

Chair's Report – AGM November 2016 – Janis Denselow

QPARA continues to be in great shape and it has been a huge privilege to act as Chair for the past 3 years. It is now my time to stand aside and pass this role on to a fellow QPARA member and resident. As I do this, I can reflect upon the many and varied QPARA achievements – the events, the environmental improvements, the newsletters, the planning responses – and the QPARA doggedness and determination to make sure that Queen's Park remains a wonderful place to live, work, play and bring up a family.

As I step down from the role of Chair I would like to extend a huge personal thanks to the many members of the residents' association that make a real difference to our wonderful Queen's Park area.

- To the officers that organise the many events, keep our finances in order, maintain and enhance the membership, produce newsletters, keep our social media presence;
- to the action committees who ensure we can respond to issues in an informed and timely fashion (whether that is to do with planning, parking, trees, health, the environment, streetscape, transport)
- to the zone reps who tirelessly distribute minutes and newsletters
- to the residents who regularly attend our monthly meetings
- to those who beaver away in the background –keeping our planters refreshed with new plants and regular watering, organising events, attending meetings

This is not an exhaustive list but one that demonstrates the breadth and depth of activity that enriches our community. And, to quote an absent colleague: "A strong community takes a long time and much energy to build, but only a short time and a little apathy to disintegrate".

But the work is never done and the challenges are never over. As I pass on the role of Chair, I thought it good to list just a few of the challenges that will face us in the future:

- Air Pollution – our views and concerns have been well publicised. We have an Air Pollution Action Committee that is currently monitoring the air quality in Salusbury Road. This is just the very start of this massively important issue and we have an important role to play.
- Parking – After a rather disappointing review of parking undertaken by Brent, changes to the Parking arrangements have been made which we are concerned will only add to the pressures on Parking in Queen's Park rather than alleviating them. Our Transport, Parking and Streetscape Action Committee will continue to monitor this with the same forensic attention to detail and tenacity that they have done in the past.
- 'Queen's Park Futures' – This proposal, from one of our residents, argues that, thanks to our Treasurer's wise stewardship of funds, QPARA should be identifying a group of projects to invest in over the next 12 months – projects that address current issues and look to the future for our association. QPARA continues to demonstrate longevity but we do need to look towards the future and our sustainability. This will be a challenge we need to engage with in the years ahead.

- The Corrib – The story continues, The Corrib is still closed but QPARA is working with the new owners to help to open a new pub with an affordable community space. The next twelve months will be critical.
- Planning – the tsunami of building work in our area looks like proceeding unabated. Even those houses fully renovated with in fills and loft extensions are undergoing complete refurbishment, sometimes including subterranean Basements. We need to seek out opportunities to remind our local estate agents that newcomers are buying into a Conservation Area with a Design Guide to advise on sympathetic design improvements. We also need to continue with our Basement Campaign to secure a more community spirited strategy that blunts some of the anti-social elements that these entail. We also have a significant building site soon to start on our boundary on the Queen's Park Station site.

Last, but not least, I was very proud to be invited to attend the recent Green Flag Award ceremony where our very own Queen's Park received this award for the 20th year in succession. The park is at the heart of our community and such a special place. I learned that the 2 biggest pressures facing London parks today arise from population expansion and global warming. QPARA needs to continue to be forward thinking as we seek to help to preserve this space as it adapts to these (and other) challenges.