

## **DRARA AGM 2023 COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT**

This last year has been a time of many changes for DRARA. Nick Welch stepped down from being DRARA Chair, though he hasn't left altogether as he is supporting the committee as an ex-officio member liaising on Warneford Meadow issues. Tamasin Lilwall handed over coordinating events to Linda Forrest and Susan Lisk, as she moved to Edinburgh with her family. Margaret Wolf has stepped in to take on our Communications role, while Deb Tricker has moved into coordinating our traffic action group. David Waller continues as Membership Secretary and Rob Waterstone continues as our link to Southfield Park, both ex-officio members of the committee.

More than ever we've needed to foster community as much as possible in our area. Our WhatsApp groups and community events have continued to facilitate community communication and cohesion. The street champions and Share and Freecycle groups continue to be lively, while interest groups such as the gardening, environment, energy, wildlife and others continue to share useful tips and information across their members.

At the same time our street tea party in May, where those who participated met long-term and new residents, all incredible people and enjoyed equally wonderful baked goods! The gardening/freecycle event in October provided opportunities for us all to spend real, rather than virtual, time together. First Mondays have not only been very informative but again demonstrate all the talent that lives in and around our area. Our membership subscribers reach out to every household in the area this time of year, informing new residents in the area about life on our streets and DRARA, while also touching base with each of our DRARA members.

The dominant issues this year, as with the last one, were the LTNs and anti-social behaviour. LTN debates continued throughout the year. A neighbourhood survey undertaken late last year found that there was still a large majority of residents in favour of maintaining the LTNs. The final decision to make the East Oxford LTNs permanent is much welcomed by most residents, though many remain concerned about the changes agreed by the Oxfordshire County Council cabinet to replace the Divinity Road bollards with Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to give ease of access to emergency vehicles, which we all would applaud, and exemptions for taxis, which many are worried about in terms of implications for the increased numbers and speed of cars on our streets. These changes won't take place until early in 2024, and the impact will continue to be monitored to make sure our streets remain safe for non-motorised traffic.

Similarly anti-social behaviour continued to disturb many residents in the area. Oxford Brookes University have made a visible and substantial effort to reach out to all student residents in our streets to try and ensure that there was less late night noise in the area. However, rubbish outside HMOs, including student houses, has continued to be highly problematic, and the end of the last academic year saw even more over-flowing bins and household items abandoned on our streets than ever before.

As ever, the DRARA committee wants to thank everyone who contributes so much to our area. The subs collectors, who collect our only income, our different action groups, those who contribute to writing and distributing the newsletter, and print and host our posters. There's a long list of those who have been so involved in making our area the special place it is to live, which is provided below.

Finally, we are still searching for one further DRARA Committee member, to have a full complement of committee members. Please write to [secretary@drara.org.uk](mailto:secretary@drara.org.uk) to let us know if you would be interested in joining. We also need someone with good IT skills who can help us with our website and recurrent niggles with our IT!

## Committee memberships and supporters

### The DRARA Committee

- Vacant, Chair
- Cindy Carlson, Secretary
- Alison Williams, Treasurer
- Linda Forrest and Susan Lisk; Events
- Deb Tricker; Traffic
- Tom Knollys, Planning
- Margaret Wolf, Emails/Communications
- Lydia Matthews; Licencing and ASB
- Maggie Hartford, Environment
- Karen Metcalfe, University Liaison
- Jane Bingham, Newsletter
- Rob Waterston (ex-officio)
- Nick Welch (ex-officio)
- New member vacancy

### The Newsletter Distribution Team

Organised and led by Anne Hall

- Trish Attwooll
- Jane Bingham
- Chris Livingston-Campbell
- Anna Eden
- Ann Edmunds
- Pauline Edwards
- Linda Forrest
- Christopher Franks
- Cathy Gough
- Richard Josephy
- Susan Lisk
- Maggie Lloyd

### DRARA Street Champions

- Trish Attwooll
- Cindy Carlson
- Geraldine Coggins
- Anna Eden
- Chris Franks
- Isobel Gillham
- Myfanwy Lloyd
- Ilaria Parodi
- Clare Ridley
- Mena Remedios
- Jo Steele
- Martin Stott
- Pippa Thyne

### The Subscriptions Team

Organised and led by David Waller

- Brigitte Blakey
- Maggie Budden
- Geraldine Coggins
- Catriona Davidson
- Ann Edmunds
- Pauline Edwards
- Linda Forrest
- Anne Hall
- Leila Lake
- Susan Lisk
- Julie Martin
- Rob Waterson

- Myfanwy Lloyd
- Dominic Parkinson
- Martin Stott
- Pat Tope
- Rob Waterston
- Nick Welch
- Catherine Weston
- Glen and Alison Williams

#### **Porch donation Team**

- Kim de Keijzer
- Florence de Keijzer

#### **The Events Group**

Organised and led by Susan Lisk and Linda Forrest

- Clare Ridley and Elizabeth Mills
- Deborah Tricker
- Rebecca Phillipson
- George Wormald, Maggie Hertford, James and Pete
- Andy Roscoe and Sue Brownhill
- Rosamund Yuval, Julie Martin, Louise Lobo, Catriona Davidson, Anna Eden, Trish Attwooll, Margeret Wolf, Mitch Oliver
- James Ross and the team from Turning Point
- Rupert Griffin from Tiddly Pommies

- Jocelyn Weryho-Neuman
- Paul Wolf

#### **The Environment Action Team**

- Anna Eden
- Dave Dalton
- George Wormald
- Julie Martin
- Liz Broughton
- Maggie Hartford
- Maggie Lloyd
- Nick Welch
- Trish Attwooll

#### **Traffic Action Group**

- Deborah Tricker
- Cindy Carlson
- James Schumann
- Sandy Ruxton

DIVINITY ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (DRARA)  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT: YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

	2023		2022	
Receipts and Payments	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>General funds:</b>				
Subscriptions	1,335.00		1,348.00	
Events	3,183.41		2,944.61	
Transfer from OC £1,400 grant for planters	0.00		52.30	
Other	116.30		0.00	
SUBTOTAL:	<u>4,634.71</u>		<u>4,344.91</u>	
<b>Friends of Warneford Meadow</b>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>285.85</u>	
		4,634.71		4,630.76
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>General funds:</b>				
Planters	0.00		27.90	
Traffic	0.00		0.00	
Newsletter	1,462.00		465.00	
Insurance	303.00		289.00	
Sundries	123.00		52.91	
Website/drara.org.uk	676.38		288.04	
Events	0.00		225.78	
Charitable donations	3,259.80		2,475.27	
Other	18.85		205.00	
SUBTOTAL:	<u>5,843.03</u>		<u>4,028.90</u>	
<b>Oxford City Council grant (£1,400)</b>				
Printing leaflets/flyers/newsletters re traffic	0.00		56.00	
Transfer to General funds for planters	0.00		52.30	
East Oxford Report It website costs	0.00		0.00	
Smart Survey (traffic)	0.00		0.00	
SUBTOTAL:	<u>0.00</u>		<u>108.30</u>	
		(5,843.03)		(4,137.20)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<u><b>(1,208.32)</b></u>		<u><b>493.56</b></u>
<b>Balance sheet</b>				
Cash at bank	969.00		2,333.26	
Petty Cash	54.28		54.28	
Exp: Invoices paid after year-end/General	0.00		(99.94)	
Exp: Invoices paid after year-end/Council grant	0.00		(56.00)	
	<u><b>1,023.28</b></u>		<u><b>2,231.60</b></u>	
Represented by:				
Historical surplus brought forward	2,231.60		1,738.04	
Surplus for the year	(1,208.32)		493.56	
	<u><b>1,023.28</b></u>		<u><b>2,231.60</b></u>	
By Fund:				
General fund	737.43		1,945.75	
Friends of Warneford Meadow	285.85		285.85	
	<u><b>1,023.28</b></u>		<u><b>2,231.60</b></u>	

I have checked these accounts and the financial records of DRARA, and confirm that they are in order.



James Rowland

14 October 2023

## TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

(Alison Williams)

### 1. INCOME:

#### Subscriptions: £1,335

Income from membership subscriptions is DRARA's main source of funds, and this year subs brought in almost the same as last year (£1,348), which was a record. Payments by Standing Order have continued to increase, which saves time and administration, both for collectors and members. Subs are needed primarily to cover the costs of newsletters, website expenses and event insurance.

#### DRARA events: £3,183

Please see the box below for income raised, donations made, and beneficiaries. There were no administrative expenses for any of the events this year, and all funds raised went to the benefitting charities.

DRARA events 2022-2023	Inc	Exp	Donations	Balance	Donation recipients
15/10/22: Apple Day	82.41	-	-	82.41	Set aside for orchard activities on Warneford Meadow
4/12/22: Christmas Market	252.06	-	252.00	0.06	The Porch £252.
15/3/23: Quiz Night	1,025.00	-	1,025.00	0.00	Helen & Douglas House £525. Oxfordshire Mind £500.
7/5/23: Street Tea Party	619.54	-	620.00	-0.46	Asylum Welcome £310. Oxon Dyslexia Association £310.
21/5/23: Open Gardens	1,204.40	-	1,204.40	0.00	Children Seen & Heard £602.20. SeeSaw £602.20.
	<b>3,183.41</b>	-	<b>3,101.40</b>	<b>82.01</b>	
Also donated this year, funds from Apple Day 2021-22	n/a	-	158.40		Turning Point, trees for Warneford Meadow £158.40.

*Apple Day* in October 2022 raised £82, which is to be donated for work in the Warneford Meadow orchard. The Christmas Market, held in Minster Road, was a new venture this year. In March, DRARA held its first in-person *Quiz Night* since the pandemic, - all *Quiz Night* funds were paid direct by participants to the two chosen charities. The *Street Tea Party* in May was a one-off on the Coronation Bank Holiday, raising £310 each for two charities. Also in May we held our very successful annual Open Gardens, raising over £1,204, even more than the previous year (£1,094). (Note: Funds raised on Apple Day in October 2021 were transferred to Turning Point in December 2022.)

#### Other income: £116

Contributions from participants for refreshments at the AGM.

**Total income for the year: £4,635**

## 2. EXPENDITURE:

Expenditure for the year was as follows.

### General funds:

Newsletters	1,462	(Autumn 2022, Spring and Summer 2023, inc double printrun for Spring edition re LTNs)
Insurance	303	(for events)
Sundries	123	(stationery/printing for subs. 2 years)
Website and Zoom costs	676	(hosting/domains EORI/DRARA 2yrs; Zoom Pro;Google Workspace.)
Charitable donations	3,260	(see details in box above)
Other	<u>19</u>	(AGM costs, Ox CS m/ship, thermos flask)
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b><u>5,843</u></b>	
<b>Friends of Warneford Meadow:</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total expenditure for the year:</b>	<b><u>£5,843</u></b>	

## 3. BALANCE:

We ended the year with a balance of £1,023: £737 in the General fund, and £286 in the Warneford Meadow fund. The General fund includes £124 set aside for expenditure on planters, and £82 from Apple Day 2022 which is to be used for orchard activities.

There was a deficit for the year of £1,208 (compared to the 2021/22 surplus of £494). There are a variety of reasons for this which include:

£422 for the previous year's expenses (which were not received until months after 30/9/23),

£512 for extra printruns of the LTN edition of the Newsletter in March,

£256 for printing a third newsletter in July,

£129 for Web host expenses which will cover next year (2023/24), and

£168 for Google Workspace which had been free-of-charge until this year.

The above expenditure totals £1,487, but only Google Workspace will be repeated in 2023/24, unless the Committee decides to print a third newsletter during the year.

In conclusion, this means that whilst we intend to break even in 2023/24, we need to be careful over the next few months to make sure we don't overspend. Subscription income is crucial to this, and is going well, with much due in the early part of the next financial year.

## Events Report from Linda Forrest and Susan Lisk 2023

Linda Forrest and Susan Lisk are now your event co-ordinators after taking on the role from Tamasin who had done it very competently for many years. We took on this role with Tamasin in the wings guiding us along for the May Minster Road Tea Party. We were lucky with the weather with lots of children and adults taking over the street to play games, and chat, while enjoying fantastic cakes and other treats with a cup of tea offered by local residents, all of which helped us to raise over £600 for charity.

This was followed by Open Gardens in June, brilliantly managed by Rebecca Philipson with lots of support again from neighbours and again raising approx £600 for charity.

Sadly, Film in the Street was not held, due to need for a projector, having only one choice for the event date. and too short a time to book a film. Apple Day was also a casualty as a result of too few good apples to justify the apple press, which Sietske Boeles had organised. Freecycle Day and the Planter Tidy did successfully go ahead in October.

To conclude the year, we will have Light Up December and the Street Fair in Little Minster to look forward to. Please get in touch with Rebecca Philipson if you want to have a table to sell stuff and Deborah Tricker to book your date for lighting up your window in December. And if you'd like to be part of the events group and join the fun, please contact Linda and Susan!

## Licensing Report – Lydia Mathews

**282 Cowley Road** - This premises applied to extend their license for the sale of alcohol. DRARA objected to this application on the grounds that The Council's [Special Saturation Policy for Licensing](#) is in place for this area and that this variation would have significantly contributed to the existing problems of alcohol related disorder and antisocial behaviour in the area. The application was withdrawn.

**HMOs** - DRARA continues to monitor the HMO register and report unregistered HMOs. If you believe that your house or a house near you is operating as an unregistered HMO please email [planning@drara.org.uk](mailto:planning@drara.org.uk) or contact the Council's HMO Enforcement Team, [hmos@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:hmos@oxford.gov.uk). Residents can check whether a house is registered by looking at the list available here: [https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20113/houses\\_in\\_multiple\\_occupation/910/register\\_of\\_hmo\\_licenses](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20113/houses_in_multiple_occupation/910/register_of_hmo_licenses). This list also provides details of the managing agent (often an estate agent), who you can contact if you encounter problems associated with the HMO.

## Traffic Report – Deborah Tricker

## **University Liaison 2022-23 -Karen Metcalfe**

DRARA works with both universities to improve relations between residents and students. Most students in this area are from Oxford Brookes University, and DRARA is in regular communication with the Community Engagement team about measures which can be taken to improve relationships.

Throughout the year I have attended Residents' Associations and Councillors meetings at Brookes University on behalf of DRARA. This forum provides an opportunity for local representatives to be updated on the University's activities and priorities, to discuss how they relate to the wider community and to raise specific questions, concerns and ideas. We are provided with updates on estates, community engagement and University staff are available to answer any questions we have.

Brookes University take concerns seriously. The Community Engagement Team follows a complaints procedure to deal with anti-social behaviour and excessive noise disturbance so please report it.

## **The DRARA Environment Action Group (EAG) – Maggie Hertford**

has now been in action for 14 years. In the past year, with the help of other residents, we have continued to care for the small gardens around the street trees and the LTN planters. Our annual litter-pick, OxClean, has become an annual event, and this year we ran a plant stall both at the DRARA Open Garden's Day and at the Minster Road Christmas fair. We have also taken on the Freecycle Days – one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. Each year we email around 300 people with 'Green Flashes' – ideas for improving our local environment, reusing and recycling, encouraging wildlife in our gardens, and enjoying local green spaces and nature.

Our Share and Freecycle WhatsApp group has been wildly popular and Wildlife and Energy Groups are increasingly active. The group has also been active in writing to MPs, counsellors, supermarkets and businesses about plastic packaging and other environmental issues – both to raise the issues, complain about bad practices and to congratulate as appropriate.

## **DRARA Planning Report – Tom Knollys**

Planning matters this year largely centred on small scale changes, many relating to HMOs, and responding to consultations on the Oxford Local Plan 2040 (on the allocation of development sites near our area), and about housing allocation (asking for an emphasis on housing over new jobs, given the current imbalance between housing and jobs and the consequences of too many people needing to commute into Oxford).

21 Divinity Road — an application to certify that the house is lawfully an HMO was withdrawn (no further details). 88 Divinity Road — concerns have been expressed about the size of the rear extension to this HMO (which can be seen from the street); the council has been notified and indicted enforcement officers will check that the approved plans are being followed. 187 Divinity Road — application to change a house (currently used as HMO but without default consent) to an HMO (current, yet to be decided). 35 Divinity Road — DRARA has raised concerns that this development (conversion to two flats) has not be completed as approved regarding cycle and bin storage.



54 Southfield Road — Replace existing garage (adjoining Sinnet Court) with a new dwelling, permission granted. DRARA had no objection (the new house will not be eligible for parking permits). 33 Minster Road was given permission for conversion to an HMO. A revised application to replace the garage next to 1 Minster Road with a new house was approved, with conditions intended to prevent parking on the site.

DRARA generally only comments on larger planning applications outside our area, if they might impact the DRARA area, but we did object in principle to an application for conversion of a family house in Jeune Street to an HMO, in which the applicant, Oriel College, was arguing that the area was already well over the 20% saturation threshold and so an exception should be made to allow the proposal.

DRARA was represented at a presentation of provisional plans to redevelop the Warneford Hospital, more information will be given during this meeting. The new houses at the bottom of Bartlemas Road were one of the certificate winners in the Oxford Preservation Trust Awards 2022 for the positive contribution they make to the streetscape.

### **Newsletter report – Jane Bingham**

This year we have produced Spring and Summer issues of the DRARA newsletter, with the Autumn issue due out in early November. The newsletter is delivered to every household in in the DRARA area by a wonderful team of volunteers led by Anne Hall.

The newsletter aims:

- to inform everyone in the neighbourhood about DRARA activities and other local events
- to report on local issues, such as our LTN
- to report on community concerns, such as anti-social behaviour
- to provide local interest stories, such as our ‘meet the neighbour’ profiles.

The wider aims of the newsletter are:

- to foster pride in our neighbourhood
- to connect different elements of our community and make us more aware of each other.

### **Contributions needed!**

We welcome all suggestions for articles as well as volunteers to write for the newsletter. We would especially welcome participation from younger members of our community.

### **Designer needed!**

We have now lost our long-term designer, Georgia Styring, so we are looking for someone to take over the design of the newsletter for a small fee. It's not a big job – we have a design template, and all copy and photos are supplied ready to be used. If you – or anyone you know – would like to take on this job, your help would be greatly appreciated.