

# S.G.R.A.

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## MINUTES OF STYVECHALE GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**LOCATION** - Grange Farm School

**DATE** – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**PRESENT** – John Archer – Chairman, Ellen Booth – Producer (South West) Coventry City of Culture Trust, Mick Fitzpatrick – Treasurer, Sheila Weare – Minutes Secretary.  
Plus 31 members of the Association.

**WELCOME** – John A welcomed members and introduced guest speaker Ellen Booth.

**APOLOGIES** – Councillor Mattie Heaven, Anant Patel, Councillor Tim Sawdon.

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were accepted.

**MATTERS ARISING** – **Wainbody Street Clean on Styvechale Grange** – This is confirmed as Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 10.00 a.m, please meet at Hexworthy Avenue shops. Bags and litter pickers will be provided, please bring protective gloves and wear thick shoes. Large amounts of litter have been reported on the A45 and A46. **Inconsiderate parking** – if this is still a problem on our streets, note the registration numbers of offending vehicles and inform John A. It is hoped to obtain 'polite notices' to leave on the windscreens of offending vehicles.

**ELLEN BOOTH** – Ellen is one of four Area Producers for City of Culture Trust (a separate organisation from Coventry City Council). The four areas are divided into Wards. Ellen defined culture as any way an individual discerns what they think culture means to them and is passionate about whatever that may be. The structure of the Trust comprises a Producing Team, Collaborative Team, Caring Team and Dynamic Team, each with their own remit, but all with local communities at the heart of everything they do. They seek to deliver a programme of work in 2021 that involves citizens, celebrates cultures and creates civic pride. She gave a few examples of the communities the Trust is connecting with. Since April 2019, staff levels at the Trust have risen to 60. We are promised a year of events with an opening ceremony in which we can all participate. A programme of events will be available later in the year. A funding scheme has been set up with Heart of England to which community groups can apply. There is a 'Great Places' project to produce a book of trails for visitors and the Trust will also support the Heritage Open Days. The City of Culture Trust is to have a new brand and new website. They are working closely with BBC Coventry and Warwickshire and commercial radio. Ellen invited SGRA members to sign up to receive their online newsletter. John B referred to a recent negative article about Coventry in The Times. Ellen was asked if Coventry would be ready for City of Culture and she assured the meeting that it would be! Ellen had visited Hull and witnessed the huge impact City of Culture has had there and is sure Coventry will retain a lasting legacy. The disruption being caused by city centre building work will get worse before it gets better, but the projects will be pushed on by the Council. The Trust's leadership programme has now closed and will support new leaders to take City of Culture into the future. Many SGRA members thought being awarded City of Culture 2021 was a great opportunity for us to be ambitious for our city. The regeneration of the Burges, the Sherbourne river project, Charterhouse and the return of the Coventry Cross were discussed. John B expressed concern that hotel accommodation for the anticipated number of visitors would be inadequate.

Ellen assured the meeting that our historical heritage would be well represented. The proposed closure of Ikea had not been anticipated. Information regarding City of Culture progress has perhaps not been readily apparent. The meeting thanked Ellen for her very informative talk.

**LOCAL POLICE UPDATE** – John A has established a good rapport with Sergeant Darren Betts. Reported crime statistics for our area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Attempted Burglary 1: Harassment 2: Theft 1: Theft from Motor Vehicle 3: Left without Paying 1: Fear/Provocation 1: Child Abuse 1: Malicious Wounding 1: Assault ABH 1. There has been an attempted break-in at a property in Alpine Rise where the perpetrators were observed to be driving a Volkswagen Golf. The resident concerned had been unable to contact Canley Police by email or telephone. Mick reported a similar vehicle has been involved in an incident in the Chesils. The front door of Salon 46 in Hexworthy has been damaged. Please be vigilant and note registration numbers of suspect vehicles.

**COUNCILLOR JOHN BLUNDELL** – John advised us to apply to the City of Culture funding for a notice board for the **Animal Pound**. **King's Hill** – our Ward Councillors will continue to mitigate some of the worst elements of the plan. The population growth figures from the Office of National Statistics are flawed due to student population changes. Mattie had met with the Member of Parliament for Kenilworth and Southam and our Councillors intend to lobby the Housing Minister to call in the proposal for review. The large student accommodation block being built at Cannon Park will reduce the need for HMOs in the area. **Parking in Cannon Hill Road** – Coventry City Council is to implement parking restrictions. Councillor Blundell is standing again as prospective Conservative Candidate for Wainbody Ward in May 2020.

**ANIMAL POUND** – Next maintenance working party is on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 12.00-2.00 p.m. It is hoped to purchase some native British fruit trees which would be placed around the Pound and various avenues for funding will be followed up, including Tesco. John A and Mick will be leading three year-two classes from Styvechale Primary School around our Heritage Trail on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – **Website** – Mick is unable to access Google Analytics. The website is updated regularly and Mick would welcome constructive feedback. **Finances** – we presently have £793.55.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Health and Safety issues and cost preclude the installation of a bench on our greens. Mr. Larry Watson will give a talk on '60s Coventry and Me' at our meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, for which a donation will be made to Age UK. **Phoenix Family Care** – John A reported that a questionnaire designed to contact approximately 100 patients from the surgery had not been sent out. Arranging appointments at the practice is difficult but the treatment, once obtained, is good. Since the meeting, the planned **A45/A46 weekend closure** for the bridge installation will now take place over the weekend of 14/15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Contributions for the SGRA July 2020 newsletter are needed.

**TONY SWANN – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator/Streetwatch, Finham** – Tony told of the success of the CCTV network in Finham over the last three years – 150 cameras are able to track street by street. There is very little coverage on Styvechale Grange and Tony would welcome residents to join the group/register in order to help with surveillance of the area. Please contact John A or email name and address to [cctv@finhamnw.org.uk](mailto:cctv@finhamnw.org.uk). A Neighbourhood Watch data protection policy exists.

The meeting concluded with the raffle.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30 p.m.