

ACTION NOTES V2 FROM BERA COMMITTEE ZOOMMEETING on 15 September 2021

Those (virtually) present: Charles Draper (Chair), Danielle Sellwood, Amie Berkovitch, Francoise Pace, Wendy Powney;

Councillor Manda Rigby; Resident Mark Thurstain as an observer.

Apologies: Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers, John Mudford, Nola Wright, Sally Galsworthy, Alasdair Barron, Ric Jerrom, Councillor Yuktेशwar Kumar.

1. We welcomed Wendy Powney's resumption of her committee membership.

2. The recent spate of thefts from cars on the Estate was concerning. There was much reporting on WhatsApp, but the key actions were to report incidents with relevant detail to the police as that enabled them to devote resources to dealing with the issue, and the usual ones on car security. It was important to act on this, rather than tolerate it, because tolerated low level crime tended to escalate to more serious things such as burglaries. **We would reinforce those messages with a letter from the Police and Charles to be printed and distributed to all households. Amie would ask her police contacts for a suitable letter for Charles to top and tail.** It would also be useful to have a video message from them – e.g. on our website. **Amie would also invite a police rep to (virtually) attend our next committee meeting.** We would not pursue Neighbourhood Watch membership for now, as the added benefits beyond the email updates were not clear.

3. There were insufficient volunteers in the Estate to set up a BERA Community Speed-watch scheme. We would instead approach key groups and businesses, such as the nursery on Powlett Rd, to ask them to ask their customers to respect the 20mph limit, particularly to improve child safety. **Amie would contact them accordingly.** It would be good if we could use visual messages from Estate children to support this effort more generally. In the longer term, physical changes such as converting the parking in Forester Rd to a chicane arrangement could help. The changes expected as part of the planned Beckford Rd cycle lane should also help.

4. **Francoise would take over responsibility for the Street Trees project, and would discuss the practicalities with Alasdair. Charles had exhausted the Council's complaints procedures on the unjustifiable exclusion of Alasdair's work on this from the Council's Shining Lights Awards, and would now take up the issue with the Local Government Ombudsman.** Our concern is not so much the absence of an official pat on the back for Alasdair's efforts, but the faults the issue has revealed in the Council's ability to run a competition fairly, or review its own actions objectively.

5. The Bathwick Estate Community Day organised by Fiona Carnie on 23 July had been a great success; there would be another next year on pm Saturday July 2nd.

6. We were interested in pursuing the idea of establishing a defibrillator at a suitable location on the Estate, but needed clearer understanding about purpose, benefits and practicalities. **Manda would invite a suitably knowledgeable colleague to our next meeting to help us have an informed discussion.**

7. Sylvia Ayers had resigned for health reasons as our Treasurer after many years of dedicated service. We needed to find a replacement by next year's AGM. **Wendy would speak to Charles (without commitment!) to get a better understanding of what was involved.**

8. Danielle said the River Flats had a real problem from riverbank erosion caused by speeding tourist tour boats. They had tried, without success, to get it stopped. She would be glad to talk to others similarly impacted.

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday November 17 at 7.30 pm by Zoom.