

# **OWRA AGM 2021**

## **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm in Merrivale Square**

Kay Gordon, Chair of OWRA welcomed attendees.

- Apologies from Christine Melia, Pat Hafferty and Paul Rippon
- The minutes of the last AGM were approved
- Report on activities detailed in the last newsletter – Halloween, Advent windows.

Chairman's report by Kay:

- Kay reflected on the position we were in a year ago, with many people home schooling, a limit of one hour of exercise per day and struggling to obtain an online delivery slot.
- Kay thanked those who last Spring helped to water the newly planted areas by Nicholsons during the unexpected hot weather.
- Many thanks were given to Caro and local helpers who made sure during lockdown that support was given to those who needed it.
- Kay thanked those who take part in litter picking all year round to help keep Waterside litter free.
- Alex Cadoux Hudson did a great job of repairing a bench in Waterside.
- Di Newell has been pushing through the electric car charging issue through a Management Company Special Interest Group.
- We have built a stronger neighbourhood over the past year, and we even managed a few events such as Halloween and Advent windows towards the end of the year. Thanks was given to those living in Waterside.

Jen Watkiss, Treasurer, provided an update on the accounts:

- OWRA membership funds have just over a £1k balance
- Membership fee is maintained at £5; we have had 98 subscriptions this year, those who have paid were thanked, those who haven't yet paid their subscription were encouraged to do so if able.

Committee changes:

- Sarah Munro is leaving the OWRA committee. She was thanked and given flowers for all of her contributions these past 6 years, especially for her invaluable background support on the website and tradesman list.
- Allison Hood is leaving the OWRA committee. She was thanked and given flowers for all her contributions over the past few years, especially for initiating the Neighbourhood watch scheme and Waterside activities she has organised.
- Sam Mahony who organises the children's activities is likely to be leaving Waterside soon and may therefore need to leave the committee.
- Sally Atkinson was formally welcomed to the committee and will look after the website and emails. Many thanks for joining the committee.
- We have a new neighbourhood watch co-ordinator, Michael Rosenfeld who will take over from Allison Hood.
- Kay asked for more volunteers to join the committee and to let her know of anyone who may be interested.

Questions from attendees:

- This issue of unsociable behaviour in Merrivale Square was raised and of a party which occurred on Plater Drive. This behaviour can cause significant disruption to residents and intimidate some. The importance of neighbourhood watch was discussed to try and prevent such behaviour.
- There was a request for new signs in Merrivale Square to try and help prevent unsociable behaviour and to make it clear that it is private property. A suggestion of locks on the gates was also raised. OWRA will speak with Caro Fickling as the management board were intending to put signs up .
- It is felt that the gardening on Rutherway could be improved as there are many overgrown areas and weeds, and that the previous improvements Nicholsons made to Rutherway have not been sustained. It was suggested that residents raise this with the management company when they have their AGM later in the year or fill out the form in the "Grounds" section of the Oxford Waterside website with this feedback requesting improvements.
- The issue of people leaving wheelie bins out on the path for significant periods of time was raised. It is likely that these are people who are on holiday, and it was suggested that if residents are aware that their neighbour is on holiday, to pull it back for them.
- The portaloos on Rutherway were also discussed, this is for the gardening team and there is no obvious alternative option.

The Committee were thanked by all for their hard work.

The meeting ended at 6:50pm.