

Sandyhurst Lane Residents' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Monday, 10th March 2008 at Sandy Acres, Sandyhurst Lane

Attendance:

35 members attended, including Howard Preston (Chairman). Also present were Simon Cole (guest speaker, Planning Policy Manager, Ashford Borough Council); Councillors Michael Cloughton and Neil Wallace (who arrived late, having been delayed at another meeting).

Apologies:

Received from County Councillors Richard King and Elizabeth Tweed, Councillor Rita Hawes, Anne Le Clercq (Chairman, Boughton Aluph with Eastwell Parish Council), Monica and Victor Berwick.

Minutes of the last AGM:

Proposed and seconded and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising:

None.

Chairman's report:

Howard opened the meeting by welcoming Simon Cole as guest speaker, Planning Policy Manager (Ashford Borough Council).

He updated the Association on the issues in which SLRA had been involved over the past year, and drew attention to the displays at the rear of the hall – these included the Sandyhurst Farm site, Eureka and Cadenza developments. Often this involved excellent collaboration with the parish councils of Westwell and Boughton Aluph with Eastwell, as well as our ward members Michael Cloughton (Bockhanger), Rita Hawes (Boughton Aluph with Eastwell) and Neil Wallace (Westwell).

In addition SLRA had encouraged other interest groups such as The Warren Lane Action Group. Often these associations are formed following planning applications impacting on green areas such as the Warren and the green space adjacent to Warren Lane. The Association was not too successful with Orchard Heights but Howard suggested that perhaps the guest speaker may have more information. Lodge Wood Group green space appeared to have been saved from greedy developers.

Howard explained that, in the absence of a new chairman, he had been operating a 'fire fighting' service, advising residents what to do or who to contact. He realised that residents were rightly concerned about the lack of newsbriefs over the past year, but ill health and family reasons had prevented this. The Christmas edition was shelved due to changes in Bidwells management of Eureka and discussions on footpaths which have been ongoing – over 10 years in the case of AU1 and AU3, and since 1989 in the case of AE210.

It is hoped to hold a meeting with KCC, Ashford Ramblers and Bidwells on extinguishing AU1 – this footpath has not been walked on for 74 years, when no. 146 was built.

John Faulkner will be asking later what residents want from the association.

Planning:

Howard explained that the policy of SLRA was not to interfere with planning applications for extensions, but noted that in the present climate developers are buying small residences on large plots. He cited problems arising from plans to extend the late Cyril Peacock's bungalow (no. 168). Neighbours were concerned and SLRA objected to the plans, and also alerted the ward member. Where a planning application has been delegated to a planning officer, the ward member can insist that it go before the full

