

## **LONDON FORUM OF AMENITY AND CIVIC SOCIETIES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15th OCTOBER**

by ZOOM video conference 6.30p.m.

Present. P Eversden, Chairman, and representatives of the Amwell Society, Barnet Residents Association, Barnet Society, Battersea Society, Beckenham Society, Bedford Park Society, Bermondsey Street London, Camden Civic Society, Covent Garden Community Association, Finchley Society, Fulham Society, Highbury Community Association, Highgate Village Residents Association, Highgate Society, Islington Society, John Innes Society, Kensington Society, Kew Society, Knightsbridge Association, Ladywell Society, Lodge Lane Residents' Forum, Marylebone Association, Northwood Residents Association, Pinner Association, Putney Society, St Marylebone Society, Sydenham Society, Thorney Island Society, Queen Anne's Gate Residents Association, West Chiswick & Gunnersbury Society, and the Westcombe Society

### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all those members who had joined the Zoom meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the AGM 3rd October 2019

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM had been placed on the Forum website. No changes had been suggested, and they were agreed, *nem con.*

### 3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked particularly the four people who at the 2019 AGM had offered to serve on the Executive Committee as trustees; they had been co-opted and had made a tremendous contribution; they would all be put forward to be elected in due course. He thanked Oliver Bennett, Diane Burrige and Helen Marcus, who were retiring from the committee, for the contributions they had made - Diane as membership secretary and regular contributor to News Forum, and Helen as its long-serving editor. He expressed deep regret at the recent death of Judy Hillman, a Vice-President whose journalistic experience had been very helpful to the Forum and who had often spoken out for it.

Much of the work of the Forum during 2019-20 had been on the London Plan; the version published in July 2019 had incorporated many of improvements suggested by the Forum, and the report of the Examination-in-Public inspectors had recommended other changes, many of which the Mayor had accepted. But the Secretary of State had expressed unhappiness with it, and since May it had remained on his desk. This was most unfortunate, especially since aspects of it, especially on design codes, seemed very much in line with the Government's own thinking. Since March 2020 the Covid19 pandemic had impinged greatly on the Forum's activities. The Annual Report which had

been circulated to members described in more detail the work that had gone on during the year.

#### 4. Financial Report

Mr Speak took the meeting through the accounts, which had been circulated. Subscriptions were at an all time high, as there had been five new members and only one loss. He explained the changes from the previous year stemming from the pandemic - the imputed expenditure on accommodation in Cowcross Street and the offsetting donation from Alan Baxter's had both been reduced, and since March there had been no expenditure on refreshments or donations towards them. He said that there would probably be a call on the Forum's reserves in the coming year to finance a new website.

#### 5. Approval of Annual Report and Accounts for 2019-20.

Mr Speak said that there had to be an amendment to Note 2 of the draft accounts, since he had inadvertently omitted £26 of IT expenses from the table which should therefore total £5,627 for 2020.

Mr Bach proposed and Mr Stevenson (Lodge Lane Residents Association) seconded the approval of the report and accounts subject to that amendment, and they were approved *nem. con.*

#### 6. Appointment of Honorary Independent Examiner

Mr Speak proposed and Ms Hogben seconded the reappointment of Mr Egan. This was approved *nem. con.*

#### 7. Election of Officers and Trustees

The Chairman said that all the present officers were willing to continue; the four trustees co-opted after the 2019 AGM - Clare Birks, Mary Hogben, Daren Mitchell and Helen Warner - had been nominated as had been the retiring Andrew Bosi, John Myers and Paul Thornton. There had been a new nomination, Michael Jubb from the Battersea Society (which had provided valued trustees in the past. Their election en bloc was proposed by Mr Mason and seconded by Mr Sherling, and they were elected *nem con.*

#### 8. Other business.

There was none, and Mr Eversden closed the formal part of the meeting with thanks to all who had attended