

GPNA Chair's Report 2018 – 19

Between our last AGM, which was the opening meeting for the new larger group the Great Park Neighbourhood Association, and until the end of January 2019, we had no one we could communicate with at the consortium who had any decision making capacity.

We were able to get some improvements made to the reporting mechanism, so that residents who used the web form on the consortium web site got a copy of what they submitted and were also able to send file attachments.

We wrote officially to the known company directors in August 2018 asking to know who we could speak to who was in a position of authority. In spite of chasing this up, we have not had a response to date and have heard unofficially they are no longer in post.

We were informed by the Great Park co-ordinator – a council post partly paid for by the consortium – that there was a new Project Manager, Ollie Thompson, and he attended our meeting in March 2019. We had representation in the first quarterly meeting with the council and consortium in early April. This group has been set up by our ward councillor, Anita Lower with a view to driving forward action on delivery with both the consortium and the council planners held to account.

The committee have used the time to work out a communications and engagement strategy, and looked at what skills/talents the Great Park might need to make a success of the work of the GPNA. We have identified that we need help with web site construction, communications, social events and somebody interested in having input to the bio-diversity monitoring group.

We have also noted over the year the strong feelings of anger and frustration expressed by residents, particularly within the Great Park Action Group, and just like them we have been looking at a legal challenge particularly over the way the consortium owned and run management companies are operating. Documents have been submitted to a London law firm who have been working with HorNet (Home Owners Rights Network) and we very recently had their feedback on what might be done.

Committee membership. Since GPNA was only formed last year, no one has to stand down, but we do have one resignation, Christine Young, who also previously served on Brunton Village and Green RA. Thank you Christine for all your hard work. I am moving away from the area, and will need to stand down as chair.

We need up to 14 committee members to run the group, and could look at fewer physical meetings and greater use of technology to keep in touch to make it easier for people to be part of running the group.

Spending of our funds this year has been confined to purchase of web space (open source software with no cost is used for the site), leaflet printing and refreshments for the AGM.

Cathy Priestley 22nd May 2019