

BROOMHILL ACTION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Rutland Hotel on 12th April 2011

Present: 46 people attended

Apologies: Rhiannon Clayton, Leni Oglesby, Adrian Padfield

Minutes from the 2010 AGM: were approved.

Matters Arising: Bank Mandates, covered in the Treasurer's Report

Chair's Report: Most items were covered in the presentations given during this AGM.

The report was posted online and copies brought to the meeting.

There is at present no Vice-Chair of BANG.

Joan Hoare resigned as Secretary because of illness.

The Chair, Lee Kenney, has assumed further responsibilities.

The Membership Secretary has reported 356 household members of BANG and communication for this AGM has been through Royal Mail as well as email. The membership list is acknowledged to be out of date, with many incorrect membership details. Forms to bring our data up-to-date were completed at this AGM.

BANG is to have a membership drive to encourage positive involvement of residents, with particular emphasis on students and temporary residents.

BANG is run by a management committee. The archive information shows that it originated in 1973 with the Architecture Department of the University of Sheffield when students mounted a challenge to the plans for a dual carriageway which would have cut through the valued Victorian community of Broomhill.

Treasurer's Report: There are 3 accounts:-

1. A new Events finances account.
2. A Deposit account which has earned a mere 68p.
3. A Current account holding £3770.48 p.

The Food Fair was a financial risk but BANG covered all costs.

Attempts to change the deposit account failed and more effort is needed here to seek the best account available to earn better rates of interest.

Thanks were given to members who have contributed so generously. Keeping track of subscriptions can be difficult for both subscribers and officers of BANG.

Election of Officers:

Chair: there were no nominations so there will be a rotating chair for the monthly meetings.

Vice-Chair: no nominations were forthcoming.

Secretary: Lee Kenny: nominated by John Birtwhistle.
seconded by Beverley Warne.

Treasurer: Wendy Phillips: nominated by Lee Kenney.
seconded by Alan Wellings.

Newsletter Editor: Ann Jaloba: she assisted at present by Student journalists.

Minutes Secretary: Wendy Jenrick is willing to continue.

What we have achieved: presentations from BANG working groups and campaigns to show the work undertaken by BANG's management committee during the past year.

a. Pisgah House and the Secret Garden: Lee Kenny described the plans for the redevelopment and future of this last 4 acres of open space in Broomhill which seemed to have stalled. Planning permission for the UoS has been granted.

BANG's aim is to create a Broomhill Community garden:

There is at present an Arboretum, an enclosed Victorian garden which it is hoped that the site developers, Miller Homes, will conserve, and the gardens of the adjacent Pisgah House, also owned by the U of S. The market value of this house is unknown but BANG hopes for a suitable owner to come forward with a shared vision to keep the old gardens for the use of 3,500 Broomhill residents who live within 400 metres.

b. Conservation area: Alan Wellings described the current monitoring of the Broomhill Conservation area as a matter of attending to details. The city planning department has responded well to “complaints” about infringements of regulations for conservation areas and Article 4 (2) which prevents owners of residential properties altering buildings without due regard to style and materials. Many more changes to domestic properties now require planning permission and Article 4 (1) covers commercial properties.

c. Stimulating the Broomhill District Centre: Beverley Warne described the Food Fair, A Taste of Broomhill, the planning for which involved students from Hallam University Events Management and brought together BANG members, residents, students and volunteers and outsiders. Erika Hill undertook a feasibility study and a working group of 5-6 members met regularly. The Food Fair took place on a splendid June day and a Food Trail was held involving shops, cafes, restaurants and pubs.

An Alternative Village Show will be held in September in Broomhill.

d. Managing the Impact of the Night-time Economy: John Birtwhistle described how volunteers are defending the local community against litter and noise nuisance with a working party on Licensing and Planning working towards changing the way people behave at night in this largely residential area. The de-regulation of pubs and clubs has threatened the well being of local residents by emphasising the all-night vibrant economy more suitable to the city centre. Broomhill now has more licensed premises than the city centre and the student community has increased enormously since 2000. The University promotes its night-life as an attraction to boost applications and this has an impact on the suburbs. Many family houses have become HMOs (houses of multiple occupation) for temporary residents who do not invariably fit in to the suburban family housing culture. Increased traffic in the early hours has disturbed sleep and these issues are recognised as problems by the Environmental Health department. Commercial outlets respond to demand and open for longer hours causing hazards like drunk and disorderly behaviour, litter and noise in the early hours. BANG and Broomhill Forum minutes regularly record concerns of residents about anti social behaviour and safety. Illegal trading is confused by contradictory planning and licensing restrictions which require constant monitoring and fast food outlets are regularly open until 4.30 am.

BANG has systematically objected to noise nuisance, litter dispersal and road safety hazards and Elected Councillors, Police and City council officers all have evidence of infringements of the licensing and planning laws.

Recently 6 applications to planning and licensing depts have been rejected by officers.

But concerns continue as the laws are flouted and prosecutions are averted by changes in managers. Now action will be against premises and not just individuals.

BANG will continue to protest but enforcement remains a live concern.

BANG’s aspirations for the future: Presentation, discussion and adoption of a Manifesto for Broomhill:

Sheffield Development Plans:

The Good Neighbourhood Scheme is working well.

Elected Councillors have shown commitment to improving the community environment.

Priorities are a Community Assembly Action Plan with attention drawn to:

School cars and transport causing pollution and congestion.

Buses and traffic problems since de-regulation.

Traffic speed in the district centre.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.