



Annual General Meeting 2023 - MINUTES

Tuesday 21 February 2023 at Enderby House

1. Annual Report (circulated)

Chair, Patrick Ives, welcomed everyone, thanked the committee for all their hard work over the last year and thanked the management of Enderby House for providing the venue for free.

2. Financial Report (circulated)

Fiona Machen Harrison, Treasurer, called for anyone who may be happy to donate some time to improving EGRA software and contracts. She also made a plea for more subs.

3. Election of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and call for committee members.

Patrick Ives and Fiona Machen Harrison were voted in and seconded for the roles of Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Members, Kate Middleton and Tom Stanworth volunteered to join/rejoin the committee and were voted in by the current committee.

4. Updates

- Planning & Licensing

Quy Sports Bar – River Gardens – Monique.

John Quy (owner) in attendance at the AGM. This application, due to many objections to a wet-led venue in this residential area, has been called to sub-committee on 8 March 2023. A number of committee members and non-committee attendees explained their objections to John Quy.

Oceandiva Party Riverboat

Members expressed dismay with noise pollution from party boats, in general, and have written to various authorities. There are many authorities with responsibilities for the River Thames. Which is responsible for noise? Noted that control of noise on the river Thames falls to London Port Health Authority (LPHA) and not Port of London Authority (PLA), Environment Agency (EA) or London Borough Councils (LBCs).

Others have written to complain about the 'Dutch Master' boat, also used for party-hire.

The Oceandiva is expected to be towed up the Thames to Newham in March 2023. The application proposals include plans to embark/disembark up to 1500 passengers at Butler's Wharf pier. There are many, very strong objections here. Residents may well succeed in having the application for this activity turned down. If so, North Greenwich Pier (east of O2 Arena) may be next as the boat is being marketed to dock only at 'Marquee' destinations. Late night (2am) disembarkation may even happen at Greenwich Pier in Greenwich Town Centre, when it will not be busy with Thames Clippers. RBG council has expressed serious concerns over the Oceandiva to Newham council (the licensing authority where the boat will be moored when not in use) about various aspects of the

Oceandiva's alcohol licence application. RBG was careful to say this 'wasn't an objection but' then listed lots of issues.

Noted that the boat will be electric, provided the PLA can build the charging points for it.

Noted that PLA appear to be very positive about this project. It is thought they may have even visited Poland to see it.

Noted that owner of the Oceandiva also owned The Marchioness.

Hiring arrangements: the whole boat to be booked for single events such as corporate bookings, very large weddings, etc. However, the current plan is not fully clear.

Concluded: the lack of any one authority overseeing the boat's activities is thought to be the biggest problem and makes enforcement of noise and other anti-social behaviour (ASB) difficult.

EGRA has registered an objection under Southwark's objection, having not been invited to respond to the application, initially. There is still no 'passage plan', yet.

Group in Butler's Wharf is selling banners to place on river frontage (where authorised to do so) for £10 if anyone wants one.

Angle 90 – Trafalgar Road – Members have experienced significant abuse as pedestrians from 10pm onwards and suspected customers have seen exiting at 7am. They have a 2am licence.

East Greenwich PC Sophie Hurrell due to visit Angle 90 with inspector – Rashmee (Chair – Peninsula Police Ward Panel) to update on progress.

Comment on licensing at RBG: Brew by Numbers - EGRA was not informed beforehand, no comments or objections submitted by anyone present. Angle 90 - was granted a licence extension despite numerous objections to this and previous applications.

Thames Path - River Revetment Works at Morden Wharf - U&I application sent back to widen the Thames path at the bend adjacent to Sivyer site. Noted: David Rutherford Jones is CEO of Morden College – Details to be passed to EGRA so they may write to him about revetments rebuild application.

Thames Path - Trafalgar Tavern – many planning/licensing applications ongoing: scissor lifts to move bins to basement, pontoon consultation, extra floors.

Thames Path – 11-15 Highbridge Wharf Planning Application: 22/1332/F

Noted: RBG has not decided upon this since plans were revised and received on 13/07/2022.

Thames Path - Trinity Walk – RBG has not cleaned/tidied this long-neglected area since promising to do so in December 2022.

Thames Path - River Gardens – lots of greening and ASB issues.

Noted: River Gardens Residents' Association (RIGRA) is kept very busy with them.

Thames Path – Enderby Wharf - Reed rolls on the riverbank have been washed away since developers, Barratt Homes, did not install them correctly. EA has asked RBG council to chase developer or repair. It is not thought to be RBG's responsibility. EA must pursue Barratt Homes – EGRA to make this more public. Noted – Members asked if it would help for 853 local newspaper to cover this story.

Thames Path – S106 land at Anchor Iron Wharf - Members have been advised by RBG officers that council may have a moratorium on replacing pedestrian paving. S106 land outside Midpoint is now almost unmarked for cycling/pedestrians. Should EGRA do a survey of whole path across EGRA patch? Exec: Resources within membership will be needed.

- Traffic

EG/WG Traffic Consultation: This is now live. Cllr Averil Lekau (RBG Transport cabinet member) has said the consultation is 'a blank sheet of paper' to ascertain residents' views afresh. Noted: consultation is very wide, non-specific. Groups (such as local civic societies) are discouraged from submitting responses as they will only count as one resident view. Drop-in sessions to discuss the consultation with councillors and officers as follows:

West G - Wednesday 22 February at West Greenwich Library 7pm-8.30pm;

East G - Tuesday 28 February at The Greenwich Centre 7pm-8.30pm.

- Greening & Public Realm

Members were made aware of the Greenwich Society Greening Group set to revive unloved sites in WG/EG starting this spring.

Noted: Members asked if EGRA could organise more public realm greening get-togethers as this is really enjoyable and often attracts more members. Exec: Resources within membership will be needed to organise.

- Policing

There is a new Police Ward Panel for East Greenwich in line with new political ward boundaries. Peninsula ward is now split into Peninsula and East Greenwich wards.

Noted: make a report by calling 111 as these reports help police build a picture of offences in the area.

Noted: members said response is very quick from Metropolitan Police via the social media platform Twitter for emergencies. However, it won't get reported. Only way to build data is report on 111.

Noted: Rashmee (Chair Peninsula Ward Panel, EGRA Committee) was keen to tell attendees that problems do get resolved when raised at the Panel meetings. It is worth attending.

Any other business

- Star of Greenwich Community Pub (old Star & Garter): James Gadsby-Peet (member) spoke to attendees – the organisation running the venture is set up as a Community Benefit Society; a form of co-operative whose purpose is designed to benefit the wider community. Surveys conducted indicated enthusiasm for a community kitchen and great quality beers, amongst other things. Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency (GCDA) have expressed an interest in running cooking workshops and other food-related courses. An arts company, Little Splodges, is also interested in making use of spaces at the Star. Lease signed for 3yrs from Greenwich Hospital. Crowdfunder underway. Share offering planned to allow purchase of freehold by mortgage so upper rooms can be redeveloped and made available. Upstairs rooms can't be used, currently, as there is no fire exit. There is a zero-tolerance policy on community safety issues. Alcohol licence granted until 10.30pm. Application for music also granted but noise limiting hardware condition imposed – they'll be making these changes. No music is currently planned. Pool table removed. Benches outside at the front have been removed to discourage ASB. Hoping pub will be open or running in some capacity by the weekend of the London Marathon (Sunday 23 April). James asked if attendees would kindly contribute and share details of the Crowdfunder.
- Old Arches Leisure Centre – members asked what is happening to it. No news.
- Rose Garden – members asked what is happening to it. Exec: EGRA will not get involved until RBG can re-designate land as belonging to Parks & Open Spaces Dept as opposed to Housing Dept

(where it remains at risk of being developed). Currently, no resident groups taking this on would have security of tenure.

- Tree surgeons call out – Fiona mentioned that RBG Arboricultural Team is looking to employ 3 trainee Tree Surgeons, should AGM attendees know of anyone who may be interested.