

# FUSS

Friends & Users of Staplehurst Road Shops

## MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 16 FEBRUARY 2010

**Meeting Attendees:** Kathy Gasson (Chair) Ann Kashmiri (Vice Chair) , Ann Bligh (Treasurer), Iain Khan Gilchrist , Hazel & John Savill, Elaine Hayter , Arlette Dunn, David Lewis & Richard Shaw (New Member)

**Apologies sent:** Cllr Paul Bentley & Jim Mallory

### **FUSS FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Ann Bligh circulated the latest financial figures. This showed the position with regards to the Christmas Fair, FUSS Fun Night and Donations etc. The current financial position shows a total of £3,077.76 in the account.

### **LONDON IN BLOOM 2010 AND PLANTING/CLEAN UP DAYS.**

The RHS have requested an entry fee of £20 or, in the case of London in Bloom Trustees, a donation to help with the judging fees for London in Bloom. Members agreed that we should send the £20. It was decided we would hold a clean up day on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The members were unable to agree upon a date for the May planting which will now have to be decided upon at the next meeting as Kathy said we would need to ask John Thompson if Martin & Jim could assist us with the window boxes..

### **REPLACEMENT FOR THE ISLAND BED**

Unfortunately, inclement weather had delayed the making/siting of the replacement planting and seating arrangement. It was hoped this would take place mid March.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Members agreed that we should ask the Station Hotel if they could provide the finger buffet for the AGM with members/visitors purchasing drinks at the bar. Kathy agreed to ask John McEwan if this could be arranged and to establish the cost.

### **AOB**

Members were asked if anyone was interested in putting their name forward to assist in forming a Steering Group of Residents with a view to increasing awareness in the area to recycling. The information sheet was handed to Arlette Dunn who said she would contact Joe Kingston at the London Borough of Lewisham to discuss the matter further.

## **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES**

Members felt they would prefer to have a stall at Manor House Gardens rather than at People's Day due to it's location.

The HGCA have advised us that they are holding another event in May which is to be held in the grounds of St Swithuns Church. Kathy agreed to contact Jo Deverson to advise her that we would like to take part and would request further details. Ann Bligh asked members if they would save unwanted items which could be used for the tombola prizes and also requested childrens clothes and toys.

## **RETIRING MEMBERS**

Members were reminded that the posts of Chair and Vice Chair were being vacated at the AGM and to date nobody had requested to be considered for either post. Kathy said that it could be 'chaired/managed' by perhaps a few people within the group, as a joint venture, Arlette also suggested this could be shared between 3.or 4 people. Kathy did say that if it was agreed to go down the shared' option route consideration perhaps should be given to people being given specific responsibilities and contacts for the various activities we undertake, this would enable members to get to know the people within the Council etc who currently assist FUSS in their objectives.

## **NEW MEMBER – RICHARD SHAW**

Richard told us that film nights were being organised at The Station Hotel every two weeks. These would be held on a Sunday evening with a start time of 6pm.

## **ROAD/DROP DOWNS**

Kathy mentioned that Paul Bentley had very kindly been in contact with the Council with regard to the condition of Staplehurst Road both in respect of the road and drop downs. The Council had visited the area and had said that the only way to solve the problem was to resurface and that there was only money in the budget for 'potential hazardous areas' and our area did not fall into this category. Members considered that the state of the road at the bottom of the railway slope was especially dangerous since the rain had resulted in considerable 'pooling' at the base of the drop-down and could make it dangerous for cyclists and wheelchair users, also it is where people queue for the 273 bus. Members agreed to ring Envirocall the following day to register their concerns.

**Date of Next Meeting:** **16 March 2010 @ The Station**

**Many thanks to the Station Hotel for their hospitality**