

## OWRA 2020 AGM

By video conference Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Kay Gordon, Chair of OWRA welcomed call participants

- Apologies for absence from the Jacobs, Kenyon, Dale & Steven families
- The minutes of the last AGM were approved
- Report on activities as detailed in the last newsletter were approved
- Kay thanked residents for all the supportive Waterside activities that took place over lockdown and thanked those who had watered the new trees and plants. Although many events had to be postponed or cancelled, Merrivale square has been used for many family activities, especially as more people were working from home.
- Plans for the next few months include a Halloween evening (on the night before Halloween to help manage numbers). There will be a pumpkin competition and some trick-or-treating in groups of six as arranged by parents. If you would prefer not to have visits on that evening please do not place decorations outside your house. There are also plans to for all Watersiders to make their windows and front lawns festive, and create outside decorations to hang in Merrivale Square to provide some winter cheer during the dark days.
- The committee is considering running some virtual meetings on specific topics which residents who are interested could join. Those interested should let Kay know
- The bus gates under consideration by the council have been postponed for one year but may still be implemented. These would prevent residents from travelling south from Waterside, creating difficulties for old or vulnerable or those needing to transport heavy loads. Watersiders' cars are not registered on the council database and so any permit system could be imperfect. OWRA will continue to seek OWRA views and keep residents informed. A new page on the website provides information on progress with these issues.
- Sarah Munro will stand down from the committee, and new committee members are being sought. If anyone would like to join or knows anyone who may like to be asked please contact Kay Gordon
- Next newsletter will ask people to cut back foliage around the paths as these are becoming problematic in places, especially when people need clear line of sight to ensure social distancing
- Kay welcomed new residents to Waterside who had joined the call after only 3 weeks in Waterside.

Jen Watkiss, Treasurer, provided an update:

- OWRA membership funds have a £1K balance
- Fees are to be kept flat at £5 for this year, since during the current uncertainty there are no major spending plans. All are encouraged to make this a standing order to help remember.
- Ideas from residents on spending are welcome.

Questions from call participants:

The issue of traffic going the wrong way around Merrivale Square was raised, there have been some dangerous incidents and the question was asked as to what could be done to make it more obvious that it is a one way route.

Either painting arrows on the road, or "no entry" or "no right turn" signs as you enter the square were suggested. Emma Dadson will enquire whether Cllr Howson could support and pay for this.

It was also suggested that traffic calming measures could be introduced for Plater Drive since many delivery lorries are driving quite fast along this road. This will be raised at the Management Committee AGM.

The meeting ended at 19:15