

VICTORIA ROAD GROUP

Notes of a meeting held on Sunday 4 November 2018 at 59 Victoria Road

Present:

Philippa O'Connor (Chair), Jonathan Bromley (notes), Mary Lewis, Mick O'Connor, Sally Bromley, Vickie Crabtree, Sam Clarke, Ali Clarke, Gordon Buchanan, Anna Buchanan, Jean Knox, Alfred Osborne, Jessica Osborne, Mike Haffey, Mireille Fouquet

1 Apologies

Lillette Burnard, Paul Lewis, Bob Crabtree, Barbara Harriss-White

2 Notes of previous meeting

Jean Knox's apologies had not been recorded. Otherwise the notes were accepted as a record of the meeting on 10th August 2018.

3 Matters arising: dates for 7 Roads and VRG events

As agreed at the previous meeting, Ali Clarke (7 Roads chair) had taken our proposed date to their meeting to facilitate cooperation between the two groups on event dates. In consequence, 7Roads had postponed their February 2019 event to avoid clash with VRG's quiz. Ali, and through her the 7 Roads committee, were thanked for doing this.

4 Finance

Anna reported that our current bank balance was £364.21 – almost unchanged since the last meeting. We expect to spend about £70 on insurance soon, and about £100 for the Christmas event. We should aim to raise at least £200 for the coming year.

5 Garden party

There was general agreement that it had been an excellent occasion. A few pictures had been made available and showed several new faces and younger participants. The date in September had worked well, possibly because it was not in holiday time.

There was some further discussion of dates for next year's events. The Garden Party was scheduled for July 14th and Green Balloon Day for 1st June. Ali questioned whether it's too much community stuff in a short period for families. The meeting felt that the big 7RG weekend (8/9 June) was too close to GBD and might cause some tension. Wimbledon ends on 14 July, making it a poor choice for our Garden Party. After some discussion, changing those dates as follows was proposed and agreed:

- Green Balloon Day: 11th May 2019
- Garden Party: 8th Sept 2019

It was suggested that we might set up some casual "drop-in" events over the summer, to be discussed at a future meeting.

6 Future events

6.1 Film night

Ali and Sam were considering a film evening on 7th Dec 2018 – film TBD. They would publicise it by email nearer the time.

6.2 Christmas event (16th December)

16th Dec 2018 with drinks at Sam and Ali's – carols 5.15pm, drinks 6pm. Paul Lewis was willing to be involved with leading carols, and Mick would help. Singing would start at the east end of the street. Some tasks needed to be allocated:

- Invitation: **Philippa** will prepare content, **Paul** will edit, **Jonathan** will print, **Mick** and **Vickie** will distribute by 25th November. It was suggested that the invitation should form part of a newsletter which would also trail our 25th anniversary in 2019 and announce other dates.
- **Mary** and **Vickie** will prepare mulled wine and can source all ingredients except wine. Someone needs to obtain about 12 bottles of red wine. All participants are invited to bring food on the day.
- Clearing up – no specific arrangements were made; it was assumed the usual supporters will stay and help.

It was emphasized that this month's newsletter should include a teaser for our "amazing" 25th-anniversary events next year, for which detailed ideas would be developed at our next meeting. **Ali** agreed to curate a list of good ideas submitted by anyone. We could consider seeking out raffle or competition prizes from local businesses – ViaviBe gym was specifically suggested. Sally proposed a plant growing competition that would span the year from seedlings in early spring to a harvest and judging in early autumn.

6.3 *Media Madness: 27th Jan 2019*

This month's newsletter should announce the date and format; a smaller flyer nearer the date would give final details instructing everyone to bring their material in advance. **Mick** and **Jonathan** were appointed to take away any excess to charity shops. **Paul** and **Mary** kindly offered No.46 as a venue. **Mick** and **Jonathan** would distribute a flyer by 6th Jan.

[*Note after the meeting:* It appears no-one was nominated to create the flyer. **Paul** and **Jonathan** have material from earlier years.]

6.4 *Quiz (etc): 2nd March*

This event needs to raise some money and will probably be a quiz, but there were some suggestions that a different format could be considered. **Philippa** will book the Lower Church Hall and is happy to be involved with planning it after standing down as Chair. **Sally, Anna** and **Ali** will meet as a sub-group to begin planning. Anna suggested we might set up a dedicated email address to be used for booking; Jonathan noted this was very easy to do but someone must be willing to monitor it. The next VRG meeting will organize publicity and finalise how people should register or book for the event.

7 **Chair for 2019**

Philippa re-stated her intention to stand down at the end of this year. She noted that the role requires regular thinking ahead to next meeting, ensuring that agenda and minutes are prepared and circulated, chairing the meetings, and keeping track of follow up actions – including taking initiative to remind people who have agreed to undertake tasks. However, there is a great deal of support available. Mike congratulated Philippa on doing it very well and noted that it's perhaps not as easy as it looks.

It was asked whether there might be a future merger of VRG into 7 Roads Group. There was strong preference for keeping VRG as an independent entity.

The meeting discussed the possibility of splitting the role. Event preparation, and coordination of helpers, could be undertaken by a separate person for each event. Chair would then have responsibility only for meetings (including agenda and minutes). That was felt to be a useful way to spread the burden, although it was emphasized that each event's coordinator would have to be willing to look after all aspects of that event, requiring some thoroughness.

It was noted that potential chairs and coordinators were likely to be drawn from the people present at this meeting, and it would be good to increase the pool of available people. There was a risk that VRG is seen as a clique even though we make it very clear that everyone is welcome.

After further discussion, **Sally** agreed to stand as chair for meetings with **Philippa** available as backup. Philippa also asked that we set up a rota for people to take meeting notes rather than asking for a volunteer at each meeting, and this was agreed.

The meeting thanked Philippa for her very successful chairing throughout 2018.

8 **AOB**

The meeting was pleased to learn of the birth of Bill and Diana Dutton's granddaughter Lyra this morning.

9 **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 17th Jan 2019 at 8pm, at No.56 by kind invitation of Sam and Ali.