Annual General Meeting

Monday 2 November 2026

6:30 - 8:30 pm, Oxford Golf Club, Hill Top Road

Doors open at 6:00 for registration and refreshments

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
2. **Guest speaker –** Colm O'Caomhanaigh and Rachel Pearson, Oxford Swift City Group speaking on Community Swift Conservation
3. **Update from Oxford Brookes Community Liaison** – Emma Trundley
4. **Updates from our City Councillors**

AGM Business Meeting

5. **Chair's Report** – Cindy Carlson
6. **Treasurer's Report**
7. **Election of Committee**
8. **Vote on changes to the DRARA Constitution**
9. **Vote on changes to Membership Fee**
10. **Open discussion** – priorities for the year ahead
11. **AOB**
12. **Date of the next AGM**:

Committee nominations to Cindy Carlson, DRARA Chair, drara.chair@gmail.com or in person on the night.

DRARA 2025 AGM Minutes

Held on Monday 27 October 2025 in Cheney School Community Hall

Present: Cindy Carlson (chair), Pat Tope (Secretary), Margaret Wolf (Communications), Julie Martin (Planning), 36 DRARA members, Cllr Alex Powell and Cllr Jemima Hunt (St Clements), Emma Trundley and Casey Alves (Brookes Community Engagement team), Wyon Stansfeld (Speaker) and 45 residents.

1. Cindy welcomed all to the meeting. We had received apologies from: Anneliese Dodds MP, Alison Williams, Mike Hobbs, Nick Welch, Jane Bingham, Maggie Hartford, Holly Garrard, Rob Waterson, George Wormold, Andrew Wilkinson, Isobel Gilham, Trish Attwooll, Sue Brownill, Andy Roscoe, Paul Wolf, Sietske Boeles, Pauline Edwards.

2. Guest Speaker Wyon Stansfeld gave an informative talk on both Asylum Welcome – which started in Oxfordshire – and Sanctuary Hosting. Asylum Welcome has over 250 volunteers and this means that over 80% of the money they receive goes to service delivery. They cover a wide range of support services, including helping people at the emergency end with money, food etc, going into schools to mentor children, going into Huntercombe prison to offer support, and running a football team.

   Sanctuary Hosting works alongside Asylum Welcome, offering free accommodation to vulnerable migrants for a limited time in people's homes. They match guests to hosts who have volunteered a room and have been going for over ten years. In this time, over 40,000 nights have been provided.

3. Emma Trundley from Brookes Community Engagement team reported on their work this year and their focus for the future. She explained that the team has moved to a different department and is now sitting in Estates and Campus Services. She explained that they felt that they had lost a wealth of experience when Andrea Siret left the team, compounded by the fact that she was not replaced. However, she feels that the team is benefiting from being within a different department.

   She talked about how Student Wardens have been pro-active in working with students new to the community, and went through the many areas addressed by the House Champion packs provided to student houses in the area. She mentioned the out-of-hours service on a Wednesday night from 9pm to 3am and encouraged people to use this to report problems as they rely on such reports when applying for funding each term. A report is written at the end of each shift and discussed the following morning to decide any necessary action. So far this term the team has had eight advisory meetings with individual houses – she stressed that these are taken very seriously and that students respond well in the most part. There is a formal procedure available should it be necessary to take matters further.

   She said that they do understand that the number of student cars parking in our streets can be a problem for other residents. They are now actively looking at what might be done to help with this when students move out of hall (they are not allowed cars in hall). They have set up a working party which is considering what other universities have done and how any policy might be implemented.

There was some general discussion about litter picking and praise for this work, especially on a Thursday. It was asked that Thursday morning litter pickers could prioritise the Cowley Road end of Divinity, Southfield and Bartlemas Roads.

4. Updates from City Councillors
   Jemima Hunt told the meeting that she is intending to step down at the May elections. She has been involved in promoting active travel including the LTNs but is unhappy that the current government has not yet made more money available to improve this. There was a question about the untidy parking of Voi scooters and bikes across the pavement at the top of Divinity Road and how this might be improved.

   Alex Powell reported on his meeting with Nick Welch and Julie Martin about the response to the proposed local plan. He also said that he is very aware of the traffic issues in our area, in particular the use of pavements by motorbikes to avoid the cameras. Separately, he is keen that we report any trees that are now missing and need replacing, both in our streets and in South Park. He suggested we email him – the next planting session will now be in March.

5. Chair's Report
   Cindy summarised the reports which were published alongside the meetings agenda. She thanked Alison Williams for her work as Treasurer for the past nine years; also James Rowland for auditing the accounts. The Events team were appreciated for all the work putting on enjoyable community events and raising money for charity. The Traffic Action group, co-ordinated by Moke Hobbs, has done a lot of work in talking to the council and monitoring traffic. There has been liaison with Homeless Oxfordshire with regard to safeguarding and other issues. Excellent work has been done on responding to planning applications and in responding to the proposed Local Plan for 2042. The Environment group has been doing fine work in planting and maintaining the planters and chicanes, organising litter picks and Freecycle days and in liaising with Sinnet Court about their front garden. Liaison with Brookes has been another area of work – Karen Metcalfe has stepped down after nine years of work in this (and other) roles and she was thanked for all her contributions.

6. Committee Election
   Existing members who had agreed to stay on were proposed and seconded. New members in the role of Treasurer and Events Co-ordinator were also proposed and seconded. All were voted in by those present. The current committee for 2025-2026 is:
   Cindy Carlson – Chair
   Pat Tope – Secretary
   James Rowland – Treasurer
   Julie Martin/Nick Welch – Planning
   Traffic – Mike Hobbs
   Brookes Liaison – Mike Hobbs/Julie Martin
   Environmental Action – Maggie Hartford
   Newsletter – Jane Bingham
   Communications – Margaret Wolf
   Events Co-ordination – Holly Garrard

The committee still has vacancies and is looking for others in the area to join.

7. Open Discussion
   Jackie Johnson who lives in Bartlemas Road explained that she feels extremely cut off and disenfranchised by the LTNs. She stressed that she was not against LTNs, but finds that the barriers make her life extremely difficult. She feels that it is worse for residents living below the barriers because every journey involves going along Cowley Road which is very busy and often subject to delays. She gave examples of how difficult it is for her work as a musician with a cello to transport who often needs to go to and from Headington. She would like the camera monitoring to be used to allow residents to pass through the barriers. She asked for a meeting with Cindy and Mike to discuss this ,which was agreed.

   There was a response from the floor against this idea, saying that others in Oxford already saw the creation of LTNs as benefiting some people over others and that it would be a negative move to benefit us still further. It was also pointed out that any change in one area would mean a change in all areas and could have ramifications much further than Oxford. Cindy mentioned that as the congestion charge is due to come in this week, we are in a moment of transition so it is important to see how things are affected by this.

8. The provisional date for next year's AGM is 19 October 2026

DRARA Chair's Annual Report 2026

It's been another busy, sociable and occasionally challenging year for the DRARA community. Here's a quick round-up of what our groups have been up to – the full reports are included in the AGM pack if you want more detail.

The year in brief

Events. What a calendar! Light-Up December (which even made the BBC News website), the Winter Fair, Christmas carols, the New Year Quiz, the Minster Road Tea Party, Bartlemas Chapel's 900th birthday, Gardens Open, Apple Day and the 25th (or possibly 26th) Film in the Street. Between them they raised over £2,500 for local charities and a useful chunk for DRARA too. Next up: Light-Up December again and the Winter Fair on Sunday 6 December. Helpers and new ideas are always welcome at events@drara.org.uk.

Environment. The Environmental Action Group has been tending planters and tree gardens, got Sinnet Court to smarten up the planting outside their property and ran two litter picks and freecycle days. The plant stall at Gardens Open raised over £300 for charity, and their 'Green Flash' messages keep us all on our toes. I'm very grateful to all those in the community who also undertake ad hoc litter picking on our streets, in an effort to keep our local environment more pleasant to walk through.

Traffic. The Traffic Action Group, led by Mike, has been making great efforts over the last year to keep our streets safe. SpeedWatch sessions carry on, and our traffic counts show more taxis (350+ in six hours) cutting through Divinity Road, plus motorbikes and scooters ignoring the Southfield Road barrier – some even riding on the pavement. We've put up 'No through road' signs (and replaced the ones that went walkabout). The Council agreed a list of actions in March, but very little has happened since, so we've asked for a meeting with Highways and Cllr Gareth Epps. SpeedWatch needs new volunteers – please get in touch with Mike Hobbs.

Brookes liaison. Julie Martin and Mike Hobbs keep up regular contact with Brookes. There are 13 student wardens this year and a Wednesday night out-of-hours noise service until 11 November. Student car parking is still a real headache and we're pushing on it. Emma Trundley from Brookes hopes to join us at the AGM.

Defibrillator. Our four guardians check it every week. Following national guidance, the access code (C159X) is now displayed right beside the cabinet. We'd love to run another CPR and defib training session – we just need a few more names.

Planning. Nick Welch and Julie Martin keep a close eye on applications. The Oxford Local Plan 2045 goes before the inspectors this autumn; the good news is that Oriel sports ground is no longer earmarked for housing, though the old Bowls Club site still is. Their HMO review found 97 HMOs among our 551 households (18%), with over two-thirds of them on lower Divinity and Southfield Roads.

Newsletter. Two issues a year, with the autumn edition out in mid-November. A big thank you to Oxford Golf Club for agreeing to sponsor the newsletter for the coming year, and to Anne Hall's delivery team. Jane Bingham would love more contributors (especially younger ones) and a local designer for a small paid role.

Constitution Changes

The DRARA committee have made some small revisions to the constitution (both versions available in this pack). The main change is to remove a specific amount for the membership fee that members are asked to pay each year, because of our need to raise membership fees after 14 years. We'll be asking you to vote on these revisions to the constitution during this AGM so please take a few minutes to read the two versions in the AGM pack.

Membership fees

Our £5 fee hasn't changed since about 2012, but insurance, printing, the website and event supplies have all gone up – last year our account nearly dipped into the red. We've already trimmed costs (two newsletters instead of three, cheaper email, lower bank charges). The committee is now proposing **£10 per household, and £5 for students and households where no one works full time**. That should inflation-proof us for a good few years and spread the costs more fairly.

Committee Members

Two of our committee members, Pat Tope and Mike Hobbs, are resigning as of this AGM. They have been very committed, dedicated members of the committee - Pat as our secretary and Mike as the lead of the Traffic Action Group. I want to thank them personally, and on behalf of the rest of the committee, for their service to the community.

This leaves us with three vacancies on the committee. If you haven't already put your name forward to join, and would be interested to learn more, please contact me on drara.chair@gmail.com

Thank you

None of the community efforts in this community wouldn't happen without the brilliant people who organise, bake, count cars, meet with our councils and universities, check the defib, deliver newsletters and keep our local environment clean with litter picks, and beautiful with our planters and street trees. Thank you all – and if you've ever fancied getting involved, now's a great time. See you on 2 November!

2025/26 DRARA Committee Members and Supporters

The DRARA Committee

- Cindy Carlson, Chair
- Pat Tope, Secretary (*standing down)*
- James Rowland, Treasurer
- Margaret Wolf, Emails/Communications
- Maggie Hartford, Environment
- Mike Hobbs, Traffic, OBU (*Standing Down)*
- Jane Bingham, Newsletter
- Julie Martin, Planning, OBU
- Nick Welch, Planning and Warneford Meadow
- Holly Garrard, Events
- ***Committee vacancy x 3***

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
- 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

DRARA Street Champions

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

The Subscriptions Team

Organised and led by David Waller

- Maggie Budden
- Cindy Carlson
- Geraldine Coggins
- Catriona Davidson
- Ann Edmunds
- Pauline Edwards
- Linda Forrest
- Holly Garrard
- Anne Hall
- Susan Lisk
- Julie Martin
- Kathy Peto
- Paul Wolf

The Environment Action Team

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

Traffic Action Group

Organised by Holly Garrard

- Pat Tope
- Anna Eden
- Andy Roscoe
- Catriona Davidson
- Deborah Tricker
- George Wormald
- Holly Lincoln
- Julie Martin
- Linda Forrest
- Louise Lobo
- Maggie Hartford
- Margaret Wolf
- Marilyn Relf
- Mary Ashdown
- Myfanwy Lloyd
- Mitch Oliver
- Paul Wolf
- Rebecca Phillipson
- Roz Thomas
- Sietske Boeles
- Sue Brownill
- Trish Attwooll
- Rupert Griffin from Tiddly Pommes

Organised and led by Mike Hobbs

- Cindy Carlson
- Clare Ridley
- Deb Tricker
- George Wormald
- Geraldine Coggins
- Graham Kendall
- James Doyle
- Julie Martin
- Leila Lake
- Linda Forrest
- Marc Thomas
- Margaret Wolf
- Mariabelle Headlam
- Mary Chesshyre
- Mel Hamill
- Nick Welch
- Peter Coggins
- Sandy Ruxton
- Susan Lisk
- Tim Bolton
- Tim Cullen
- Trish Attwooll

DRARA TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

1. OVERALL SITUATION

Total income was £5471 compared to £7277 last year.
Total expenditure was £2486 compared to £3456 last year.
Charitable donations were £2658 compared to £2390 last year
The surplus was £569 compared to £1431 last year. The main reason for the fall is that the Defibrillator Fund generated a surplus of £704 last year.

We ended the year with net assets of £3,456 (LY £2888), with £2601 (LY £1898) in the General Fund, £188 (LY £286) in the Friends of Warneford Meadow Fund, and £668 (LY £704) in the Defibrillator Fund.

2. INCOME: £5471 compared to £7277 last year.

Subscriptions: £1,437 (LY £1405)

Income is very stable due to most people paying by standing order, this year it increased by £32, last year it decreased by £48. The membership fee is dictated by the Constitution and hasn't been increased for at least 14 years. The Committee is now proposing to remove the membership fee from the Constitution so that future changes can be authorised by the AGM, and then to increase it next year. The new level of income may take a year or two to settle down as everyone increases their standing orders.

Events: £4110 (LY £3301)

The increase is mainly from the Quiz more than doubling income to £1224 and the Film income being nearly 50% up. Expenses were £680 compared to £203 last year. DRARA earned £780 from donations and the 10% levy compared to £691 last year. £2650 was donated to local charities compared to £2390 last year. The detailed figures for this and last year are in the Accounts.

Newsletter sponsorship: £0

The newsletter was not sponsored this year but the Golf Club has now stepped in and will provide sponsorship of £300 for 2026/7

3. EXPENDITURE: £2486 (LY £3456)

General expenses were up £407 on last year but last year £1511 was spent on the defibrillator; the details are in the Accounts. Monies from the Friends of Warneford Meadow and Defibrillator funds were spent on noticeboards.

4. FIXED ASSETS

Previously DRARA has written off all asset purchases. The Committee has now agreed that Fixed Assets should be recorded in the Accounts and written off over 5 years and the accounts have been adjusted to reflect this. The only assets this currently applies to are those purchased for Film in the Street in 2023/4 and this year. These are:

DESCRIPTION	COST	DATE	DEPRECIATION	VALUE 30/9/2026
Projector	£192	Sep 2024	£76	£116
Screen	£109	Sep 2024	£44	£65
Speakers, cables		2015		£0
DVD player	£85	Sep 2026	£17	£68
TOTAL	**£386**		**£137**	**£249**

NB. The Defibrillator is not included as it was externally funded

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION REPORT - 2025/26

The overall message from last years subs collection is that the amount of money raised in 2025-26 was £1,356 which is very similar to the 2024-25 income of £1,322 and the 23-24 income of £1,368.

Over the course of the three years the proportion of subs paid in cash has declined from 57% to 43% while standing order payments have increased from 42% to 57%. Tracking this change through rapid access to DRARA bank statements remains a priority.

Although student households don't often sign up as paid members they do appreciate the help they get through the WhatsApp groups - especially the street, Binfluencers and Share and Freecycle groups - and we continue to work to try and call on new student households early in the academic year so that they are conscious of the community that they have become part of.

We have benefitted from 4 new collectors who have come forward and taken on collection in areas where we have seen the departure of some long-term collectors. Although we have 13 collectors, seeking more (so that each collector has to do less) and making the data processing easier are priorities.

2025-26		**CASH**	**CHQ**	**Standing Order**
INCOME		£580	£5	£771
25/26 as % of 24/25		97.5%		106.1%
As percentage of total		42.8%	0.4%	56.9%
TOTAL INCOME 2025-26	£1,356			
% OF PREVIOUS YEAR	102.57%			

2024-25		**CASH**	**CHQ**	**Standing Order**
2024-25		CASH	CHQ	S.O.
INCOME		£595	£0	£727
2024/25 as % of 2023/24		76.5%		125.3%
As percentage of total		45.0%	0.0%	55.0%
TOTAL 2024/25	£1,322			
	96.6%			

2023-24		**CASH**	**CHQ**	**Standing Order**
2023-34		CASH	CHQ	S.O.
INCOME		£778	£10	£580
2024/25 as % of 2023/24				
As percentage of total		56.9%	0.7%	42.4%
TOTAL 2023/24:	£1,36			

James Rowland

Events Group Annual Report 2025/2026

We began with our traditional **Light-Up December**. Many households, and St Mary and St John Church, created a series of wonderful windows, which were illuminated in turn on each evening in December. Pictures were posted to WhatsApp and sent out by weekly email with a festive message and suggested charities, culminating in a community walk of all the windows on 23 December. We even made the BBC News website. Thanks in particular to Anna Eden and Margaret Wolf for organising.

December 2025 also saw our annual **DRARA Winter Fair**, which took place in SSMJ Church on Sunday 7 December. Organised by the talented Rebecca Phillipson and team, who produced a wonderful range of homemade wares for sale. There was live music and a Christmas cake raffle. A very enjoyable afternoon raised over £300 for charities nominated by stall holders and about £270 for DRARA.

And on Christmas day itself, there was **community carol singing** on Minster Road, organised by Emma Lawrence-Jones and Suzy.

2026 got off to a cracking start with the **New Year Quiz** on 19 January, organised by George Wormald. This was well attended and enormous fun, raising over £1,000 for Restore and Asylum Welcome charities, and just over £100 for DRARA.

The sun shone for the **Minster Road Tea Party** on 9 May. Under licence from the Council, we closed the street to cars and opened it to play. Over 70 people attended and much tea and cake was consumed. Many thanks to all our bakers, but especially to Roz Phillips who laid on an amazing spread. Over £500 raised for Oxford Breast Buddies and about £50 to DRARA.

On 17 May we helped celebrate **900 years of Bartlemas Chapel**, in conjunction with Martin Stott and his photography exhibition. Local electro-acoustic composer and musician, Lawrence Casserley installed his gongs in the Chapel for the community to explore and we enjoyed a performance by Lawrence and vocalist Clemmie Franks of Lawrence's improvisatory work *"Last night I dreamt of stars"*.

On 31 May, eleven DRARA households **opened their gardens** for all to enjoy. With tea, cake and plant sales we raised over £700 for Restore and the Oxford Dyslexia Association. Many thanks again to Rebecca Phillipson again for leading the organisation.

Regular **Hill Top Teas** continue to be organised by Isobel Gilham at the Golf Club. All are very welcome to attend.

More recently, on 13 September, Sietkse Boeles organised the annual **Apple Day**, with community picking, juicing and bottling in the Warneford Orchard. Many thanks to Rupert Griffin of Tiddly Pommes for providing his apple press and expertise.

And 19 September saw the 25th, or possibly 26th, **Film in the Street**. Under licence from the Council, we closed part of Divinity Road for a party, kicking off with the joyous Horns of Plenty band, then a screening of cartoons and, the main event, School of Rock. Particular thanks to Mary Ashdown, Holly Lincoln and Sue and Andy Brownhill for organising. Over £500 raised for DRARA.

Coming up … it's nearly time to Light Up December again and, on Sunday 6th December, the Winter Fair will be held at St Mary and St John Church from 1pm to 3.30pm.

Thank you very much to everyone who has attended events this year. We are always in need of more helpers, so please do get in touch with the team by emailing events@drara.org.uk if you are interested in getting involved. And if you have any ideas for new events, please get in touch too.

Holly Garrard

DRARA TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP - ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Members of DRARA's Traffic Action Group have remained active on a number of fronts.

Community SpeedWatch (CSW) sessions have been undertaken in Divinity, Southfield and Hill Top Roads, albeit it on relatively few occasions. The purpose of CSW is to deter speeding rather than 'catch' those who do break the 20mph speed limit, so it is a worthwhile exercise even though, most of the time, traffic is light. Drivers slow down when they see a group of hi-viz jackets ahead, so few have been reported to TVP for speeding. However, an increase in the number of taxis exceeding the speed limit in Divinity Road has been recorded, and this has been raised with the Council – see below. If the CSW group is to continue, new recruits are needed – if interested, please email mike.jd.hobbs@gmail.com

A repeat count of all forms of traffic (including vans, cars, taxis, motorbikes/motor scooters, cyclists and pedestrians) in all DRARA roads was carried out over 6 morning, afternoon and early evening hours in November 2025, including 'rush hours'. Compared with previous counts (November 2024, May 2025), more taxis were counted, over 350 in the 6-hour period. The number of pedestrians and cyclists using our roads remains high, numbered in the hundreds, but significantly fewer cyclists were counted in Divinity Road than Southfield Road – which is not surprising in view of the volume of taxi traffic in the former. Taxis are of course authorized to pass through the Divinity Road ANPR barrier.

Motor scooters and motorbikes are prohibited from passing through the Southfield Road LTN barrier, but many do so with impunity; and a worrying number mount the pavements in Divinity Road to evade the ANPR camera, which is highly dangerous to pedestrians. More recent observation suggests that the numbers of taxis using Divinity Road and of motorbikes/scooters using Southfield Road have increased markedly in the past year, so a specific count of their numbers is scheduled for early October. DRARA continues to press for a review of taxi exemption from LTN restriction in Divinity Road, and for action to deter motorbikes/scooters in Southfield Road.

Earlier in the year, DRARA procured and installed A3 'No through road' signs in Divinity and Southfield Roads, to both inform and hopefully deter unauthorized drivers seeking through passage. Many were removed or damaged, so replacements are being installed in September.

These were major subjects of discussion at a meeting DRARA held with Highways Officers in March, as at previous meetings, along with other issues. Included was a request from residents for exemption from LTN restrictions to permit car travel through the ANPR gate, which the Council dismissed as inequitable and unworkable. The following actions were agreed:

1. Taxi exemption would be discussed after the introduction of Traffic Filters in place of the Congestion Charge in late September.
2. Consideration would be given to installation of additional ANPR cameras in Divinity Road to cover the pavements, and in Southfield Road to cover the bollard barrier, with the aim of deterring motorbike/scooter breaches.
3. Replacement of lost and faded road signs
4. Action to tackle pavement parking
5. Council Officers to raise with Brookes the challenges posed for other residents, especially people who are disabled or ferry children and equipment around, by students bringing cars to Oxford and adding to pressure on our limited parking spaces.

To date (27 September), conspicuously little has been achieved on any issue, though informal communication suggests that pavement parking regulation will be introduced shortly. A further meeting with Highways Officers and the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Gareth Epps - at which all these issues will be addressed - has been requested for October.

Mike Hobbs

DRARA / OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY LIAISON, 2025 - 2026

Julie Martin and Mike Hobbs have continued valuable liaison with Brookes through the past year, attending their termly meetings for Residents Associations and local Councillors, and meeting at intervals with Emma Trundley (Brookes Community Engagement Manager).

At our most recent meeting, on 8th September, Emma outlined the approach to community engagement for the coming academic year. This began with a 'Halls to Homes' event last semester, aimed at all students moving out of halls and into private housing. Key messages included advice about noise, bin management, travel, safety and 'please don't bring a car to Oxford, and here are some of the alternative travel options that you can use e.g. Lime bikes'. All students moving out of halls will have received a welcome pack containing detailed advice on these issues. Of course, students experience problems also: a survey of last year's students indicated some need for support/mediation in dealings with landlords and fellow tenants, so Emma's team help out with this too.

13 student community wardens have been appointed, most new to the role, and they will call on every student household to reinforce the advice in the welcome pack and cover issues such as the LTNs and traffic filters. There will also be safety events, including advice on safe cycling. Wardens will continue to litter pick and respond to residents' complaints by visiting student households. Unfortunately ODS can no longer provide as much support on waste management issues as they used to. It was noted that it is often the larger student houses that cause most problems and may need most attention.

The Wednesday night out of hours service will run 16 September to 11 November, from 8pm until midnight, led by two council officers who have powers to deal with issues on the spot. Residents should have received a letter explaining how to make use of this service. At other times, if polite requests for quiet don't work, Emma recommends that residents use the City Council's noise nuisance reporting system https://www.oxford.gov.uk/noise-pollution/report-noise-problem This involves downloading an app and taking a recording of the noise, thereby collecting evidence that allows council officers to take prompt enforcement action which can, if ignored, lead to £100 per student fines.

In relation to student car parking, DRARA reps said that we would wait to see if the new communication campaign helps reduce the pressure on parking spaces experienced by other residents. Experience of the first weeks of term suggests, however, that the problem is greater again this year, so we will pursue this issue. We have pointed out that the Brookes response to parking concerns earlier this year made a comparison with the University of Cambridge, whereas we had intended a comparison with Anglia Ruskin University whose rules and regulations clearly prohibit most of their students from bringing cars to Cambridge. Emma said she would look into this.

Any comments or complaints should be made on the online form on the Brookes website (https://service.brookes.ac.uk/cms/community_complaints). Emma plans to attend the DRARA AGM on 2 November. DRARA reps thanked her for all her efforts on community engagement.

Julie Martin and Mike Hobbs

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATOR ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

DRARA's 'defibrillator guardians' – Anna Eden, Jeanne Fay, Tim Bolton, Mike Hobbs – continue their weekly checks of the defibrillator and monthly maintenance of the cabinet, and submit monthly readiness reports to The Circuit, the national database which provides information about defibrillator locations.

DRARA has continued to publicise the access code for the defibrillator cabinet. Research has confirmed however that the incidence of damage and theft of defibrillators is very low, so national guidance is now that defibrillator cabinets should be kept unlocked to ensure the most rapid access possible in an emergency. Rather than replacing the lock mechanism on our cabinet, which is relatively expensive, we have installed a sign beside it which displays the access code - which is C159X.

DRARA has offered a further training session on use of defibrillators and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. Take up has been slow, so more applicants are needed to make arranging a training session viable. Anyone interested, please email - mike.jd.hobbs@gmail.com

DRARA PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26 REPORT

The responsibility for monitoring and reviewing planning and associated procedures rests with Julie Martin and Nick Welch. Julie looks after the local planning process, and monitors applications for tree work. Nick regularly reviews planning and licensing applications, monitors the decisions, and responds on behalf of DRARA to applications when it is considered necessary or appropriate.

Oxford Local Plan. The local plan (now called the Oxford Local Plan *2045*) has reached its final stage and will be examined by inspectors for soundness and legal compliance during October and November 2026. The City Council hopes to adopt the plan by the end of this year. Last year we responded to the consultation on Preferred Options (Reg 18 consultation), criticising the continuing allocation of brownfield sites in the city for employment rather than for new (affordable) housing. This criticism still stands and was repeated in our response to the most recent (Reg 19) consultation; it is among the key issues that will be considered by the inspectors at the forthcoming examination in public. Locally, the proposal to allocate Oriel sports ground for housing has thankfully been dropped, but housing is still proposed for the former East Oxford Bowls Club site. Our consultation response flagged up the environmental and conservation constraints associated with the latter site. Looking ahead we will closely follow likely changes in the local planning regime as a result of the Oxford Growth Commission report and the proposed establishment of a (Greater) Oxford Development Corporation. Announcements on both are expected soon.

Tree works. Applications for tree works in Conservation Areas and areas covered by Tree Preservation Orders in and near our area have been monitored (tree works outside these areas do not require formal approval). There have been relatively few significant applications this year, apart from some felling (to counter subsidence) in the grounds of the Cowley St John Vicarage (Bartlemas Conservation Area).

Planning and licensing applications.

Most planning applications over the past 12 months have been for lawful use certificates, almost entirely to regularise the planning status of HMOs that have in use as HMOs for the previous 10 years. In considering these applications, the City Council reviews tenancy records, tenancy contracts

and changes in ownership. DRARA contested one application, not successfully. The one development of any scale currently being considered at 1 Divinity Road.

It's worth noting two applications that impact on our neighbourhood. The application for the development of the Warneford Hospital site has been approved, but the traffic and parking elements are being separately contested. The Friends of Warneford Meadow have objected strongly to the siting of the proposed new inpatient service and the underground/basement parking provision. There are major concerns over the impact of this development on the ecology of the meadow and the orchard and the impact of the size and proximity of the new facilities on the orchard and its importance as a therapeutic and recreational space.

The second application is for the development of the depot on Cheney Lane (previously the Toad gin distillery). The proposed master plan for the development of the site has not been submitted, so its future remains unclear.

A desk top review of the number of HMOs in our neighbourhood has been carried out. This took the HMOs known to DRARA in the subscription records and checked them against the City Council's register of HMOs. The numbers summarised below are taken from DRARA's subscription collect spreadsheets and cover every household in the neighbourhood. The six discrepancies in the registration status of houses will be sent to the City Council.

The total number of households is 551, of which 97 are HMOs (18%) However, the distribution, which is summarised in the table below, is the significant issue for the neighbourhood. Divinity Road 1-102 and Southfield Road 1-61 have 69% of the HMOs in the area.

	Households	**HMOs**	**%age**
Stone Street	13	0	
Hill Top Road	59	0	
Warneford Road	34	9	26
Minster Road	39	5	12
Bartlemas Road	72	24	33
Southfield Road 62-130	60	1	1.6
Southfield Road 1-61	67	18	26
Divinity Road 103-170	67	10	15
Divinity Road 1-102	73	30	41

Julie Martin, Nick Welch.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

During the year, we have worked on the area's planters and the gardens around the trees, and persuaded Oxford Brookes University to improve the planting outside Sinnet Court student accommodation.

We organised two enjoyable litter picks and freecycle days, and continued collecting empty blister packs for recycling. We also publicised Oxford City Council's new textile recycling service to students at the end of term.

We ran a plant stall at DRARA's annual Gardens Open event and raised more than £300 for two charities: Restore and Children Heard and Seen.

We send regular 'Green Flash' messages about local environmental issues and have supported local campaigns and written protest letters on subjects such as supermarkets' use of packaging.

Maggie Hertford

DRARA NEWSLETTER ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

This year, we are again producing two issues of the DRARA newsletter, in spring and autumn. The autumn issue is due to be distributed in mid-November, following the AGM on November 2nd.

I am delighted to report that the Oxford Golf Club management team have kindly offered to sponsor our newsletter this year. We are very grateful for their support, which will be acknowledged in the newsletter.

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 planning and traffic management
- 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 would love to find someone in the DRARA community to take on the job of newsletter design in return for a fee. We are currently using a non-local designer, but it would be great to have the design input of someone with connections to our area. It's not a big job – we have a design template, and all copy and photos are supplied ready to be used. If you would like to take on this job, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Jane Bingham

DRARA MEMBERSHIP FEES 2026/27

Current Membership Fees

Current DRARA membership fees have been set at £5.00. per household with a special discounted rate of £2.00 where no one is in full time employment and including student households. This amount hasn't been changed since around 2012.

What are membership fees used for?

Membership fees help partially to cover DRARA's insurance for holding events, as well as for the purchase of material and equipment needed for events, the costs of the DRARA website, producing the newsletter and the occasional community activity, such as purchasing plants for street planters and tree wells. DRARA can only partially cover these costs through membership fees as we also have been taking a proportion of funds raised during each event to cover the full costs of our events and other DRARA costs, while donating the rest to different, mostly local, charities.

Raising the membership fee now

Inflation, especially in the last five years, has meant that the costs of everything, including insurance, website, newsletter printing and purchasing supplies and materials for events has substantially increased. As a committee we've worked to reduce our costs by reducing the number of newsletters we produce from three to two per year, moved most of our emails out of paid-for Google accounts, while also doing an analysis of how to keep bank charges for the DRARA account as low as possible.

The DRARA Committee is proposing to increase membership fees for 2027/28 to £10.00 per household, and £5.00 for single households and where no one is in full time employment. Due to inflation, the value of £5 in 2012 would now be about £7.43, so we hope that charging £10 can 'inflation-proof' our fees for several years to come. The table below compares the advantages and disadvantages to raising the fees and to maintaining the status quo.

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Raise the membership fee to £10.00 a year	• More likely to cover the full annual costs of DRARA activities, except for exceptional expenses e,g, contributions to planning judicial reviews or large pieces of equipment. • Spreads the costs of DRARA activities across a wider group of residents. • Helps the DRARA income and bank balance stay a bit head of inflation. • Means fewer changes to standing orders in the years to come.	• Some members may object to doubling the membership fee, however consultations in previous AGMs suggested that changing to £7 or £8 would be awkward for our collectors to collect on the doorstep. • Would need to ensure all standing orders are changed to this new rate.
2. Status quo – we maintain the current £5.00 and rely on donations from residents to cover the costs of DRARA activities	• Minimum changes needed to the current membership collection materials; • No changes needed to standing orders we receive	• May end up in the situation we had last year where the DRARA accounts almost had a negative balance; • Means the costs are not evenly distributed across the membership but instead reliant on the generosity of a sub-set of members.

Cindy Carlson

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

The name of the organisation shall be 'Divinity Road Area Residents Association'.

2. AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION

a. To promote and represent the interests of the residents of the Divinity Road area in Oxford
b. To promote and facilitate social and community building activities for all residents of the 'Association area' as defined in 3 below.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all residents, property owners and businesses in the 'Association area', ie Divinity Road, Southfield Road, Hill Top Road, Warneford Road, Minster Road, Bartlemas Road, Stone Street, residents of the Bartlemas Conservation Area, Evelyn Court and those parts of the Cowley Road (north side) that adjoin this area.

Subject to approval at an AGM or Special General Meeting, the Association area may be modified from time to time.

The Association does not discriminate on the grounds of nationality, political opinion, ethnic and cultural background, religious opinion, gender, sexuality or disability.

The Association actively seeks to represent the needs and aspirations of all residents in the area. It will uphold equality of opportunity and work for good relations among all members of the community.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEE/SUBSCRIPTION

Full members shall pay an annual fee of £5 per household (£2 for OAPs, students and concessions). All those living in the 'Association area' defined in 3 above, are considered to be Supporters without payment of a fee and will receive the newsletter, but are not entitled to a vote at the AGM or any other special general meeting. People living outside the Association area may also be Supporters and receive the newsletter on payment of the annual fee.

5. THE COMMITTEE

a. A committee shall be elected to carry out the business of the Association.
b. The committee shall be made up of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and up to eight general members.
c. The committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
d. Officers shall carry out the duties given to them at General Meetings.
e. The committee shall normally meet approximately six times a year and no less than twice per year.
f. Minutes of committee meetings shall be available to all members.
g. The committee can co-opt new members as required, to serve until the following AGM only, subject to b, above.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a. The Association's financial year runs from 1 October to 30 September. The Annual General Meeting will take place within two months of the end of the financial year. The committee will report on its work, present a statement of accounts and stand down to seek re-election.
b. The AGM shall elect a new committee, vote on recommendations and any amendments to the constitution.
c. The secretary will notify all members who have notified an email address of the

date of the meeting not less than 14 days before the AGM. Publicity will also be given in suitable local outlets.

7. OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS

a. There will be a Special General Meeting open to all full members when required.
b. A Special General Meeting open to all members will be held if six or more members submit in writing a request for such a meeting to the secretary. The secretary shall arrange for the meeting to take place within 14 days.
c. The Secretary will publicise all General Meetings at least five days in advance.

8. QUORUM

No Special General Meeting or Annual General Meeting shall take place if fewer than six members are present. No committee meeting shall take place if less than four members of the committee are present.

9. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

a. The constitution can be altered at an AGM or at a Special General Meeting.
b. Any suggested changes must be handed to the secretary 14 days before the AGM.
c. Changes must be agreed by a majority of the members present at the meeting.

10. DISSOLUTION

a. The Association may only be dissolved at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose and must be advertised 14 days before the meeting.
b. A proposal to dissolve the Association shall take effect only if agreed by two thirds of the members present at the meeting.
c. Funds and possessions will be disposed of according to the wishes of the meeting.

Adopted by the AGM on 2 October 2012.

PROPOSED DRARA CONSTITUTION
November 2026

1. NAME

'Divinity Road Area Residents Association' (or DRARA)

2. AIMS

a. To promote and represent the interests of the residents of the Divinity Road Area.

b. To promote and facilitate social and community building activities for the residents of the Divinity Road Area.

3. AREA COVERED

The 'Divinity Road Area' consists of Divinity Road, Southfield Road, Hill Top Road, Warneford Road, Minster Road, Bartlemas Road, Stone Street, the Bartlemas Conservation Area, Evelyn Court and those parts of the Cowley Road (north side) that adjoin this area. Subject to approval at an AGM or General Meeting, the Area may be modified from time to time.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all residents, property owners and businesses in the Divinity Road Area.

Membership fees for the following year shall be determined by members at the AGM.

DRARA shall seek to represent the interests of all those living in the Divinity Road Area and a regular newsletter will be delivered to all residents. Non-members shall not be entitled to vote at the AGM or any other General Meeting.

People living outside the Divinity Road Area may become non-voting members on payment of the annual membership fee; they shall also then receive the newsletter.

5. THE COMMITTEE

a. A committee shall be elected to carry out the business of the Association.

b. The committee shall be made up of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and up to eight general members.

c. The committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

d. The committee can co-opt members subject to (b) above. Such members shall serve until the next AGM.

e. The committee shall meet approximately six times a year and no less than two times per year.

f. Minutes of committee meetings shall be available to all members.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

a. The Association's financial year runs from 1 October to 30 September. The Annual General Meeting will take place within two months of the end of the financial year. The committee will report on its work, present a statement of accounts and stand down to seek re-election.

b. The AGM shall elect a new committee, vote on recommendations and any amendments to the constitution.

c. The secretary will notify all members who have notified an email address of the date of the meeting not less than 14 days before the AGM. Publicity will also be given in suitable local outlets.

7. OTHER GENERAL MEETINGS

a. There will be a special General Meeting open to all members when required.

b. A General Meeting open to all members will be held if six or more members, including a minimum of two committee members, submit in writing a request for such a meeting to the Secretary who shall arrange for the meeting to take place within 14 days, or within 28 days if the purpose is to change the Constitution.

c. The Secretary will publicise all General Meetings at least five days in advance.

8. QUORUM

No AGM or General Meeting shall take place if fewer than six members are present. No committee meeting shall take place if less than four members of the committee are present.

9. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

a. The constitution can be altered at an AGM or at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

b. Any suggested changes must be handed to the secretary 14 days before the Meeting.

c. Changes must be agreed by a two-thirds majority of the members present at the Meeting.

10. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

DRARA seeks to represent the needs and interests of all residents and organisations based in the Area and to promote good relations and mutual respect between all members of the community. DRARA values diversity and is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and inclusion. DRARA does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, gender, gender reassignment, sexuality, age, religion, belief, political opinion or disability, pregnancy, maternity, marriage or civil partnership status.

11.DISSOLUTION

a. The Association may only be dissolved at an AGM or a General Meeting called for that purpose and must be advertised to members 14 days before the meeting.

b. A proposal to dissolve the Association shall take effect only if agreed by two thirds of the members present at the meeting.

c. Funds and possessions will be disposed of according to the wishes of the meeting.