

Friends of Richmond Green Annual General Meeting 2015

Richmond Business School

23 March 2015

1. **Apologies:** Mr Peter Griffiths; Mr and Mrs Julian Paxton; Mr and Mrs Lyndon Jones; Mrs Gabriella Walker; Mrs Anne Sebba; Mr Nicholas Coleman.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** copies of which had been posted on the web site and had been circulated at the meeting. Approved as a correct record:

Proposed: Mr Newton Dunn

Seconded: Mr Winslade

3. **Matters Arising:** None were raised.
4. **Report of the Executive:** The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the following matters covered in more detail in the Newsletter dated March 2015 and distributed to all members of FORG.
 - a. **Events:** The number of events on Old Deer Park were a matter for concern. They tended to start early, with sound testing as early as 6 am, with amplified sound causing excessive noise pollution for residents. The Executive is working with the Council to monitor and control the pollution caused by future events.

Papers have just been made public by the Council on the arrangements for the Fanzone on Old Deer Park to accommodate up to 10,000 supporters during the Forthcoming Rugby World Cup. The Council will need to seek planning consent (from itself) for the facility which might also be used for concerts and other events on non match evenings. The scope for noise pollution, traffic congestion and asb are matters of grave concern and need to be expressed by residents and FORG during the planning application process.

Concern was also expressed at the events on The Green. It has been agreed that the Richmond Running Festival on 9 September will avoid The Green and action needs to be taken to reduce the commercial activities that have swarmed around the Charity Cricket match in July.
 - b. **Old Deer Park Working Group:** Progress has been made with the Council in formulating proposals for the renovation of the facilities on Old Deer Park. Representatives of FORG are to meet the consultants who are advising the Council.
 - c. **Heathrow:** The Chairman praised Peter Willan for the immense work he had done for the Richmond Heathrow Campaign.
 - d. **Licensing:** There were few applications to report. Note was made of the critical importance of the Cumulative Impact Policy in defeating applications for new licences.
 - e. **Busking:** The Council is considering placing controls on the proliferation of buskers in the town.
 - f. **Trees:** There have been a number of meetings with the Trees Team at the Council with little progress having been made. There appears to be an extreme reluctance to prune trees within the FORG area, despite the evident gains in light and grass growth. Mrs Bouchier mentioned the specific need to

prune the large plane tree in Friars Lane. In response to the wishes of those attending, the Chairman undertook to consider a different approach to the Council.

- g. Telephone booths:** The Council has issued an enforcement order requiring BT to reinstate the telephone equipment in one of the booths on Paved Court. It remains to be seen if the sale to the “charitable organisation” based in Brighton who submitted a planning application (refused) for a café kiosk, is allowed to proceed. We are very grateful to our local Councillor Peter Buckwell for his help and support in this matter.
- h. Grants by FORG:** The Chairman stated that consideration was being given to a grant to facilitate the replacement of the plinth on which the stone fountain stands. There would be an opportunity to discuss other ideas in AOB.
- i. Web site:** The architect of the FORG web site had left the area and had resigned from the Executive. However, he was helping the South West London Environmental Network to design and build a new web site. SWLEN would also maintain the web site in the future and all their services carried no charge. Commander Clarke referred to film of The Green available in the Museum which might be incorporated into the web site. Others suggested photographs, also available in the Museum. Mark Sebba cautioned at the heavy usage of expensive broadband if film were incorporated. Several people volunteered to send photos of the Green for the new website and all contributions would be gratefully received.

5. Financial Report:

Mark Sebba summarised the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet of FORG. He also thanked the Chairman for her hard work on behalf of residents. There followed a discussion on a possible template for contributions from film companies to compensate residents for the disturbance from filming. The Chairman noted that payments were made by the film companies to the Council which then allocated a proportion to FORG when residents’ parking had been restricted.

The Accounts for the period 1 January until 31 December 2014 were approved:

Proposed: Mr Harris

Seconded: Martin Anderson

6. Election of Officers:

Vivien Harris and Mark Sebba were elected as Chairman and Treasurer. Anna Newton Dunn, Peter Willan, Martin Anderson, Peter Griffiths and Graham Walker were each elected as Members of the Executive.

7. AOB

- a.** Commander Clarke noted that the collection from the post box close to the Richmond Palace Gate had been changed from evening to early morning. The Chairman undertook to ask the Post Office if this could be reversed. Commander Clarke also commented on commercial rubbish left on the pavement in George Street overnight. The Chairman undertook to obtain the rules on rubbish collection from the Council.

In answer to a question, Commander Clarke also commented that the tree close to the above post box had been felled because it was rotten.

- b.** Mr and Mrs Lambert asked whether there were rules governing the use of the Cricketers and the Princes Head of Paved Court. They live next to the Cricketers and are disturbed by the massing of drinkers outside the premises. Peter Willan said there were and would be happy to advise them. Peter Willan also mentioned the success achieved by the Richmond Society in constraining Encore on Hill Rise.
- c.** Mrs Bouchier suggested that FORG in conjunction with Richmond Museum should consider a lecture on the history of Richmond Green. New residents would find it fascinating and would promote interest in both The Green and FORG.

All agreed to the use of FORG funds to improve the surround of the stone fountain; and supported the idea of a lecture in conjunction with the Richmond Museum.

- d.** Mr Winslade suggested a prominent appeal for email addresses on the face of the next newsletter.
- e.** Peter Willan noted that the Police had not imposed the dispersal zone on The Green in 2015 and asked the meeting for views on the level of ASB on The Green. All were agreed that it had reduced in 2014 and that the Police had responded quickly and effectively to periodic disturbances. However, residents must remain alert to any return to the severe problems from which residents had previously suffered.