

HCERA AGM 2022 Chairman's Report

I would like to review the past year.

THE HCERA AGM 2021

The meeting was held in the main hall at St George's School. It was not available for booking this year, which explains why we are at the Early Years Centre. People who have lived here a long time will remember that we have come home. This was the AGM venue for quite a number of years.

REPORTS

The HCERA Committee decided, if possible, to have the reports on the website and not to have them read out at the meeting. There is now a tab on the menu bar "AGM" where these documents will be found. Following last year's AGM, the Committee proposed there should also be a report from the Facebook group. Unfortunately it was omitted from the AGM notice that was delivered to residents, but this has now been remedied.

CAROLS 2021

Ocean Brass did a great job again last December, despite low numbers, due to many members having to self isolate! A big thank you to Lawrence and Louise for keeping us in order, and sharing some lovely poetry and prose between the carols.

The band did bring a donations bucket this year which raised £35.40 and is being put towards purchasing new music for their spring/summer concert programme. Many other generous donations were made to Peter's collection for the St Albans food bank.

WILD FLOWER VERGES

We had high hopes for the area in the verge on Bassett Green Road. We have learnt that there is more to success than just sowing wild meadow seeds and sticking in perennial plug plants. It was bad luck that St George's School started using the adjacent bus stop as a pick-up point, but the final blow was the drought. Let us hope that all is not lost and we shall have something next spring.

LITTER-PICKING

There was a litter-pick in November and another in April. As usual, the equipment was borrowed from the Council and the bags of litter left in Field Close for collection.

OPEN GARDENS

There was no Open Gardens Day this year as it is held only in alternate years. Get your gardens ready for a great show next year.

PLATINUM JUBILEE PARTIES

The queen's platinum jubilee could hardly have come as a surprise, but the Committee were rather late to wake up to this event. It was decided not to simply bring the annual party and BBQ forward to the Jubilee date.

We just announced a gathering for all residents for 5th June on the large green in Ethelburt Avenue and to bring a selection of celebratory drinks and nibbles for your own family to enjoy. It was surprising that no organization was required to make the event a great success. In the morning, two enterprising residents mowed a huge "70" in the grass on the green. There were other local parties the on 4th June. One, organised by Sue Green, was on the green in Bassett Green Road, another on the green in Leaside Way and one in Summerfield Gardens.

THE SUMMER PARTY

The party was held on Saturday 2nd July on the large green in Ethelburt Avenue. Thank you to Michelle and Ken Hickling and Mark for the BBQ, Arianna Applin for face painting and Verity Robson for organising the children's games.

THE COMPANY MEETING

The first Members Meeting of Herbert Collins Estates Ltd was held via Zoom on 10th May. An attendance of only 18 was very disappointing. The meeting was chaired by John Green. John Dixon presented the results of the questionnaire that was completed by residents. These results informed the draft new policy on alterations which Ray George presented. We will hear more later about the policy at this AGM.

WARD BOUNDARIES

HCERA discovered that Southampton City Council had submitted a proposal for boundary changes that would see the Estate carved in two between Swaythling and Bassett across Bassett Green Road. HCERA submitted responses of our own indicating that putting a boundary in the middle of a conservation area and residents association is inappropriate. This was successful and the Boundary Commission said "There was widespread opposition for the proposal to include Leaside Way Estate in Bassett ward. Those that responded stated that this proposal would break significant community ties between the Leaside Way Estate and Ethelburt Avenue, noting the estate's presence in the Bassett Green Conservation Area and Herbert Collins Estates Residents' Association. The submissions provided supporting evidence which demonstrated community ties. We propose to maintain Leaside Way and surrounding streets in Swaythling ward."

PLANNING

HCERA gets informed by the Council of planning applications within the this Conservation Area and these are passed on to the HCERA committee (and to the HCEL directors). This helps the Committee fulfill the first object of the association, namely "To advance and protect the interests of the Residents and preserve the amenities of the district". A comment may be made on behalf of HCERA on the Council's planning public-access website.

MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER BODIES

The Association is a member of the City of Southampton Society, North Southampton Community Forum and Southampton Voluntary Services. The City of Southampton Society takes a keen interest in planning applications and frequently makes comments on planning applications in this conservation area. The North Southampton Community Forum asked HCERA for their concerns: top was crime, such as breaking into cars and then came stopping areas being turned into student ghettos by planning and licensing.

FULL FIBRE BROADBAND

On most of the Estate we are still awaiting of installation of full fibre broadband. The holdup is delay in a wayleave agreement of toob with Abri.

THANKS

I would like to thank all those who make HCERA possible. Thank you to all the people who give up their time to attend committee meetings, to the secretary and treasurer, to those who moderate the Facebook Group, to Dan Hopgood who convenes the Road Improvement Group, and to our webmaster Nic Monks. I also thank Hardmoor Early Years Centre for hosting this meeting.

Ray George, HCERA Chairman.