

Walton Manor Residents Association

WMRA 24-04-28_02

Agenda of committee meeting held at 5.45pm, Sunday 28th April at 38 Kingston Road

Present: Maggie Black (MB); Mary Pegler (MP); Helena Webster (HW); Godfrey Cole (GC); Caroline Martin (CM); Tom Landell-Mills (TL-M); Bryan Pickup (BP); Janet Minot (JM)

Apologies: Charlotte Beatson (CB); Jo Lane (JL)

1. Outstanding Matters from last meeting's minutes:

Constitution revision, new amendments all agreed by committee.

2. Oxclean review

MP discussed the disappointing turn out at March's annual Oxclean event (4 committee members, 2 residents), and the possibility of discontinuing it. Committee agreed it was worth continuing next year, with improved publicity (inc. a solo email mail-out to the residents, individual streets' Whatsapp/email postings and a few posters on lamp-posts. Designated starting times could be offered, and it should be made clear that as little of half an hour's participation is required.

3. Oxford Liveable Streets meeting review

This was a successful meeting with a bulging turnout, including residents from further afield (OX3 and OX4). It was presented well, and the chair made a good case for the proposed trial of traffic filters (bus gates). These will be aimed at deterring one in four journeys, particularly commuters and through-traffic, and will not be implemented until Botley Road re-opens. Some of the attendees were misinformed, some upset by the scheme. WMRA agreed not to take a position, but to continue to keep residents informed as events unfold.

4. Community Noticeboard

JM reported her address is now on the city council website, as curator of the noticeboard, though Nigel is still helping redirect information. JM wishes the noticeboard to be a dynamic exhibition, with changing information about current topics, rather than a filing system for longstanding organisations. The committee discussed redirecting these to the website, which follows city council guidelines, advertising volunteer or charity groups only, not local businesses. TL-M pointed out the difficulty in distinguishing commercial and local events, which have paid contributors, e.g. dance classes. CM stressed the website had limited capacity and the need to make people aware of it, e.g. through the street Whatsapp groups, as it is receiving very little traffic. MB expressed the committee's gratitude to JM and CM for taking on the jobs.

5. Feedback about ZEZ

GC reported on a meeting about a formal consultation in autumn 2024 (and again in autumn 2025) about the expansion of the Zero Emissions Zone. This will fall outside the WMRA boundary, but will affect access across the city and traffic to our area. Unlike the ULEZ in London, it will not permit any petrol or diesel cars in the zone between 7am and 7pm (Mon-Sun) without incurring a fine, (exemptions excluded). GC pointed out this could be brought in immediately after Botley Road re-opens and could be made permanent by 2026. The committee discussed the difficulty for our residents, without electric cars, who would be forced to drive north in order to access other parts of the city. It may cause Woodstock Road/Beaumont Street/Walton Street to be a turning point for cars unable to enter the zone. GC was thanked for his continued participation in following the ZEZ project.

6. Possible social event

MB suggested a 'Meet Your Neighbour' social event. Various ideas were discussed: Evening drinks at Gardeners' Arms pub; Open garden event with tea/cake; Coffee morning at local café, e.g. Blavatnik or Kellogg College, Garden tour of an Oxford College. Events to be publicised by street Whatsapp groups.

GC had a contact at Green-Templeton College, who already took tours round the gardens there, and he will enquire for us. MP to liaise with JL and Silk, publican, about a drinks evening for residents in June/July at Gardeners' Arms.

7. Planning issues. BP and HW continue to monitor these on behalf of WMRA:

- 1A Southmoor Road – planning permission has now been granted, including the reduced height of the lift shaft. There are 31 conditions. No further action needed.
- 25 Farndon Road – rear and side 3-storey extension. WMRA have objected, also St Margaret's Association (the property stands in their area).
- Gibson and Harkness Buildings Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. Final phase is to convert two office buildings at the north end to NHS Primary Care space and OU AI department. These abut Observatory Street, so are germane to WMRA.
- Frog Orange party shop – imminent new application.

8. AOB

- HW attended a meeting at Lady Margaret Hall about green initiatives. OCC are intending to introduce new electric vehicle charging points for residents, some with channels across pavements to reach houses. Residents must apply individually, rather than as a community, and OCC had not consulted the local areas about this.
- HW still waiting to hear about Conservation Area Appraisal.

9. **Date of Next Meeting: 6pm, Sunday 21st July at 46 Plantation Road**