

## **TRESA AGM 12 December 2007**

Attending: Tim Sterling (Chair), Helen Sterling, Veronica Harris, Patrick Hulme, Adrienne Neathey, Steve Sayers, Martyn Trowbridge, Colin Bird, Ed Bramall, Alice Pollet, Suzanne Audrey, Catherine Mazza, Mia Harris, Ed Romaine, Allan Keen, Catherine Davidson, June Pearce, Nicola Thorogood, Charles Hutchines, Marilyn Webb.

Apologies: David Larcombe, Margaret Davies, Kate Pollard, Jonathan Wright, Carol Richards.

### **Welcome**

Chair introduced himself & welcomed members.

### **Notes of last AGM**

No feedback from last year's notes which were taken as a correct record.

### **Treasurer's report**

Suzanne deputised for Margaret. The current balance is over £9,000 mainly related to the 'publishing' grant. Its main feature to come is a new Totterdown cookery book.

Question from Colin. Does the Big lottery money come to TRESA? Yes, £80,000 will come into TRESA's account as it is drawn down against expenditure. The project plan is available on the TRESA website.

### **Annual report**

Tim delivered the annual report to the meeting (attached below).

### **Election of Committee**

There were fewer nominations than available posts meaning that the following officers were elected unopposed. Catherine volunteered immediately after the main close of formal business after the role was explained to her. Alice was nominated Vice Chair also after the close of formal business in order to make room for the Catherine to become an ordinary member and to facilitate easier administration of the School Rd Park project.

Chair: Suzanne Audrey

Vice Chair: Alice Pollet

Secretary: Ed Bramall

Treasurer: Steve Sayers

Membership Secretary: Margaret Davies

Ordinary Committee: Catherine Mazza

Ordinary Committee: Patrick Hulme

Ordinary Committee: Martyn Trowbridge

Ordinary Committee: Veronica Harris

### **Motions**

No motions were submitted. Formal business was closed at 8pm and followed by mince pies.

## Chairman's Annual Report

TRESA came into being on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005 with the following objectives:

- (a) to secure for the benefit of Totterdown residents the preservation, protection and improvement of the built and natural environment in the area of Totterdown in Bristol; and,
- (b) to encourage, support and promote social events and activity within Totterdown and the involvement of Totterdown Residents in such activities.

During our first year our membership steadily increased from the 9 founder members to about 70. During the past year it has (roughly) doubled to about 130.

The committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis over the past year and we have alternated between committee meetings and meetings which have been held in local public venues and which were open to the whole membership. The increasing involvement of the membership has been very welcome and has highlighted local concerns and initiated new activities.

As with 2006, four editions of 'The Talk of Totterdown' newsheet have been produced during the year with copies delivered to every household in Totterdown. We have continued to receive very positive feedback about this and thanks are due to Richard Jones and Jonathon Wright.

Our website ([www.tresa.org.uk](http://www.tresa.org.uk)) also continues to be very popular and thanks are due to Steve Sayers for keeping this up-to-date on various local news, issues and initiatives. We can be contacted via the website and TRESA also has its own letterboxes at the Patco and Tesco supermarkets.

During the year, TRESA has kept an eye on local planning applications and has continued to resist excessive developments and those which do not bring appropriate benefits to the local population.

We have twice had teams of volunteers litter-picking on Totterdown Green (the small park outside the YMCA – also known as Zone N). This is a very prominent site and it is desperately in need of enhancement. At a recent members meeting we agreed to saturation planting of the site with daffodil bulbs. Thanks are due to Bristol in Bloom and Christopher Orlik for providing many of these bulbs.

We also planted hundreds of bulbs alongside St Lukes Road and in Totterdown Square (outside Tesco). The planters were also cleared and re-planted earlier this year and thanks are due to Suzanne Audrey and the many volunteers for all their hard work. Further improvements are hoped for in the near future and, in preparation for these, the bottle-bank has recently been moved out of the area. Although the new location of the bottle-bank is just as unsuitable as the old site, the Council are being very cooperative and TRESA will be consulted in the ongoing quest for a better site.

There continues to be no news about the Arena. However, it remains a possibility and it is therefore very reassuring to know that there is a healthy residents group in place and that TRESA is positioned to keep tabs on the situation, report any developments and, perhaps, consult and represent the community if and as necessary

Despite persistent drizzle, the TRESA garden festival was successful once again. Preparation for this included volunteer litter-picking and the Council clearing bulky waste from some front gardens. The garden festival is highly valued by many of Totterdown's gardeners and it is a great encouragement that so many people care about the local environment.

Concern was expressed to TRESA earlier in the year that Totterdown's Church buildings were "*under-utilised community resources*". In response to this, we contacted church leaders and found that the local Christian population is actually very sizeable, active and ethnically diverse and that their buildings are, in fact, rather well-used. I have brought along copies of our report on this which you are welcome to help yourselves to.

Thanks and recognition are due to Kate Pollard for successfully winning a £10,000 publishing grant for TRESA. One important by-product of this is that it enables us to offer a limited

number of copies of Kate's marvellous book 'Totterdown Rising' at a specially discounted price of just £4.

On a similar note, Alice Pollet has achieved the truly remarkable feat of securing TRESA an astonishing £80,000 'People's Millions' grant for the much needed renovation of School Road Park. This is tremendous news and you will doubtless hear a lot more about this during the next year as the project develops.

There are some significant changes to the committee this year:

Firstly, thanks are due to Kate Pollard, a founder member, who continues to be involved but cannot remain on the committee due to having moved to Windmill Hill.

Thanks are also due to Jonathon Wright who has also had to resign from the committee due to ill health.

Finally, my wife Helen and I, both founder members of TRESA, have decided to step down from the committee. This is because we have achieved what we set out to do in starting and establishing a successful and well-run community group.

I have taken particular care during my two years as Chairman to try and ensure that TRESA has functioned with openness, integrity, even-handedness, honesty and fairness. TRESA is now well-established and I believe that these guiding principles have been an important part of our success to date.

However, the time has now come for Helen and I to take a break and to entrust TRESA to a new committee.

It can be good to have some 'old faces' bringing continuity, but it is also healthy to have some 'new faces' joining the committee and I am therefore particularly pleased to welcome Alice Pollet and Martyn Trowbridge to the new committee.

As Helen and I 'let go' of TRESA, we sincerely wish the membership and the new committee every success in continuing to make Totterdown an even better place to live.