

Victoria Road Group

Notes of the meeting held on Friday 9th June 2017 at Sam and Ali's, no.56

Present:

Sam (Chair), Ali, Jonathan (notes), Sally, Paul, Mary, Alfred, Jessica, Jean, Mick, Philippa, Anna, Gordon

1 Apologies

Received from Mike and Mireille, Bob and Vickie, Sue Bates.

2 Notes of previous meeting

Those present agreed they were a proper record.

3 Matters arising from the previous meeting

3.1 Welcome pack

Jonathan reported that some useful progress had been made on the update as called for by the previous meeting, and it should be ready for review in no more than two weeks. We should review previous meeting notes to make a list of households that might value a copy when it is ready.

Action: Jonathan

3.2 Logo artwork

Peter Street had been very busy with a major carpentry commission but was still planning to do some artwork.

4 Big Green Balloon Day review

4.1 General feedback

The afternoon time was felt to have been preferable to a morning event. A number of youngsters from outside Victoria Road had attended; this was thought to be appropriate and the presence of younger people had contributed to a good atmosphere. There was some concern that not as many people attended as had been hoped.

Ali had spoken with numerous residents in connection with the road closure, and sensed that many people had been looking forward to it but had not been able to attend because of higher-priority commitments such as children's sporting events.

There was some concern that, because the setup had begun earlier than originally planned, some potential helpers had felt that they had nothing to do. Perhaps we need to be more precise in our requests to helpers. However, it was noted that a great deal of support had been given by Illy, Chris, Ian and Sue among others. It was suggested that we could approach such people for help with the Garden Party in July, as a way of reinforcing our connection with them.

4.2 Reports on specific activities

Plant stall/advice (Mary): the plant-swap had been a success, but the advice "clinic" probably did not justify the effort put into it.

Bike workshop: *Sam* reported that he had enjoyed doing it, and there had been a positive atmosphere.

Games (*Mick*): this had been an important feature of the afternoon and *Mick* was thanked by the meeting for his work on it. *Philippa* noted that larger games had been more successful. It was unfortunate that a few parts had been mislaid from some borrowed games, and some of the model mice had gone missing. Table tennis was well-used and is an easy thing to set up, but we need to be conscious of the risk of balls being lost; on a future occasion we should obtain some spare balls in advance. *Mick* noted that the artificial grass was useful to provide a soft surface and focus of activity, but would have been even better if it were larger. Perhaps the games could have been moved a little further from the boundary of the road closure, to increase the sense of security.

Drumming (*Paul*): This had been very popular. The use of rugs had created a good atmosphere.

Pet show (*Philippa*): A very entertaining event, with 6 dogs and a tortoise. *Philippa* had improvised the contest and prizes to suit the contestants who arrived on the day. It was noted that some edible prizes for children were perhaps larger than appropriate.

Auction: Many items were not provided until the event itself. It was agreed that the proceeds of sale of a toy helicopter (£28) were to be given to a children's leukaemia charity, at the request of the donor *Mike*. We were not able to identify the donor further, and it was agreed that we would trawl the email list to try to identify and thank him.

Action: Jonathan (email list), Sam

Barbeque: *Chris* did most of the work, supported by *Peter* and *Jane Amies*.

Tea stall and bar: These were held outside the *Amies'* house. The bar was largely run by *Ian Jones*.

4.3 Other observations

Sam had taken a gift to *Jane* and *Peter Amies*, who had been particularly accommodating about the bar arrangements.

Some concern was expressed about the poorly defined end of the event; there had been some slightly negative comments about this from those attending. Helpers need to know when they should be available to help. It might have been appropriate for there to have been a more detailed plan available.

There were not enough helpers at the start, so the core team did a great deal of work – *Paul* noted that he walked 12,000 paces on the day according to his pedometer.

Ali was thanked for her efforts in respect of the road closure, which was felt to have been a very valuable feature of the whole event. The amount of available space was more than adequate.

4.4 Finance

Note: Provisional figures were reported at the meeting. The final results noted here were supplied by *Anna* after the meeting.

The event as a whole had yielded a profit of **£148.25** made up as follows:

Event	Takings	Expenditure	Reason for expenditure
Cake stall	45.00		
Auction	113.00		
Bar	199.77	150.88	Wine and beer
Pet show		8.15	Rosettes
		10.19	Prizes
Misc		26.35	Balloons, barbeque buns
		13.95	Toys
TOTAL	357.77	209.52	

4.5 Conclusions

There was some discussion about whether we should do this again (broadly positive support) and how often it should occur; the issue should be discussed at future meetings. On a future occasion it would be important to consider setting precise timings for helpers. Live music would be a welcome addition.

5 Future VRG events

5.1 Garden Party (16th July, 3pm-5pm, No.59)

Paul will draft an invitation. Jonathan will arrange for printing on card as usual. The invitation should go out as soon as possible.

Action: Paul, Jonathan

The possibility of a raffle or draw, with numbers on the invitations, was briefly discussed but did not gain wide support.

Noted that Jonathan and Sally's large gazebo had reached the end of its life, but several smaller ones are available. Those noted below to provide them on the day. Paul asked for help carrying his rather heavy gazebo.

Action: Paul, Sam, Jonathan

Seating for about 25 is already available at No.59, as are the two VRG trestle tables and another long table. Jonathan asked for additional chairs and small tables from anyone who could offer them – details to be agreed on the day.

Sally and Jonathan can provide crockery, tea and sugar. Mary will obtain milk and soft drinks.

Action: Jonathan, Mary (on the day)

Mick will provide name labels and suitable pens.

Action: Mick

Mary to organize tea-serving rota.

Action: Mary

It was felt that we should specifically ask some individuals to help (as noted above in Big Green Balloon Day feedback). **Philippa** to ask Jonathan and Anna. **Paul** to ask Chris and Maika. **Mary** to ask Sara and Ian. **Mick** to ask Illy. **Sally** to ask Lindsay and Andy (No.61). **Sam** will direct helpers on the day.

Actions: as noted

The Safari Supper (see below) should be highlighted at the event with a poster or leaflets.

5.2 Safari Supper (21st October)

There was some discussion whether we still wish to do this in view of the similar 7 Roads Group event in May, but the overall feeling was that we should go ahead. Paul would prepare an initial poster/flyer. Jessica, Alfred and Jonathan offered to do the logistics, but this could be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

Action: Paul

6 AOB

6.1 Donation

Paul proposed that we make a donation of £200 to Cutteslowe Community Centre. This was agreed unopposed.

6.2 Email etiquette

Paul noted that users of the "vrgmail" discussion list occasionally had continued a private discussion with the whole group inappropriately copied. Jonathan was asked to modify the email template to help remind users of how to take discussions off the group.

Action: Jonathan

7 Date of next meeting

Monday 4 September 2017, at Gordon and Anna's (no.52), 8.00-9:30pm.

The meeting adjourned after thanking Sam and Ali for their generous hospitality.