

Minutes: CANBURY AND RIVERSIDE ASSOCIATION (CARA) AGM
29th October 2013, 8.00 pm at Canbury Gardens Pavilion

In the Chair: John Parrish. The meeting was attended by some 28 CARA members. Apologies were received from John & Shirley Hull and Councillor Dennis Doe.

1. Everyone present was given a copy of the agenda, the minutes of the 2012 AGM and of the CARA Accounts for 2012/13.
2. John Parrish welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda for the meeting.
3. The minutes of the last CARA AGM, on 4th October 2012, were approved.
4. Penny D'Souza, CARA Spokesperson, briefly reviewed the past year. She reported the results of the CARA survey, which revealed that members' priority of interests and concerns was:-
 - 1) Crime: 2) Planning: 3) Environment: 4) Parking: 5) Social & Sporting ActivitiesPenny highlighted some topics for CARA for the coming year in the priority areas:-
 - Liaison with Police
 - Hotel development
 - 'Mini Village' planning brief (for the gasometer and nearby sites)
 - Gala Bingo Hall development
 - Canbury Gardens and the riverside
 - Car ParkingPenny stressed the importance of CARA communications – currently the very successful Newsletter, and the CARA e-mail, Twitter, Facebook and website. CARA wanted to improve the reach of these electronic communications, and was hoping to complement these with more face-to-face communication through “Street Contacts” – people who would act as a contact between their neighbours and CARA Committee. She hoped that people would put themselves forward for this role.
5. John Parrish outlined key points from CARA accounts. The financial position was good, with a surplus of £473 for the year. Unusually only 2 newsletters, not 3, had been paid for in the financial year, which partly accounted for the surplus. Mike Seigel proposed the adoption of these accounts, seconded by Hugh Scantlebury.
6. Richard Mobbs reported that CARA membership had been boosted in 2012/13 by the membership survey, covering some 190 households (out of about 750 households in the CARA area). About 110 households had already paid their subscription for the current year. He hoped that improving communications would boost membership even further this year.
7. John Parrish reported that one Committee member had stood down during the past year. Committee members prepared to stand for election again were himself, Penny D'Souza, Peter Wolf, Marilyn Mason, Trevor Willis, Anneke Ferrier, Clare Francis and Richard Mobbs. In addition James Roy and Stuart Devall had offered themselves. All ten were elected unopposed.
8. As there was no further business John Parrish drew the formal proceedings to a close at 8.35pm.
9. John introduced 'Milla Churchill, from the National Trust, who gave a most interesting talk: “Ageing Gracefully”: 400 years at HAM House, which was very well received. This was followed by refreshments and informal discussion.