



Warren Wood Residents Association 2023

Annual General Meeting 17th May 2023

Committee Attendees: Celia Darrington (chair), Chris Mullord (minutes), Michael Chilvers, Duncan Coupland (treasurer), Abbie Russell, Graham Keens, Rosie Lewry and Pete Edwards (secretary)

Resident Attendees: see following page

Guests: Julia Wassell - Wycombe Independent (Totteridge & Bowerdean) – in place of Andrea Baughan – Labour Party (Ryemead & Micklefield)

Apologies: Ivan Cicin-Sain, Inder and Rani Brar, Norman Ball, Andrea Baughan and Vernon Holmes

Location: Quakers Meeting House, London Road

Meeting opened at 20.06

Celia welcomed everyone to the AGM

Agenda Points

1. Minutes from the 2022 AGM approved and passed by a show of hands.
2. Chairman's Report (see following page) - Celia
 - Celia welcomed everyone and read the main points from the report.
3. Election of the committee members
 - No new nominations to join the committee.
 - Confirmed via majority show of hands for the committee to continue with current members.
4. Treasurer's Report (see following page) – Duncan
 - Duncan read the main points from the report.
 - Committee is low on funds due to ongoing rising costs associated with the website, AGM, assets (eg, marque and audio speaker) and events, but sub costs have been held and for some years during Covid deferred.
 - Proposal put forward to raise the currents subs of £10 per household to £15 per household. Unanimous agreement by a show of hands.
 - Question from the floor:
 - Q. should assets be written down over a period of time rather than one hit?
 - A. we rarely purchase assets so never been a consideration previously.



5. Neighbourhood Watch Report (see following page) – Rosie
 - Rosie has taken over from the previous head of NHW and read through the main point of the report.
 - Vernon Holmes will be deputy
 - Comment from the floor:
 - Residents reported drug use on the estate which seems to have now moved to Keep Hill. Drug issues are difficult for the police to deal with, most of the time it moves rather than is stopped.
 - If any residents notice any suspected dealing, please report to the police and also the NHW.

6. AOB
 - Village Green – no update as yet, still being followed up. Previous objection has been withdrawn, still awaiting response from the council. Thanks go to John Fowler for continuing to champion the case.
 - Christmas/Halloween Party – suggested to hold a party, as previously held, for residents' kids. Committee to take forward and discuss.

7. Special Guest – Julia Wassell
 - On the day of the AGM Julia had attended a Unitary Council Meeting where Arif Hussain had been elected to the council.
 - Julia highlighted the issues around Wycombe, such as homelessness (or perceived homelessness/fake), graffiti (90% of graffiti in HW area by 2 known people (and 40something year old and 20something year old apprentice)), diminishing market and empty shops. Comments from residents should be sent to local councillors.
 - WW still missing a sign and grit bin.
 - Wild flower area on the green to be left un-mown to help encourage wildflower diversity and pollinators.

Meeting closed at 21.17



Chairman's Report 2022

Hello Everyone

So, another year has flown by, and we seem to have managed to keep the dreaded Covid at bay for most of us thankfully, although there have been a few unfortunate sufferers along the way.

Throughout the last year, we have held quite a few events, although the weather was not as kind as it could have been for outdoor events – and our WWRA funds are sadly depleting which has had a knock-on effect on expenditure. More on that later from our Treasurer, Duncan Coupland.

Our ongoing quest for getting Village Green recognition is still being pursued by John Fowler – an ex-committee member -, and we hope that we will soon have a decision. It's been a long haul for about 5 years.

Since the last AGM in May 2022, we started off with our first Monthly BBQ of the year, which was well attended by about 35 people and included a fair number of new and younger residents which was good to see. Then we had the first major event in June, with our Platinum Jubilee Celebration which was a real success with around 100 residents attending, the highlight of which was the Mayor of High Wycombe Arif Hussain, and Councillor Nabeela Rana, joining us and planting a commemorative tree to mark the event. We included a Garden/Window display competition which was won by Simon & Debbie Dust at no. 15 The Brackens with their unusual Garden display.

The current Committee has several 'aging' members and we need new young blood, so in August, we welcomed a new member to the WWRA Committee – Rosie Lewry – who is very enthusiastic and proactive, (& young).

Ray Cook, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for over 20 years, decided to retire and we thanked him for his loyal service and presented him with a stone 'Neighbourhood Watch' garden statue. His role has now been taken over by Rosie Lewry who has already set up a WhatsApp group so that everyone can be involved.

In October we held our annual Progressive Supper which was attended by 27 residents, several of whom dressed up as 'Guys & Dolls'. Another successful event, with some excellent food being offered up as usual. Also in October it was Halloween, and although the weather was rather inclement, there were a lot of children roaming the estate for Trick or Treats. There were also some great decorations on some of the houses.

In November we had a Comedy Night at the Town Hall which was not greatly attended but was good fun with some good food. We had hoped to hold a Quiz night in early December, but unfortunately this had to be cancelled due once again to poor support. It is hoped that we can try again this year. December also brought our Carol singing event, and this year we raised a record £250 altogether for the Mayor's chosen charity, 'Growing Hope'.

Unfortunately our New Year's Eve fireworks on the green sadly had to be cancelled, once again due to bad weather, but there were several houses displaying Christmas lights & decorations throughout December/January, the best display being won by Ella & Dan at 31 The Briars.



We started off the 2023 events with an Italian wine tasting session in February, once again hosted by Graham Keens and presented by Derrick Carr, and this was very well attended by over 20 residents. In March, an Easter competition took place for the children, with residents displaying alphabet letters in their windows or gardens for the children to find and unscramble to make up an Easter phrase. Also, the Bridge Club restarted in March, and throughout the last year we have had several litter picking volunteer days, the last one of which recovered a record-breaking number of bags, so a big thank you to all those volunteers.

Then of course we have just had our Coronation Celebration on the green which was attended by nearly 100 people. The sun unexpectedly shone for us and it was considered a huge success. I hope all those of you who attended it enjoyed meeting up with everyone again. Long Live the King!

Our regular Coffee Mornings are still going strong, and if you would like to join in, please contact me – Celia Darrington – on darlingcreation30@gmail.com and I can send you more details. A few of our new residents have recently joined in and we would love to see more of you, especially as there has been quite a turnover of residents in the past couple of years.

We endeavour to keep our estate informed of any important issues and are always ready to lend an ear to our residents, and although not everything is within our control, or indeed in our remit, we will do our best to advise you.

The Committee are always grateful for any help or suggestions and would gladly welcome your assistance in running events and setting things up etc., so please let us know if you are willing to lend a hand.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Committee for once again enduring another year under my Chairmanship and for their loyal commitment and hard work. Please keep up the good work.

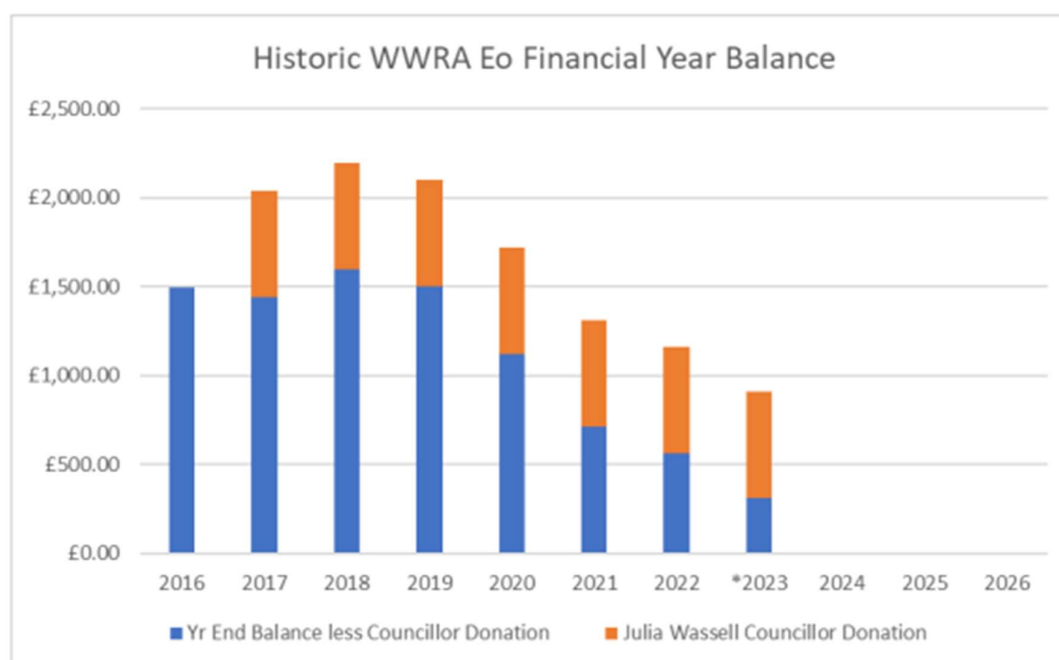
Thank you.

Celia Darrington
Chairman WWRA



Treasurer's Report 2022

Through the year ending March 2023 the funds of the WWRA shrank significantly for a fourth year. For an explanation of the first three of those years we need look no further than Covid, when as we know no subscriptions were requested by your Committee, since almost no community activities were possible. The significant differential between income and expenditure for the last year is more complex, being a combination of renewal of WWRA assets, cost of free to attend activities and maintenance of the Web site. It is noticeable that a high level of expenditure occurs at the beginning of each financial year, associated with AGM & Summer activities, and these therefore appear on the graph below as a part year predicted decline in financial health for this current year.



The orange bars of the above graph represent the value of Julia Wassell's donation of £600 made whilst she was still our local Councillor. This latter remains ringfenced for marking the transfer of our green space into a formal Village Green, which we still hope to happen, but does rather camouflage the true state of the WWRA finances.

I believe the WWRA functions effectively with a year-on-year balance of about £1000. This provides a financial buffer for support of social events and activities plus the administrative costs through the year. It seems likely that the current costs of operating the WWRA as it is now, are approximately £100 more per year than is generated from Household Memberships at the £10/yr rate, and so over the next two to three years the WWRA funds will decline to an untenable level unless changes are instituted. Either the WWRA must reduce costs by eliminating some non-essential but pleasant activities, such as Easter Competition prizes, New Year Fireworks, Coronation Celebrations (or whatever is next), Friday Night BBQ, AGM Snacks etc, which would generate savings of perhaps £250 or we must raise the Membership fee. If the membership was increased to £15 per Household, and the number of members can be maintained, the finances would benefit to the tune of approximately £320. This increased income, together with sensible control of expenditure should allow the WWRA balance to grow back to a more sustainable level at the end of 2024/25 of approximately £1000.



It is therefore recommended that we request an annual membership subscription from the WWRA household of £15 for the coming year to allow a wider range of events and activities to be planned for 2023-24, and to slowly rebuild the WWRA Finances towards the pre-Covid level.

Subscription envelopes will be distributed shortly, with payment possible by cash, cheque or BACS.

The contact information currently held by the WWRA will continue to be held securely in line with reasonable data protection practices. Should any residents wish to amend their contact details this will be possible by returning the subscription envelope, or at any time by contacting a member of the Committee who will assist.

The Accounts for the year 2022/23 are appended. These reflect the true position of the Association.

Duncan Coupland
WWRA Treasurer



Warren Wood Neighbourhood Watch **Annual Report 2022 - 2023**

Personnel changes and general

Over the last year, I am pleased to report that the level of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) on our estate has remained very low and I am therefore glad to have little to report in that respect. I took over as NHW Coordinator in November, having been handed to reins from Ray Cook and I must formally give my thanks to him for helping to get me set up and of course carrying out his role so diligently for so many years. I am also pleased to announce that Vernon Holmes has agreed to be the deputy NHW coordinator, supporting me in my role. I have decided to operate the scheme slightly differently as it has been the past, rather than with several sub-coordinators for different schemes within the estate, we are now operating as a whole, I hope that this will streamline efforts and is the best way to operate going forward, further details will follow below. My role on both the WWRA committee and with the NHW will add to this as there is naturally a lot of overlap between the work of both. I also aim to increase links with our nearest NHW schemes to be able to share relevant information.

Reported incidents

In the first 6 months of the year since the last AGM, no crimes were reported to NHW, and since November, I have only been made aware of two events, the theft of a wheelie bin, and the setting off of a firework in the early hours in the morning on the pavement next to the green, both isolated incidents. However, I have been made aware that some other low-level crimes have taken place and have not been reported to NHW. This highlights the need for an improvement in the communication to and from, and visibility of the WW NHW, as it will operate more effectively if we have more information on all crime and ASB on and affecting the estate no matter how small.

Changes to WW NHW communication

With the use of technology, communications and social media having changed, so NHW is changing. Historically, information and alerts to and from NHW have been communicated in person, via email, and less commonly mobile, with general information being available on the WWRA website. These methods will still continue to be used, with emails being forwarded using the WWRA mailing system, by the secretary, however, National NHW, and Wycombe District NHW have their own Facebook, Instagram (and Twitter) accounts with relevant information regularly shared. Being new to this myself, I am still working out the most effective and efficient way to use these platforms, but so far have set up our own Instagram account 'w.w.nhw' and am posting on the WWRA Facebook page using my own account at this time. I am sharing the posts deemed to be most relevant; you may wish to follow these accounts yourself and receive all information directly.



However, many people are not on, or do not regularly use these social media platforms, and I feel there is a need to be able to send out immediate relevant alerts to all on the estate who wish to receive them, and I believe WhatsApp is currently the best way to be able to do this. I recognise the following issues, 1) not everyone who wants to be alerted uses this app, and 2) being in the group will mean that your number is visible to all other members. To navigate the first issue, as these numbers are relatively small, these people can be sent separate text messages by myself or Vernon, or contacted in other ways when needed. As for the 2nd issue, people will be made aware of this, and many people have shared their numbers with other residents in other WhatsApp groups, or on the residents contact list, but unfortunately, there is no other way round this than they are not in the group and are also separately messaged. The key thing I will stress about this group is that it will be to disseminate **important NHW information regarding actual or potential crime and ASB only, not** for general chat. An example of this would be to alert people to 'dodgy' doorstep salesman doing the rounds (as was the case a couple of weeks ago), suspicious characters lurking around, or suspicious activity, anything that would be beneficial for all/most group members to know about or that they can potentially help with. If you've not already signed up to this group, please do. I have printed a QR code to link to the group above, or you can contact me on my mobile number 07709 192166 or by email rosie@wwra.co.uk. I welcome any feedback. N.B. please use this email address for communication **not** alerts@wwra.co.uk.

One thing that was common in the past within a NHW scheme is that neighbours would let their coordinator know if they are going away, so that people could keep an eye on their house. As we now have one large scheme for the whole of Warren Wood, this wouldn't work in the same way, so it is best if people inform who (and if) they choose, and hopefully any suspicious activity would be reported via the WhatsApp group.

Reporting Crime and ASB

I hope that the WhatsApp group and social media presence will increase the number of people being involved with our NHW and increase awareness and visibility. One outcome being that people will report crimes and ASB more readily, perhaps not always in the group but directly to me, as well as to the police or other relevant authority. I encourage everyone to report all crimes and ASB, sometimes people feel that it's not worth it, action won't be taken etc, but by not reporting it you are guaranteeing this is the case. The NHW have close links with the police and members of our Wycombe District team have regular meetings with Thames Valley Police, so I can feedback information to them, so I again emphasise to report anything, no matter how minor to both myself/Vernon and the police.



Useful contact info: (other than 999)

- Emergency SMS (text) service – pre registration required, if you are unable to speak, [link here](#).
- Non-emergencies can be reported to the police via:
 - Dialling 101 or online at www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident/
 - If you have a hearing/speech impairment, textphone service 18001 101, [link here](#).
- Thames valley police 0845 850 5505
- Crimestoppers (UK Independent Charity, anonymous) crimestoppers-uk.org/ 0800 555 111
- Email - Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.org.uk – no message needed just forward.
- Telephone – bogus phone calls can be reported to your telephone supplier, most providers have call protect/call safe free of charge services to block future calls from unwanted callers.
- Texts – spam texts can be forwarded free of charge to 7726 (spells out 'spam').
- Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>
- Trading Standards 0808 223 1133

Most Common Crimes

The most common crimes affecting the Wycombe area are:

1. Burglary
2. Vehicle Crime
3. Antisocial Behaviour
4. FRAUD: CONS AND SCAMS. The total number of these crimes is more than the other 3 together.



More information about how you can protect yourself and your community from these crimes will continue to be distributed separately via email. I was pleased with the uptake on the sale of the Defender Signal blocker pouches which help protect against relay theft/ key less ignition crime/break ins. Please let me know if you would like any more information or advice regarding protection against the above crimes.



WW NHW Alerts Group

WhatsApp group