

## **Green Street Green Association AGM – 10 May 2019**

### **Report of the Chair of the Village Society Committee**

Since taking over as Acting Chair last year and most recently Acting Secretary, the Committee and I have been taking this opportunity to examine our place in the community, and how we can better meet the needs of an ever changing and diverse membership base so that we do not lose relevance with younger members.

One of the challenges we often encounter is a lack of understanding of our proposition and what it is we do or stand for. As many of you are no doubt aware, we have never had any sort of official branding or logo so thought it was now time to rectify this and really create an “identity”. Over the last four weeks, we have been giving you the chance to have your say and determine which logo best represents us, and we have received over 130 votes from approx. 22% of our membership. The results are now in and we have a clear winner which will be announced in the next newsletter in June/July, rolled out at our upcoming events, and posted on our website. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that voted as we have appreciated your support of this initiative and it has been very heart warming.

As a committee we have also discussed at length what values best define us as an organisation and have broadly agreed on the following:

- Protect and preserve our local assets, environment, and the greenbelt for future generations.
- Create a local village environment which engenders a sense of pride for all.
- Champion projects which best serve and address the needs of a diverse community.
- Drive engagement with/from residents by producing and attending local events.
- Promote positive awareness of the Committee and its place in the community.

We will be updating these on our website shortly and they will also be available to view in our Terms of Reference document in the “The Association” tab of the website.

As always, we continue to keep a line of communication open with the local councillors to further residents’ interests regarding amenities and the environment, some of which continue to be ongoing, such as the parking situation at Vine Road School. In addition, we have been working closely with them to bring several projects to fruition in the coming months which should see flower baskets installed along the High Street (in time for summer), “Welcome to our Village” signs on at least one end of the village, and painting/ad hoc works which should contribute to a fabulous looking High Street for all.

It has also been another successful year for events. I will leave Janet, Head of the Events, to update you in more detail, but overall all events this year were well attended and raised funds for the Association. We will be reinvesting these into projects and partnerships in the community as well as further events, so please watch this space! This is only our second year of running events so we are always open to suggestions of themes or topics in which you may be interested.

In the next few months we will also be building upon our relationship with Ashmore Vets to help some of those who are in desperate need to obtain treatment for their animals. Ashmore will be determining those applicants who best fit this criteria and they will be assessed on a case by case basis. This is one of the ways we would like to be able to add value and make a difference in the

local community. We are also exploring how we can partner with iCARE, the stroke unit, and have been endeavouring to support the local May queens to recruit new members and publicise their upcoming series of engagements. We are always looking for further projects to champion, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think you have something that would be relevant or suitable.

However, on a more sombre note we are now minus all Committee officers (Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary) and have dwindling numbers on the Committee. We are actively recruiting but, without someone stepping forward to take on at least some of these roles, it is unlikely that we will be able to move forward into 2020 without some type of intervention. Organisations of this nature are becoming rarer and are really not able to survive without their membership's active involvement at a committee level.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers and Committee members for all their hard work and involvement throughout the year and, of course, all the members of the Association for their continued support. I look forward to continuing to lead the committee over the coming months as I feel that we are entering a new chapter with many exciting opportunities ahead of us. I will be staying afterwards so please come and have a chat if you think you might be able to assist us, or alternatively feel free to speak to me about any of our projects, events, or any other related Committee matters.

Eleanor Pardoe, Acting Chair