

# Great Langborough Residents' Association

Defending our environment  [www.glra.org.uk](http://www.glra.org.uk)

## Minutes of the 2020 AGM

In September 2020, restrictions on public gatherings precluded a "live" AGM. The GLRA Committee decided on a format that would bring members up to date on our activities during the year since the last AGM, conduct the constitutional business and provide an opportunity for members to ask questions and bring up concerns. We decided on the format of an online survey (using Survey Monkey). We were pleased that 30 members completed the survey. Two issues were raised under "AOB" that we were able to deal with subsequently and report back - see Item 5 below.

### 1. Chair's Annual Report 2019-20

Pat Smith, GLRA Chair, remarked that this year had been 'strange' to say the least. Despite the preceding 150 days restrictions, the committee had been 'meeting' regularly - more recently online during the lockdown.

We had been actively engaged with local situations as they had arisen.

Some of our actions during the past year were as follows. **Please follow the links for more detail:** -

We made significant [submissions](#) to the Wokingham Borough Local Plan Update and [commented](#) on the planning application to build 190 houses south of Gipsy Lane and the Waterloo railway. Members of the GLRA committee attended meetings about both.

There had been a number of design changes in the new Carnival Pool Leisure Hub. We continued to study these and commented on each successive Planning Application.

We contributed to the recent ward Councillors' report on the traffic in our area.

We pursued the case for more public art in the town and in the wider Borough.

Network Rail upset the local community for the second time by installing a noisy alarm on the level crossing from Gipsy Lane to Knoll Farm - with little warning to nearby residents. Members of the GLRA committee supported those affected in making their objections. Some changes were made to lessen the disturbance.

There had been increasing anti-social behaviour in Howard Palmer Gardens. We linked with the Wescott and Norreys Neighbourhood Action Group to try to resolve the problem.

We circulated information emails from the Borough council to residents. We recorded minutes of all meetings and significant actions on our website.

We had a [meeting](#) with Susan Parsonage, the CEO of Wokingham Borough Council, to follow up on her presentation at our 2019 AGM. We discussed the WBC Community Vision for the next 5 years and the plans for delivery of its strategic priorities: Enriching Lives, Safe & Strong Communities, A Clean & Green Borough, Right Homes in the Right Places, Keeping the Borough Moving, Changing the Way the Borough works.

For further information, the Wokingham Borough Council website [Community Vision](#) page contains both the Community Vision statement and the Corporate Delivery Plan to 2024.

These documents, published in February 2020, provide comprehensive answers to the priority and strategy questions raised with Susan Parsonage during the 2019 AGM

The Chair confirmed our intention to keep residents informed on local matters through the GLRA website and by email.

The Chair then went on to ask members to participate in the Survey Monkey poll to vote on the constitutional AGM business and to raise any questions or issues under Any Other Business. We received 30 completed returns.

She concluded by stressing that she was always keen to hear from residents about local issues and to offer help when we can. She also invited any member who was interested in serving as a GLRA Committee Member to contact us.

Email to Pat Smith: [chairman@glra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@glra.org.uk)

## 2. Approval of 2019 Minutes

Via the Survey Monkey poll, the [minutes of the 2019 AGM](#) were approved.

## 3. Election of Committee

The [current committee](#) were all willing to continue in their roles. Via the poll, they were re-elected.

## 4. Treasury Report & Accounts

Via the poll, the members approved the 2020 [GLRA accounts](#).

## 5. Any Other Business

Via the Survey Monkey poll, two members raised the following concerns: -

### a. Planning Applications in a Conservation Area

A resident questioned how Wokingham Borough Council was policing planning applications to alter visibly properties in the Langborough Road Conservation Area. *(By referencing the WBC Planning Officer's recommendation to refuse the application that was cited, we were able to demonstrate the protection of Conservation Area status in that instance.)*

### b. Lime Trees in Langborough Recreation Ground

A resident expressed a concern about the visible distress of some of the 24 lime trees bordering Langborough Recreation Ground on three sides. He requested our support in raising the necessary funding for a recommended root treatment to extend their healthy life.

*(We passed on the concern to our local Town and Borough Councillors. They facilitated our attendance at a meeting of the Town Council Amenities Committee. This committee subsequently approved a pilot to treat an initial number of trees, starting in January 2021. See a copy of our letter outlining the issue - <http://glra.org.uk/2020-11-16-LimeTrees.pdf>)*