

DADRA – DRYSDALE AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 17th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT ST FRANCIS HALL, HAWKWOOD CRESCENT

Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Sarah Sanders (Committee member) and Jackie Walker (Secretary). Guests attending were: PC Ricardo Gloria, Kelly Summers (representing the Councillors) and three members of the Chingford Residents Association (Naila, Kathy and Shanta). Apologies had been received from Cllr Mitchell Goldie.

Sarah welcomed residents, Committee members and guests to the meeting. For those new to these meetings, Sarah explained that the Drysdale & District Residents' Association (DADRA) comprised all the residents of the Drysdale area (approximately 760 households) and that each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) a Committee is elected, who seek to represent the best interests of residents in all local matters. She then introduced the other members of the Committee: Peter Heatherley, Mike Sparrow, Kirsty Sullivan, Brian Oakaby, Pat Farrell, Elisabeth Flint, Tony Scholer and Jackie Walker.

1. Minutes of AGM held on 18th September 2024

Sarah asked for approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 18th September 2024. There were no questions from the floor and the Minutes were approved as a correct record.

As could be seen from the Minutes, the AGM did not elect a Chair to replace Peter Heatherley, and Sarah reported that the Committee have still not been able to find a new Chair. Over the past year Committee members have shared this role and, although not ideal, this has worked as each Committee member has responsibility for particular things – Planning, Crime, Environment, Communications, etc. The Committee wish to see DADRA continue as they feel it has an important role to play in the local neighbourhood, and Sarah asked those present to consider, over the course of the meeting, whether they might like to volunteer to join the Committee or put themselves forward as Chair when agenda item 4, Committee Elections was discussed. Sarah then invited the Treasurer, Peter Heatherley, to give his report.

2. Treasurer's Report

All attending the AGM had received a written report on the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025. During the year £1,256 in donations had been received from residents, and £568 in grants from London Borough of Waltham Forest. Of the donations, £939 was from the Friday Club, which more than covered the hire for the Hall and other costs for these meetings. The 2024 May Bank Holiday event was funded by £343 LBWF grant and £187 donations received at the event. The remaining balance of Friday Club donations (£161) and £130 of other donations went towards running costs of the newsletter £65, AGM £69 and sundries £33, leaving £124 to boost DADRA's assets from £563 and the beginning of the year to £751 at the end. The remaining £225 LBWF grant helped cover the set-up of the new website, the 2024 Christmas party and an additional newsletter. A further £53 from LBWF Stronger Communities grant is expected, and £50 is carried forward for insurance costs for the 2025 May Bank holiday event.

Peter thanked residents for their generous donations and the Councillors and LBWF for the grants which had helped support DADRA's activities through 2024/2025 and onwards into 2025/2026. He then thanked Tony Scholer for auditing the Accounts and invited him to add his signature to them. There were no questions from the floor and the meeting approved the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Peter then reported that, since the beginning of April this year, regular activities have continued and another successful late May Bank holiday event had been held funded by residents' contributions on the day and grant funds approved by the Councillors and LBWF. Overall, DADRA's assets were unchanged since the end of March 2025.

3. Committee Report

Sarah reported that, over the past year, the Committee continued to work on behalf of residents, raising issues with Council Officers, Councillors and the Police, and has monitored planning applications, crime and environmental issues affecting the area.

As residents were aware, over the past few years the Committee has been busy challenging some of the local site selections proposed in Local Plan 2, and were delighted to report that, following the Hearing in July, the Inspectorate found that two of the three sites closest to our area (Motorpoint and 3 Lea Road) were not considered suitable for development and will not be included in the plan. For now this halts the plans for an additional 450 plus homes in multi-storey buildings across these two sites. Sarah thanked everyone who spent time contributing to the consultation. The Committee have also consulted on the planning application made by Yardley Primary School as they look to create additional space for the increased 3 form intake, and have encouraged residents to review the plans and do the same. This consultation was now closed and a decision awaited.

On a less positive note, we are experiencing increased fly-tipping in our area and within the forest. The Council and Epping Forest wardens are being very responsive and clearing fly-tips promptly once reported, and residents were urged to make sure to report incidents on the LBWF or City of London Epping Forest websites, if possible sharing a specific What3Words location to allow them to be even more efficient in locating and clearing the tip. It was noted that the Scout Hall has new and improved CCTV, meaning it was more likely to be able to identify and report fly-tippers in that section of the forest. Also, in relation to the environment, the Committee have continued to report local concerns from streetlights to dead trees, and are also investigating the increased light pollution from warehouses on the other side of the reservoirs.

As residents are aware, despite the petition, the increased parking restrictions in Station Road and elsewhere in Chingford were approved by LBWF, and residents were urged to continue supporting local retailers and businesses as much as possible. In the Committee's latest call to action, residents are asked to make their voices heard against the proposed closure of the public access front counter at Chingford Police Station. There is a petition raised by Cllr Mitchell Goldie, and there is to be an event on 18th September led by Sarah Jackson, Superintendent North East BCU (Newham & Waltham Forest) to discuss the impact of this closure.

On a lighter note, Jackie reported that the Committee continues to support the community through regular social activities such as the fortnightly Friday Club held at the Scout Hall and a fortnightly walk through the forest, weather permitting, usually starting at the top of Epping Way and led by Peter. Dates for these are always listed in the newsletters and all are very welcome to come and join in. We also continue to organise litter picks from time to time around Drysdale Park and along the forest edge, another good way of meeting up with neighbours as well as keeping the neighbourhood tidy. This year the Committee had a strong presence at the Yardley School Summer Fair, and members enjoyed chatting to lots of local people about DADRA and the history of the local area.

Jackie then called on Brian Oakaby to say a few words about the May event and the improved website. Brian reported that over his 5 years on the Committee he had helped organise four annual community events, which began with the Queen's Jubilee in 2022. This year DADRA, working with the 10th Chingford Scouts, arranged a community get-together on the late Bank Holiday Monday in May. People of all ages came along and enjoyed an afternoon with live music, a quiz, fun and games for the kids and, of course, plenty of tea and cakes. We were pleased to get a small grant from Waltham Forest Community Ward Funding to help with the costs of the event, and hopefully we will be able to arrange another community event next year.

Also this year, Brian reported that he had helped update the DADRA website (dadra.org.uk), and the website was now regularly updated with news about local events and activities. Sarah thanked Brian and reported that, in addition to the website, residents continue to be kept updated between newsletters on DADRA's Facebook and Instagram sites, with reminders of upcoming DADRA events, issues of interest and activities in the local area. Sarah then passed over to Jackie for the remainder of the official business.

4. Election of Committee

- **Chair:** As was reported at the start of the meeting there was still a vacancy for a new Chair and, having had some time to consider this, Jackie asked if there was anyone willing to put themselves forward for election. There were no offers, so Jackie reminded the meeting that the Constitution did allow for Committee members to appoint a Chair from amongst its number between AGMs and therefore proposed that Committee members continue to share this role for the time being. This was approved by a show of hands.
- **Treasurer:** Jackie thanked Peter for his excellent work as Treasurer and proposed that he be re-elected for the coming year. This was seconded and unanimously approved.
- **Committee:** Jackie reported that three members of the Committee had stood down during the past year due to their personal circumstances, and she thanked them for their time on the Committee. All the remaining nine current members were willing to stand again and Jackie proposed that they be re-elected. This was seconded and unanimously approved.
- Jackie then informed the meeting that there were three vacancies. As no-one put themselves forward for election, she encouraged anyone who might like to get involved, or knew of anyone who may be interested, to find out more from the current members at the end of the meeting.

This concluded the official business of the AGM, and Sarah thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to stay on for drinks and to take the opportunity to chat to members of the Committee and invited guests about any issues that they would like DADRA to get involved with on behalf of residents in the coming year.

The main issues raised were:

- Parking at drop off and pick up times around Yardley School's main and top gates, something that would get even worse with the proposed school expansion.
- Traffic still speeding along Drysdale Avenue – PC Gloria to arrange further speed checks, but noted that these needed to be at busy times.
- The very poor state of the pavements, particularly around tree roots.