

VICTORIA ROAD GROUP

VRG Meeting 2nd May 2020

Present: Sam (Chair); Ali; Sally; Jonathan; Lindsay; Barbara; Anna; Gordon; Jessica; Alfred; Paul; Mary

1. Green Balloon Day

This has been cancelled, for safety's sake.

It was agreed that this is the sensible thing to do but that it would be nice to mark the day in some way – Green Balloon Day has been happening for thirty years and is a symbol of our community. Perhaps we could at least put out green balloons. The rules about lockdown are somewhat inconsistent and we might be able to do something simple, even though some people will be too anxious to go outside (it is a matter of personal choice).

Jonathan said it would be good to have something optimistic to look forward to and suggested making future plans public.

Paul suggested everyone learning the Wombles' song (they were the champions of recycling).

Action: Barbara and Ali to consider what might be possible.

2. Front Garden Competition

So far there have been only 3 entries to this. Jessica suggested that the leaflet might have gone out too early and that another reminder would be useful.

Lindsay proposed changing it from a competition to a celebration – Mary could write to those who have entered to explain. Ali suggested putting up cardboard placards in various gardens along the road reminding people.

Action: Mary and Sam will confer to do the wording.

3. Victoria Road Group Support

Paul reported that there have been 32 volunteers but that only three requests for help had been received. It seems that most people have their own arrangements of helping each other. Ali suggested promoting it more – signs, etc.

It was agreed that Paul and Sam would do a leaflet to put through the doors of people who are not on the email list – it would appear to have gone to the whole road, not just them.

Action: Sam and Paul

4. Green Skip

A couple of people in the Group had discussed whether, in the light of the garden waste not being collected, VRG should hire a green skip. As the collections are now being reinstated on May 14th (with the **green** bins), and the tips are about to reopen, it won't be necessary.

5. Any Other Business

VRG / 7RG relationship: Ali raised a note of concern about this. She said that we (VRG) may have been perceived by a number of the active 7RG committee members to have shown a lack of interest in some of the more vulnerable in our roads, particularly the 2 smallest of the 7, by doing our own thing so fast. Two of the roads within the seven do not have the critical mass to do the same. This was clearly not our intention and we were setting up something different from the support system that was set up shortly after in the local area. Ali pointed out that this situation is unprecedented..the level of haste and the feelings of vulnerability and confusion re the pandemic. 7RG and VRG co-exist well in normal times by being checking out each other's overlapping or potentially competing events or any actions that might cause confusion about who is doing what and reaching agreements on them. There was no conclusion or action recommended from this discussion; simply, perhaps, for us to be aware of this awkward moment as we approach the post-lockdown time and start organising our next events.

6 date of Next Meeting: Sat 30th May, 11am by zoom.