

Brookvale Community Association

Report of General Committee

Booking Agent Report

Fortunately this last year has seen an increase in the number of bookings at the hall. Regular weekly bookings have varied from Brazilian dance, martial arts and tai chi to civil service retirement meetings, dog training, toddler and baby group, and a Saturday school. As well as regular classes the hall has also been used for birthday parties, christening celebrations, meetings and space for a theatre group and a magician to practice.

In the future I would like to see the hall used for more daytime bookings, and I think the younger community in Brookvale could really benefit from activities from the hall such as a youth club and more holiday play schemes.

Nina Burley

Secretary's Report

One of the first things that the new committee agreed to do at the beginning of the year was to change the type of lease the hall is under so that the BCA pays a peppercorn rent, but submits a business plan and annual reports to the council in return; this is still an on-going issue. We are now waiting for the deed of variation and a draft copy of the lease from the legal team at the council. It would be great if this on-going issue could finally be resolved this coming year. I would also like to see the committee build on the good work that has been done this year into next, with a variety of exciting events for the community to enjoy.

Kate Robbins

BCA Development Sub-committee Report

It has been a busy year with multiple major and minor developments being reviewed by the Planning Subcommittee. The Land North Of Churchill Way West development was deferred to properly work the major infrastructure issues raised from a combination of our objections and the Council Members' decision. .

27 Queens Road was refused by the Council Members due to the combination of a Conservation Area designation and excessive density. Wickes continued with their development as it falls within a designated Industrial/Retail planning zone meaning there was no consultation and thus limited scope for objections even on fundamental issues! Timberlake Road Subway was consulted several times and commented upon with previous responses copied again to more Hampshire County Council Officers who did not appear to be involved in the previous consultation rounds and street audits. It remains to be seen whether a cosmetic job will suffice when there are fundamental issues that need to be addressed using a bigger cumulative budget. Victory Roundabout to Brook House and Victory Hill accesses are still a concern and may improve with contributions from both the Brook House and Land North Of Churchill Way West developments.

The demolition of the Flaxfield Road flower shop meant the old chapel behind was also demolished without consideration of restoration and ongoing change of use. The land freed up is still vacant and we have yet to discover a planning application about this.

We always need volunteers and subject matter experts to assist in reviewing planning applications, responding to consultations about developments and policy documents, documenting subcommittee business, coming up with new ideas for incorporation into developments and researching energy saving carbon reduction technologies for new build and retrofit.

Malcolm MacInness

Events Co-ordinator's report

Last year the BCA put on the much favoured summer picnic- a great opportunity for the whole community to come and meet, free of charge and be entertained. This was followed by a very successful Family Disco, allowing parents with young children to have an evening out in a safe and friendly environment. The BCA celebrated Christmas with the community and held a Christmas party which was again well attended with lots

of activities and performances put on my local residents and well wishers. Finally we held another special family disco. All tickets were sold and the evening was a great success and all profit went to Comic Relief. Our future plans include a green fair in September and more family centred events. There seems to be an obvious interest in family activities as these have been well attended and proved popular over the past few years. However, if there is a need or interest, we will aim to re-establish entertainment and evenings for adults, as was once.

The Brookvale Toddler Group is very popular with local residents (and non-residents). It is forever expanding and there are firm plans to start a second weekly session. Early talks have been made about holding a youth group at the hall and there is a play scheme running this summer. All of which are aimed at providing a safe and positive meeting place for the young members of Brookvale. These can hopefully develop and grow but only with volunteers and support from the community.

Helen Hempstead

Treasurer's report

The BCA is in a fairly healthy financial position, approximately £3000 in the black this financial year (tbc after final payments in and out for 2007 have been made). The source of major expenses is also the source of our income: the Hall. Thanks to Nina for improving our bookings and payments this year! Next year we need to ensure that this amount is at least maintained, if not improved upon. The committee this year has taken steps to ensure that we are working in the most cost effective manner, but still investing in the community. Financially, this mainly takes the form of BCA events and offering a reasonably priced local venue for hire. We need to ensure that any building works carried out next year are budgeted correctly, and come in to cost – in 2005, this was a major cause of overspend.

Moira Faul

Disability and Mobility Officer's report

There have been some very positive achievements this year including the opportunity to hold a Disability Surgery at every 3Cs coffee morning and assisting the Development Sub-Committee with access issues. I have also signed up to the Disability Forum for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and am currently working on the access concerns with the Brook House subway. There have also been some important developments with health and safety issues; as the Safety Officer I have undertaken Safety Officer training and consequently health and safety checks are now carried out on a regular basis; also a risk assessment template and accident report book have been drawn up for use at the hall. All health and safety notices have been updated.

Chris Hall

Hall Management report

There always seems to be something needing to be done to keep the hall in good shape. Thanks to Ted Blackmore-Squires and Malcolm MacInness for the man-hours put in doing various maintenance tasks, big and small. A word day was held in February with other committee members helping. At various points in the year electrical and gas appliances and fire extinguishers have been checked by appropriately approved people to help maintain a hall that is safe to use.

An on-going situation is the repair to the east window after vandalism in September. Although the four broken uPVC windows at the back of the building were easily replaced by the Insurer's approved workmen, the glass block east window proved more specialised and we are still waiting approval of a quote sent through the Insurers. A fence and a gate have been erected to deter unwanted visitors to the alleyway at the back of the building.

Margaret and Jon Mason