportunity that shouldn't be missed! Dates are between 8th and 24th September but Friday 8th looks like a good option.

See more at the following website or ask Julie for leaflets. <https://the-tale.co.uk/>

ACTIONS: Anyone interested please contact Julie, Pauline, Val or Chris no later than 3rd September

3. **Declaration of Any Other Business**

See items under AOB

4. **Matters arising**

a) **CCTV - Robert Excel/Kevin Dixon/Julie Brandon**

This was discussed at the last meeting following the success of cameras installed in the Warren Road area in preventing dog fouling. In the absence of Cllr. Excell, however, it was felt that it couldn't be progressed at this time. One resident suggested that the management committees of the various apartment blocks (Kingsdale Court, Waldon House, Waldon Court, Lytton House, The Bay, Villa Rosa, Ellington Court, Harold Court and others) could, legitimately, put up CCTV cameras at minimal cost and that this might be an effective way forward.

ACTIONS: **Julie** to email Cllr. Excell to ask him to feed back re his enquiries. **Residents** to

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approach their management committees about installing CCTV and feed back to **Julie** who will co-ordinate.

This item led to a general discussion about dog fouling – see item g) in AOB.

b) **Using SLRA funds for spraying weeds in the area – Pauline**

Pauline sent the following email to Tor 2 on 7th August, following a phone call which was never responded to.

... 2 months ago I contacted Tor2 by telephone. My name , telephone number and e-mail address and nature of enquiry was taken and I was informed someone would get back to me.

I have heard nothing whatsoever.

I am a member of the St Luke's Resident Group and at our last meeting in June it was suggested that we use some of our money raised by the residents to pay for either a private gardener or Tor2 to spray all the weeds in the area. I agreed to investigate this. We needed to know approximate cost and whether this could be done either privately or by Tor2.

As we are still waiting for a response some residents have already weeded a few areas (although we have as yet not used any spray).

The weeds are growing back again now so we need to find out if we pay to have them sprayed.

We have another meeting in a couple weeks time and I really need to get an answer as I am very aware that some residents will just buy some weed killer from a garden store and start spraying the roads themselves.

I am not sure this is acceptable as not all weed killing solution is animal friendly.

Can you please answer my email and let me know if we can get this done privately or could we pay Tor2 to do it for us and how much it would cost.

I await your reply...

As there was no response to this, Pauline emailed Cllr. Excell who also failed to respond. She then emailed Darren Cowell who did respond and who has sent the communication to his main contact at Tor 2.

Cllr. Nick Pentney agreed to take this matter up. Jennifer Sundance expressed concern about the nature of the weedkiller being used as she is fearful that it may be harmful. She passed on a recipe for a harmless liquid that has proven to be effective. See recipe attached to minutes.

ACTIONS: Pauline to forward communication re weeds to Cllr. Pentney. **Cllr. Pentney** to expedite a response from Tor 2.

c) **Croft Road Sugery**

In the absence of Sean McTiernan, no further information on this item.

d) **Roebuck House**

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In the absence of Cllr. Excell, no further information on this item.

e) **Unity House**

After a long period of stability at numbers one and two Unity House, there was an incident a week ago during which residents of the properties became verbally aggressive and abusive. This was upsetting for those who were in the area at the time and, in particular, worrying for the proprietors of Court Prior, whose guests expect a tranquil environment.

ACTIONS: All residents to keep any eye on the situation and report any concerns to Julie, who will co-ordinate with a view to contacting the agent, Crown Properties.

f) **Trees**

Residents expressed concern about the trees which have been cut down on St. Luke's Road South. It would appear that the trees were diseased and that there was no alternative other than to fell them. Any resident who would like to know more should contact Natural Environment Services at: naturalenvironment@torbay.gov.uk or telephone: 01803 207797

ACTIONS: Julie to email Neil Coysh about whether the felled trees will be replaced.

Note: Cllr Nick Pentney has made contact on our behalf and there are no plans to replace the trees. See extract from email:

"In response to your query received on 24 August 2017, there are no current plans for the replacement of the two trees recently removed at St Lukes Road.

Unfortunately, given the position of the trees on the pavement and the significant costs which would be involved in creating a structurally suitable tree pit within the highway, I would think it unlikely that it will be a viable option for the future."

g) **Dog Fouling and general litter problems in the area**

Leading on from the item about CCTV there was a general discussion about this ongoing problem. Residents put forward varying points of view about the pros and cons of a bin for dog waste. Concern was expressed that the general problem of littering does seem to be getting worse. It is felt that the students at the Maycliffe and Brampton Court do contribute to the problem (although by no means the only offenders). It is well known that litter does create a downward spiral in that people are less likely to litter a tidy area. It is important, therefore, that action is taken as soon as possible. It was felt that we should organise a litter-picking event and invite students to join us in the endeavour. Two dates arranged for this: **Wednesday 6th and Friday 8th September**. Julie will contact the Herald Express to ask if they'd like to do a feature/photograph. Each resident to bring a large bin bag and be responsible for disposing of the litter in their own bins at the end of the pick.

Pauline offered to place a bin near the bench near the church which is being used by people who leave bottles on the pavement. She and Andy have offered to be responsible for emptying and monitoring it for a trial period.

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Cllr. Pentney offered to write to the dog warden and to ask about the legality of providing a bin in the way suggested. He also suggests that when residents are out walking dogs, they chat to other dog-walkers, asking how they feel about the fouling problem. He believes that this could help others 'think twice' if they are considering leaving mess behind.

Note: see below response to Cllr Nick Pentney's communication with the dog warden.

Have spoke to Chris Widdecombe at the council. He has asked the council's dog warden to review the patrolling and signage situation in the St Luke's area. So at least that's a start! Will keep you updated with any further updates as I get them.

ACTIONS: ALL RESIDENTS to be vigilant and report incidents of dog fouling. **Cllr. Pentney** to make enquiries about legalities of providing a bin and to contact dog warden. If given the go-ahead from Cllr. Pentney, **Pauline and Andy** to purchase bin and padlock to attach to bench. **Julie** to write to college to invite students to litter-pick. **ALL RESIDENTS** to join one of the litter-picks, bring a bag and some gloves. It would be helpful if people could make up some environmentally safe weedkiller (see recipe attached) and bring it along for spraying. Jennifer Nicholson also offered to make up a batch for those who are unable to **Meet outside Julie and Brian's house – Abbey Hall, St. Luke's South. 6pm Wednesday 6th and Friday 8th September.** **Kevin Dixon** to look into funding for equipment.

e) Feedback from Community Builder, Sean McTiernan

Sean did not attend. No report.

5. Agree and adopt minutes of meeting held on [date]

Kevin proposed and Andy seconded. Minutes passed.

6. Treasurer's Report

Unprotected balance: £199.14 less any unknown commitments.

Books available for inspection.

7. Police Report

No updated report or police presence. Julie drew the meeting's attention the the police report, available on the SLRA website which referred to problems with drug users around the Castle Circus area and general anti-social behaviour issues. A resident reminded the meeting that, however kindly it is meant, it is actually not helping beggars when we give money. It is merely helping to support them in self-destructive behaviour.

8. Nominations and Elections of Officers

Election:

Brian Roberts proposed as treasurer by Kevin and seconded by Andy. All present voted for. Kevin Dixon proposed as vice-chair by Brian and seconded by Andy. All present voted for.

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Brian and Kevin duly elected.

Julie reminded residents that Pauline, Val and Chris will shortly be standing down as officers of the SLRA because they are moving away. With the help of Brian and Kevin, Julie has offered to continue as Chair. She will also take brief minutes/action points during the meetings. If any resident wishes to offer some help with this, it would be appreciated.

The meeting ended at 8.30 and residents retired to Trevadlock for a drinks party. Thanks, once again to Pauline and Andy for their hospitality. A great time was had by all.

NEXT MEETING: To be agreed