

Totterdown Residents Environmental & Social Association (TRESA)
Notes of the meeting held
at the George Inn on 17 October 2006 at 7.30pm

1. Present

Committee members: Tim Sterling, Suzanne Audrey, Steve Sayers, Patrick Hulme, Margaret Davis

Members and guests: Martyn Trowbridge, Conney Kowalczyk, Barbara Van Der Eerden, Adam Baddeley, Marilyn Webb

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kate Pollard, Helen Stirling, Sam Gaudion, Kerry Chester, Richard Jones, Jonathan Wright

3. Arena Update

Steve explained that there had been little news from either SWRDA, the City Council or the developers other than to say that negotiations were still in progress and that consultation would be planned soon. As a pre-emptive measure, Steve has drawn up a list of expectations that local residents would have of the developers. It will be put out for further consultation with those people signed up on the arena mailing list in anticipation of consultation to come. **Action.** Steve will distribute the expectation and collate feedback; Steve will keep a watch on any further developments.

4. Rat Runs

A discussion ensued about the use of some roads (notably Stanley Road) as a 'rat run' for traffic. Tim advised that if campaigns were to be mounted about such road use, the best approach would be to tackle the issue as public nuisance and anti-social behaviour rather than attempt to prove speeding: the roads are so narrow that even speeds within the legal limit may appear excessive.

He explained that given the limited resources available for road improvements and traffic calming measures, it is natural that the priority will be given to roads on which high numbers of accidents are recorded, rather than those where only nuisance is caused.

Action. The issue would be highlighted in the next Talk of Totterdown: Martyn offered to write a short article, Tim would add a contribution to collectively make a feature piece.

5. Totterdown Square

Suzanne reported that the survey conducted outside the Oxford St shops had drawn a large amount of attention among local people. 190 hard copy surveys had been returned along with a further 21 online, more surveys were expected in the boxes in Banana Boat and Domini. Full results would be available after the survey closes at the end of October, however it was clear that the Oxford Pub was a point of concern as were the general appearance of the area and the large brick planters in particular.

A meeting of the neighbourhood police held the previous night had promised to address issues associated with the Oxford at a meeting of the Police, licensing authority and Admiral Inns the Oxfords owners.

6. Waste transfer stations

Margaret outlined the campaign undertaken by residents to oppose planning permission for an extension to the waste transfer stations in St Philips. At the delayed hearing of the planning committee the plans had been approved for the extension with only very small modifications. She sees this as a failure of the campaign and expects that residents will continue to move out of the affected streets.

Action: Margaret to write up a report for the website

7. Zone N

Tim gave a brief history of various applications that had been lodged seeking permission to turn the green area outside the Power Station Gym into parking spaces. The latest of these, for 9 spaces, has been granted planning permission, though the land is still in the ownership of the City Council. In order to protect the site from the prospect of being paved over, TRESA has submitted an application to turn it into a 'town green'. After considerable effort the application has been accepted as valid and will be considered later this year after the obligatory notice period has been served (any objections must be submitted before Nov 17).

8. Totterdown Arts Trail

The arts trail this year (Nov 17-19) will include activities on Zone N. TRESA will aim to have a small stall on the space at which to highlight our activities and attract potential new members. Volunteers will be needed to set up and run the stand.

9. Allotments

Barbara explained that just off Bellevue Terrace is a site of around 12 former allotments. The land is owned by Railtrack and has been fenced off and effectively abandoned for around 10 years following action by Railtrack. She is interested to revitalise the plots and turn them back into allotments, but needs to find others who would be willing to take them on.

Actions. Steve to write to the council allotments office to determine if they have any interest in supporting the reclamation. Steve to put up an article on the web to solicit interest in local residents.

10. Higham Green

An interest has been expressed to designate Higham Green as a town green. No-one present had further details. Tim would be willing to pass on his experience to anyone wishing to make such an application, but could not make the application himself.

11. Social Events

No social events are currently planned. A post of Social Secretary will be highlighted at the next AGM. This will not be a constituted committee position, but one that someone might volunteer to. The role would be one largely of co-ordinating and encouraging social activity.

12. Other business

Suzanne expressed a concern that planners seemed now to be approving conversion of small Totterdown houses into even smaller 1-bedroom flats.

Action. Suzanne to contact planners to see if there policy had changed.

A structure has been erected at the corner of Henry St and Windsor Terrace that apparently has no planning permission. Those concerned about it are urged to write to the council enquiring about what permissions have been granted on the structure.

Patrick will write an article for the next Talk of Totterdown about the Constitution Club [**can anyone remember why!?**]

The bushes along the A4 just below the 3-lamps junction continue to infringe the pavement causing a hazard to pedestrians. Members are urged to contact the council to ask them to cut the bushes back.

Rubbish and Fly Tipping continues to be an issue in various locations through Totterdown. One issue in having it removed is knowing who owns the land on which it is tipped. It was agreed that a map showing who owns what in Totterdown would be useful in this regard.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of members will be the AGM. It will take place on December 13 in a venue to be determined.