

RIVERMEAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Monday 19th March 2012

1. Present

Maria Cooke, Gill Catchpole, Nicki Puckey, Tim McCormick, Tim Gregory, Marilyn Ash, Christine Girolomini

2. Lighting works

The new lighting works have been delayed slightly by ongoing remedial works after the asbestos removal. The lighting works are now scheduled to commence through the summer, with the decoration works to follow after that.

3. Decoration works

There was a discussion regarding the choice of colour scheme for the new decoration works. The committee will choose a colour scheme in conjunction with Freshwater. Colour swatches will be requested from Freshwater so that the committee can commence with this choice process. There was a suggestion of white edging and architraves and pale grey/darker grey doors. Also there was a query as to whether new wallpaper would be applied, or whether these walls would be painted. The general opinion was that the current green carpets on the ground floors of each block were serviceable and did not really need replacing. This could be a cost saver on the redecoration project. It was also noted that the black painted railings to the bin areas were becoming chipped and unsightly and could do with repainting, and that Pete or Geoff could do these in-house maintenance and repair works within their working days.

4. Service charges

The new service charge notifications had been sent out to residents with the incorrect figures. These are being amended by Freshwater and new statements will be received shortly.

5 Aerial installation

Nothing further has been received from Freshwater regarding the communal aerial installation. Maybe this will be completed at the same time as the electrical works? Confirmation is awaited.

6 Cleanliness audits

Sue is retiring in June. It is not clear whether a replacement has already been found. At previous interviews for cleaner positions a member of the committee was invited to the interviews. Freshwater will be asked what the position is regarding Sue's retirement. The cleanliness overall was acceptable but the front of Princeton is still not good enough. Lots of rubbish accumulates from passers by on the pavements and also from people at the bus stops. The area needs sweeping regularly and weeds should be pulled up from in front of the wall, and the area generally tidied up and kept an eye on. It was suggested that the 'maintenance schedule' used by the cleaners and by Pete and Geoff be requested so that the committee had a record of what actually was on the schedule and whether or not it had been adequately achieved.

7 AOB

The stone pillar that was damaged and had been rebuilt recently has had a new lighted bollard installed. However, this bollard light is much smaller than the original one and does not match the remaining one. It looks completely wrong and out of place, and Freshwater will be asked to replace this.

The matter regarding the bicycle lock-up spaces is becoming urgent. There was a discussion as to the possibility of charging residents to lock their bicycles in the garages, but it was thought that this would not be practical as residents would simply not pay, say £50 per year, for parking their bicycles and would simply lock them to the railings. Thus causing unsightly racks of bicycles outside the flats, obstruction for the cars around the site and the increased risk of anti social behaviour with the risk of bicycle theft. It was then thought that maybe the price of the key necessary to enter the garages could be raised to cover the cost of the new bicycle parking facility.

The summer party – it was put forward that we could have a Jubilee theme for the summer party and that September may be too late for this. We could join in the NCC celebrations to be held on the Embankment in June. CG will do a poster for a garden party to coincide with NCC's date and display these on the noticeboards. It would be bring your own food etc as before.

8 AOB

The RRA website had been visited by members of the committed and was found to be very good and informative, many thanks to TMc for his efforts. The website annual fee needed to be paid.

No receipts had been issued for residents subscription payments, and this needed to be actioned by PW.

9 Date of next meeting

To be on Tuesday 8th May in flat 108.