



## **SOMERVILLE UNITED TENANTS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 7pm Somerville Adventure Community Centre**

#### **Attendance Total 11**

Carol Burke - Caretaking team  
Joy Burnett – Community Engagement  
Ashleigh Gordon - Housing Officer  
Clive Heppolette - Chair  
Norma Rochester – Vice-Chair  
Hannah Renton – Secretary  
Cllr Paul Bell  
Residents and Leaseholders

#### **Apologies:**

Cllr Joan Millbank  
Cllr Luke Sorba  
Telegraph Hill Ward Neighborhood Police  
Richard Ashworth (Caretaking Team)  
Julie Littlejohn (LTF)  
Housing Management

### **Minutes**

#### **Remembrance Garden**

Tony John Colony – Clive raised getting a plaque for him  
Discussion of whether Barbara Ladd Gardens could be called Somerville Remembrance Gardens or Somerville memorial Gardens.  
Boy has also recently died on the Estate – maybe we should have a process of people suggesting meaningful people to the Estate.

#### **Abandoned Cars**

Lewisham and Southwark councilors have secured a crossing at Manor Road [confirm where this is] – it's on the priority list for TFL but won't be immediate – funding has been secured but the works need to be done. Making headway Cllr Bell update

### Waste Management

- All dog bins in Somerville have holes in bottom
- Update - the care taker is now replacing the bags
- CB reported that a new dog bin was requested but nothing has been done about it. **Action:** CB will feedback to Council it is now an urgent request
- Followed up that the bin distribution is not working in Edmond Court. It was requested at a previous meeting that one of the general waste bins be changed to recycling. CB said they can be ordered. CH said it can go in the old shoot.
- Drop off points – we can request to move the drop off point. Move the one in front of Edmond Court to somewhere more suitable and then get appropriate signage. **Action:** committee to do a walk around and identify alternative points to suggest and then pass this on to housing officer
- There's been a big dump of rubbish at the entrance of Wild Goose Drive and Lausanne Road. CH referenced an image on the agenda. CB said what happens now is after a fly tip is reported. They go and tape it off and leave it there for 5 days. After that it will be collected by the bulk team. Some people say by leaving it attracts more rubbish but that's the system at the moment.
- NR said there is constantly fly tipping. At the last walkabout RA from the Caretaking Team said he'd put signs up saying no fly-tipping but nothing has been done. The adventure playground has also reported and some if it has been moved. **Action:** CB will follow up.

### Anti-Social Behavior

- Graffiti - CH has reported there has been more recently but we don't know what it says. Cllr Bell said you can use google translate with an image of the Graffiti. If it's offensive the council will remove it if it's reported.
- Communal drying area on Swallow Close – someone has put their own padlock on and are using it themselves. **Action:** can we get the padlock removed or a letter sent out to all the residents. CB has taken a note and will raise with caretaking team.

### Maintenance

- Fence needs repairing by Wild Goose Drive. Dangerously overhanging.
- Stairway needs painting by Wild Goose Drive. CH says this has been ongoing for a year now. **Action:** AG will send over to communal repairs team.
- Rutts Terrace - 3 wastes bins left by substation. What's happening with these will they be collected? **Action:** CB will look into – pass it over to RA. If it is them that put it there it should be on their collection round.
- CH also raised the issue of old-style bins still hanging around and should be picked up.
- Rutts Terrace. Tree has snapped in half and hanging down on the road. **Action:** CB said this needs to be passed to the environmental team – to get someone out to get it removed.
- Ernest Simmons: there is a garden area and an old washing area. There has been some weed killer that has made a design. The gardeners haven't been mowing the area that the weed killer has left. **Action:** Carol will raise this with environmental team.
- Painting front balconys / walkway on Mona Road. They should be painted by the council – it's not the leaseholders responsibility. They are now in a really bad state.
- Mona Road - Fiber Optic wooden cover is hanging off stairway. CH said with repairs it really helps to have pictures. CB says straight away just report it to the repairs team and attach an image that can really help. AG said to also include her because she can chase if nothing is getting done.

### **Repairs**

- Resident also raised issues with the drainage system in Edmond Court.  
**Action:** AG said she will send it to the defects team.
- Drainage pipes in Eileen Court – seems to be some issue here. AG said for the new blocks there is a year to check.
- Mona Road: Parking pots need resetting into the ground.
- The disabled access on Wild Goose Drive has finally been fixed with a ramp so it is now accessible. Completed

### **Alleyway**

- Alleyway by Swallow Close is still being used by bikes etc. This is a public footpath. What can we do about it? CB suggested that metal poles or zig zag bars would help slow them down. Community has been asking for this for a long time. **Action:** CB says that request would have to go to the council as they are responsible for it.

### **Broadband + fiber**

Ongoing

### **Environment**

Ongoing

### **Noticeboards**

Clive asked AG if this has been done. AG hasn't managed to get out and test the key yet.

### **Rodents - Edmond Court**

Ongoing. We don't know when there will be an update.

### **Football cage**

Ongoing

### **New Development**

Ongoing

### **Electric Charging points for Electric Cars**

CH asked for an update on this. There have been some on Dennett's Road but nothing on Waller Road. Some residents said the closest place is telegraph hill. Cllr Bell said does anyone have one.

Residents said they've been thinking about it but haven't because there isn't a charging point near enough.

Cllr Bell said at the moments electric cars are really expensive to ensure. Lithium has also become expensive so the market is crashing a little bit.

**Trees**      [Ongoing](#)

**Major Works**      Mona Road painting / Walsham Place      **Update**

**Fire Safety**      Still not seen the report done on Edmond Court.

**Lift**      Eileen Court Lifts are out of order.      **Update**

**Asbestos**      [Ongoing](#)

**Radiators**      [Ongoing](#)

**Speed Bumps**      [Ongoing](#)

**Bike Sheds**      [Ongoing](#)

**Scammers**      [Ongoing](#)

**Community Garden**

- Work has been done by CH and FR in the Edmond Court Community Garden area
- Committee want to set up a group and formalize a bit
- **Action:** HR to let Jake know what we've done and see if we can get any support / funding for this
- NR said we will try and get some of the elderly people down there to appreciate the nature
- **Action:** NR asked about getting the paving sort back of Edmond Court
- One of the residents expressed interest in growing out there. **Action:** HR to get her contact

**Vice Chair update**

- All ongoing
- Generating a newsletter – that is ongoing. Joy said we can apply for another marketing grant.
- She will send out an email to all the TRAs.

### Treasurer's Report

- We had AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Julie Littlejohn was happy with the report.
- We applied for a second admin grant for this year. Which will cover admin and marketing. We have spent quite a lot of the money on fixing up the Community Gardens at the back of Edmond Court. Julie Littlejohn is happy with that and we can apply for second grant.
- Norma informed everyone of the table top sale – good opportunity for a clear out.
- The blocks and property we have covered is 9 at the moment so that is 134. We want Eileen Court to come on board so we'll be 160.
- Joy Burnett asked what the blocks we covered are. Clive showed her on the website.

### Councilor Update

- Lewisham homes has now come into the council's control. They are in the process of embedding Lewisham Homes staff into the council. The council hasn't had a housing department, since 2007 so this is quite a big change. Should make things better because the responsibility and accountability are all with the council, it can't be deflected to Lewisham Homes. It also means that councilors have more influence.
- There is a new legal requirement that every housing authority takes every complaint of damp and mould seriously.
- They didn't want to spend a lot of money changing the signage etc. so it will be done gradually
- There have been stock condition assessments by Lewisham Homes – to see what needs to be invested in.
- The entire world has changed since 2020 and so has the council's priorities. They are now to deal with the backlog of repairs, improve the repairs department and improve the communication between residents and council.
- All the directors of Lewisham Homes have now left and they are recruiting new people.
- They will re-assess all the stock to see where things are at. They have half the money they need to do the investment the stock needs.
- Cllr Bell said walking around Sommerville, it's not good enough. Lack of detail and care.
- Cllr Bell said please keep on raising and complaining if we're not getting the repairs we should.
- **Action:** Cllr Bell will send the letter about the funding for the crossing to CH.
- There is an issue that housing officers don't have the seniority or power that they need.
- Cllr Bell said there are issues on this estate that shouldn't be here.
- Swallow Close – lighting and bike situations has been raised at least 14 times.
- **Action:** Cllr Bell will take it up as a joint issue.
- Cllr Bell – said please get your covid and flu vaccinations.
- Cllr Bell said with leaseholders we need to move forward to a situation where things are consulted and agreed with leaseholders. It is on the table.

## AOB

- Clive said they can't access Eileen Court when they do checks / walkabout. AG said it's quite tricky getting access. **Action:** AG will find out if we can be issued a fob. CH suggested if we can't the caretaker can have one and can give us access when we do walkabouts.
- JB asked if we have officially included Eileen Court into Sommerville. We haven't – there needs to be an official process of asking Eileen Court residents if they wanted to be included in the Somerville United TRA.
- **Action:** Committee to follow up on this
  
- There is a massive sewage/drain running underneath Edmond Court. And the smell coming from it is getting really bad. CH asks if there is anyway of filtering it. There have also recently been concerns about the increasing sewage smell coming from the main drain in Dennett's Road. With now a heavily populated area and a school close by, can this drain be filtered to cut down the very heavy smell of raw sewage. Cllr Bell said this has been discussed previously. It can be a public health issue and has to be dealt with within a certain time frame.  
**Action:** Cllr Bell will take this forward
- From next week everything should be updated and everyone moved to Lewisham Council from Lewisham Homes

**Meeting ended at .....20.48**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.  
7PM @ SOMERVILLE ADVENTURE MEETING ROOMS.**

