

# St Stephens Residents Association

[www.ststephensresidents.com](http://www.ststephensresidents.com)

[info@ststephensresidents.com](mailto:info@ststephensresidents.com)

## Public Meeting Minutes

October 21st 2016

### **Committee Members Present:**

Val Budgen-Cawsey, Barrie Boundy, Andy Wood, Tessa Boundy, Ian Graham, Bryony Citrone, David Citrone, Tracey Ivell, John Russell

### **Committee Member Apologies:** Rosemary Deasey

Apologies : Amanda Ryall, Susanne Barnes, Claire Heard, John Cole, Cllr Jane Nancarrow, Adrian Hawkes, Linda Simmons, Cllr Margaret Young, Christine Field, Mr and Mrs Bert Downs, David Ivell, Gemma Massey, Mr and Mrs Roger Gubbin, Mr and Mrs Terry Duke, Mr and Mrs Paul Penny, Mr and Mrs Hugh Brody

The meeting was called to formally set up a Residents Association for the St Stephens area of Launceston .

### **Introduction: Val Budgen-Cawsey**

Welcome to all present (estimated approx. 130 / 140) for coming along to this inaugural meeting of the St Stephens Residents Association.

The idea started when Barrie Boundy had great trouble crossing the main road at the top of St Stephens, and on speaking to other residents found that many had had similar problems. Barrie spoke to Val and at a Macmillan Coffee morning held on the green other residents also expressed their concerns and the idea to start an association took form . Val then looked into how to go about setting up such an association and together it started to take shape.

- The area being suggested would be of around 450 – 500 homes
- Would make it the largest residents association of the area
- Would give us a significant voice – many voices are much better than 1
- To tackle issues of community concern
- To keep the community informed
- Most homes in the proposed area had a flyer delivered (apologies if anyone didn't get one) and an article was placed in the Launceston Post. Lots of talking about the formation of an association took place with residents

- Very important that we are ALL INCLUSIVE – ALL WELCOME – this includes residents, businesses, schools, churches and all were contacted.
- Very important to make clear that a residents association is NOT Political or Religious.
- Be a forum to listen to each other
- To campaign for something / or against something.
- Essential to gather opinions – as a result a questionnaire was given out to ask Residents for their MAIN CONCERNS , each would be collated and fed back.
- Gather information generally about what “the association” aims would be – in achievable steps – sometimes processes such as this are slow to move forward but progress is achievable.

### **To get things started:**

With such a large area , in order that the first year had some structure several people from different areas of St Stephens and with different skills , volunteered / were asked if they would like to be on a committee of the Residents Association for a 1 year term at which time elections would take place where committee nominations would be sought.

- Committee Members introduced themselves (see names of committee above)
- From the committee the following were proposed:
  - CHAIR – Val Bugden-Cawsey (Proposed by Barrie Boundy and Seconded by Ian Graham)
  - VICE CHAIR – Barrie Boundy (Proposed by Val Bugden-Cawsey and seconded by Tessa Boundy)
  - SECRETARY – Tracey Ivell (Proposed by David Citrone and seconded by Ian Graham)
  - TREASURER – Andy Wood (Proposed by Tracey Ivell and seconded by Bryony Citrone)
- A Draft Constitution and a code of conduct had been put together by Val from research via other associations and the internet. Copies were available at the front to be picked up at the end.to be adopted at the next Public Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.
- Treasurer was to set up a bank account to have 2/3 signatories
- We used St Stephens Hall for free (very much appreciated) for the first meeting but that space and other items like newspaper adverts, web addresses, printing did have a cost so we are aware that we need to manage funds well and in a transparent way.

### **Communication:**

- Website to be set up as soon as possible – [www.ststephensresidents.com](http://www.ststephensresidents.com) with an email of [info@ststephensresidents.com](mailto:info@ststephensresidents.com)
- Minutes of Public Meetings and ongoing issues , once decided , to be published on the website.
- Facebook page to be set up and publicised
- Noticeboard on St Stephens Green / St Cuthbert Close [outside Val’s House ]

- Hard copy of minutes at the next meeting
- Communication via email wherever possible to limit the cost of printing and hand delivering We will look at this as we progress so that we can ensure that all are kept informed .We will also place articles in The Community News section of The Launceston Post after Public Meetings and when issues are ongoing.
- On the questionnaire slips there is a space for your name and your email address. These will be kept private for our use only and will not be given to any other party.
- Please talk to us – we are all the same – we will be all inclusive - all concerns will always be noted and become part of discussions / prioritized as we go.

### **Going Forward:**

- The committee will meet again on 4<sup>th</sup> November to collate all the information gathered.
- Next Public meeting 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in St Stephens Hall.
- The next meeting will be a “ coffee and cake “ event and ask for donations of £3 per head to go towards the costs of running the association.

### **Questions from the floor:**

1. Who is responsible for newspaper editorials etc? Val , Barrie and Tracey . Some will be free of charge but others may need to be paid for. We are all learning so we will report back as we progress.
2. Suggestion that when we have the next meeting everyone pays £1 entrance fee? Val answered: we didn't want to have a set fee as we didn't want to dis-enfranchise anyone and felt that people would rather donate. The lady then asked if we could have a “donations pot” going forward and to start it tonight. On a majority show of hands this was agreed and a pot was put at the door for people to donate on exit if they so wished. It was made clear that all donations will be accounted for.
3. A gentleman raised the issue of traffic? Val asked that we hold these concerns until the next meeting but use the questionnaire forms to raise concern / to register worries that need to be prioritized and discussed. It was not that we did not want to listen on this evening but the discussion about concerns would be long and tonight was really to get the committee and the association itself started.

Val then asked whether there were any questions related to the committee and association?

4. A gentleman asked whether it was appropriate for Val to be Chair because she was also a Town Councilor? Val said that she felt she was a resident first before a Town Councilor. Another lady said she would see Val being on the town council as a plus rather than a minus. A gentleman said he felt there should be no reason that Val should not be the Chair for the first

year as suggested and was grateful for people getting up and starting something like this. Val called for a show of hands to ask if the persons present would like Val Bugden-Cawsey to stand as Chair – Majority vote for, 2 against, 1 abstention.

- a. John Conway stated that there was no problem with Val being the chair of this committee and no conflict to the work she does at the town hall – she would need to declare an interest with her Town Councilor role which Val is happy to do and John will support.
5. A gentleman asked how the committee was formed? Val and Barrie were keen for each area to be represented. There was then a Macmillan Coffee morning held on the green and on chatting many people volunteered to be part of this because they had similar concerns and want the community to be “a community” and Val was keen to make sure that all areas of the association were represented on the committee.
  6. A gentleman asked how we got the constitution? Val explained that the Dunheved and Stourscombe associations were contacted as well as reading many drafts from the internet. The best bits from each were taken and put together as appropriate for St Stephens.

As no more questions were forthcoming Val thanked everyone for taking time out on a their Friday evening. She reminded people to come to the front to pick up a constitution and that we would look forward to seeing everyone at the public meeting/coffee and cake evening on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at St Stephens Hall at 7pm.

**Next Public Meeting to be held Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at St Stephens Hall – Coffee and Cake Night - £3 donation suggested but donation pot will be available for all**