**Notes of the AGM of the StQW Neighbourhood Forum and St Helens Residents Association - November 16th 2017**

Present: Henry Peterson (Chair), Maggie Tyler (Treasurer), Jenny Harborne, Richard Ehrman, Jimmy Makromallis, Cllr Blakeman, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Bakhtiar and approx 45 members of the association/forum.

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Apologies were read out and noted. The Chair welcomed new members and explained that the association and the forum share a common membership, now over 420 residents living in the area. The association had established the StQW Neighbourhood Forum in 2013 in order to prepare a neighbourhood plan, which had been successful at its referendum in February 2016.

1. **Annual report and financial report**

The tragic fire at Grenfell tower continued to impact on the lives of many local residents. The association had submitted views on the remit of the Public Inquiry, which was moving slowly. Rehousing of those who lost their homes was also proceeding slowly, with care being taken to ensure that permanent rehousing solutions are the right ones.

MT reported that there had been very little movement on the Association’s accounts, which retained a small balance.

1. **Elections to management committees for 2017/18**

The following were re-elected to the management committee of St Helens Residents Association

Chair Henry Peterson

Treasurer Maggie Tyler

Secretary Tania Martin

Other members: Nigel Whitbread, Jenny Harborne, Catherine Mannheim, Ben Joseph, William Cooper, David Marshall, Fiona Withey, Jimmy Makromallis.

The following were re-elected to the management committee of the StQW Neighbourhood Forum

Andre Michaud (Bracewell Rd)

William Cooper (Eynham Road)

Richard Ehrman (Latimer Road building owner)

Jenny Harborne (Highlever Road)

Tania Martin (Highlever Road)

Henry Peterson (Chair) (Highlever Road)

Nigel Whitbread (Wallingford Avenue)

Fiona Withey (Kelfield Gardens)

Andrew Hanson (Highlever Road)

David Marshall (Finstock Road)

Steve Divall (St Helens Church)

The Chair explained that there were 3 vacant places on each body, given the maximum of 14 members in each case. Any member wishing to join the management committee should contact the Chair at sthelensassn@aol.com.

By July 2018, the StQW Forum would need to apply to RBKC for re-designation, as its initial 5 year lifespan would end at that date.

1. **News from Kensington Town Hall**

The meeting noted that a new ‘Leadership Team’ has been in place at the Council since June, replacing the former Cabinet. The Council had cancelled or put on hold a number of projects, including the proposed new Kensington Library and the estate renewal programmes planned for Silcheste Estate and the Barlby Treverton Estate.

Cllr Thompson gave details of the new Grenfell Recovery Scrutiny Committee, now meeting every 3 weeks with him as its chair. This body was overseeing and monitoring the decisions on Grenfell made by the Leadership Team and the Councils executive. Its first meetings had been well attended, with time given to contributions and input from the public.

1. **Update on local impact of 2015 Housing Act – Jan Sweeny**

Local resident Jan Sweeney gave an update on the impact of the 2016 Housing and Planning Act. This had been less than feared when she previously reported to the forum/association, as several of the originally proposed measures in the Bill had not been brought into effect (including ‘pay to stay’). But the Act was still having a significant effect on security of tenure and rent levels for housing association tenants, and making it hard for many to remain living in the Borough.

1. **Planning news - Imperial campus, TfL Overground consultation and the future of Old Oak**

The Chair presented a set of slides giving a round up of planning issues affecting the neighbourhood

* The Imperial College 3 storey tower on Wood Lane was nearing completion, and it appeared that the College would be retaining the residential apartments for use by its staff and those of Imperial Health Trust (lower third of the building is for Imperial ‘key workers’).
* Imperial had consulted on outline plans for its 13 acre site south of Westway. Six areas to be built out over an extended period for a mix of business and academic use. The second tower now to be located at the south of the site closer to Westfield
* Latest date for construction of the underpass between Latimer Road and Wood Lane now summer 2019. Initial work on design and legal work has been very slow since the underpass was first promised as a ‘community benefit’ in 2013. Estimated costs have risen to £10m but Imperial remain committed to the project (which is a S106 obligation agreed with LBHF at the time planning permission was granted).
* TfL were consulting on two potential new Overground stations to serve to Old Oak Common HS2/QE Line interchange. Agreed that StQW should respond repeating the case for a new station at ‘Westway Circus’ as a first priority, given that the HS2 station will not open until 2026 at the earliest and the pace of housing development on the Cargiant site remains uncertain.
* Images shown of the developments granted planning permission by the OPDC along Scrubs Lane. These three residential towers bore no relationship to the initial OPDC proposals that Scrubs Lane should be a ‘sensitive edge’ to the redevelopment of Old Oak, with low and medium rise buildings. StQW/SHRA had responded to the consultation on the Regulation 19 OPDC Local Plan and noted that an Examination in Public will take place in early 2018.
1. **Any other business**

Noted that Bassett House School had acquired the vacant former Addis Café/United Dairies shop unit at 73 St Helens Gardens, and the flats above. A planning application for conversion of the building for a mix of classrooms and staff accommodation, as an extension to the school, would be submitted shortly.

Agreed that subject to details on e.g. noise insulation, this would be an acceptable use for a shop which has been vacant for several years, and would bring much needed footfall to the shopping parade. The proposed change of use was consistent with policies for shopping parades in the StQW Neighbourhood Plan, which allow for D class use as well as A1 retail.

Noted that it was expected that the St Helens Café, recently closed, would re-open fairly shortly with new tenants and a broadly similar operation.

The meeting ended at 9pm