

Minutes of the 49th AGM of the St Leonards Neighbourhood Association held at 7pm 19.05.2023 at the Cover Club, County Hall

50 members of the public were present including Exeter City Councillor Matthew Vizard and Devon County Councillor Carol Whitton.

Apologies were received from Susan Melzer, Maureen Lewis, Cllr Andy Ketchin

- **Welcome & Address from our Chairman, Nigel Fitzhugh.**

Matters arising from the last AGM on 24.05.2022 included updates on the Church Hall, Hourglass Pub and Weirfield Road (more on this later). This year's Christmas Fair will again be held on the first Saturday in December, the 2nd, and requests for stalls have already begun to flood in.

- **Magdalen Road Development.**

Chris Burridge-Barney, the Transportation Planning Officer, was introduced and his helpfulness throughout the project commented on. He responded to questions about the watering of the big planters some of which will contain trees, and concern about the speed of traffic along a one-way straight road which looks like space shared with pedestrians. Chris said that a Stage 3 Safety Audit would be carried out shortly and, if necessary, ways to maintain safety would be considered after that. There was a lot of support in the room for decoration of the road surface. Blockages in Denmark Road were discussed with feedback invited during the continuing trial period.

A separate point was made about the increased risk to pedestrians passing large parked cars further along Magdalen Road.

- **InExeter Street Party** in Magdalen Road

To be held on July 1st, organised by Exeter BID. The Neighbourhood Association will be paid for organising the road closure.

- **Mount Radford Lawn.**

Nigel told us about the slow but hopeful progress to acquire the site for the Association. The Committee had discussed their minimum requirement for a good sized playing field and a community building on the site and there was general preference in the room for there to be no houses. Nigel has taken advice from a professional surveyor and joined a discussion with Council officers. He has sent an offer of £150,000 to the Deaf Academy but since there has been no response he now plans to write to them again with a deadline. If his offer is refused the next stage would be to go back to the council to ask for compulsory purchase of this Asset of Community Value.

- **Bull Meadow**

Matt Vizard explained that though the repair to the culvert had at last been done by SWWater the repair to the meadow had been delayed by the weather. It should begin very soon and take 8 - 10 weeks. It is possible that a Friends of Bull Meadow may be set up to help look after the place.

- **Weirfield Road**

Attempts are still being made to make the developers of both the Care home (being constructed) and the Residential Home scheme allow a second access to their site particularly since the road has a lot of essential services under its surface and is therefore often closed, making vehicle access to both those care facilities impossible.

- **5G phone mast**

Complaints about the siting of a 16m mast on the corner of St Leonards and Wonford Roads should be sent in by May 28th, based not on 5G but on the design and location in a conservation area.

- **Boule Club**

Will Adamsdale entertained us with a brief description and history of the game which needs a gravel surface but is suitable for all ages, inexpensive and competitive. He is already in discussion with the Cover Club itself about siting a piste there.

- **Treasurer's Report**

Craig Walker showed us the balance sheets pointing out the healthy state of funds. The Christmas Fair had made a loss last year but Nigel was raising prices this year. Despite some advertisers backing out the magazine had already raised prices and funds are stable. Nigel encouraged applications for grants from individual youngsters.

- **Neighbourhood News**

Norman Shiel expressed confidence that despite the cost of living crisis including a huge rise in the price of paper the magazine should reach its 250th issue by the end of this year. He thanked the support of 74 deliverers and those who submitted articles while urging others to send them in as well.

- **Community Builder**

Jayne Leaver told us a story of a resident in sheltered housing who had called on many different sources of help to achieve all sorts of improvements to the

premises and arrange social activities to illustrate her point that a lot can be achieved by a small number of people.

- **Committee Membership**

Nigel reported that Mike Wozniak has resigned from the committee to concentrate on his career and family, while Maureen Lewis and Steve Halkyard have agreed to join it. Nigel reminded us of the noticeboard in Magdalen Road and the website - www.slina.org.uk - which he keeps up to date.

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Bernard Jones, Sue Stott & Jane Evans have joined a list of visitors to the Energy Recovery Facility on Sept 5th.

We were urged by a resident who preferred to remain anonymous to report any signs of harassment or stalking in our community to the police.

David Smith queried the suitability of the very bold adverts at the new recharging points in St Leonards Road, given that it is a Conservation Area.

A resident expressed concern at the double and triple parking on the blind corner opposite St Leonards School at picking up time, a danger to children.

Two new developments, at the former Pyramids pool site and Belle Isle council depot, were pointed out but there is little information yet.

The meeting closed at 8.45