



Annual General Meeting

Monday 27 October 2025

7:00pm – 9:00 pm, Cheney School Community Hall

Doors open at 6:30 for registration and refreshments

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**
2. **Guest speaker** – Wyon Stansfield, speaking on Asylum Welcome and Sanctuary Hosting
3. **Update from Oxford Brookes Community Liaison** – Emma Trundle
4. **Updates from our City Councillors**
5. **Chair's Report** – Cindy Carlson
6. **Treasurer's Report**
7. **Election of Committee**
8. **Open discussion** – priorities for the year ahead
9. **AOB**
10. **Date of the next AGM: 19 October 2025**

Committee nominations to Pat Tope, DRARA secretary, secretary@drara.org.uk
or in person on the night



DRARA Annual General meeting minutes, held on Monday 14 October 2024, 6.30pm SS Mary and John Church

Present: Cindy Carlson (chair), 6 committee members; 36 DRARA members; Cllr Jemima Hunt and Cllr Alex Powell (St Clements), Andrea Siret (Head of Community Engagement and Social Responsibility for Brookes); John Hall and Jane Freebody (speakers)

1. Cindy welcomed all to the meeting (47 in attendance)

2. Apologies: Pat Tope, Julie and Dave Martin, Jane and David Bingham, Marina de Alarcon, Rob Waterston, Karen Metcalfe, Trish Attwooll, Mary Ashdown, Andrew Wilkinson, Richard and Catherine Weston, Susan Lisk

3. Talk by John Hall and Jane Freebody – Warneford Hospital – A Potted History

John Hall, a clinical psychologist with an MA in History of Medicine, gave an illustrated talk about the history of mental health care provision in the UK and how attitudes to care has changed from the 1600s onwards. The Warneford was an early 19th century innovation for mental health services, catering to more wealthy mental health patients, while the Littlemore Hospital continued to run a more traditional (for the time) mental hospital for poorer individuals. The focus on mental health care provision has continued to evolve so that mental health now is understood to be a complex multi-dimensional concept, including high-risk crises, everyday challenges of living, and inter-personal relationships, at different stages of life: a multiple set of psychological, psychiatric, and now neuroscience concepts and as a very personal set of often inter-connected concerns and priorities. As a result, interventions have also evolved from management and meaningful activity, and sedatives, with psychoanalytically informed talking therapies for the few to:

- The social and therapeutic environment
- More considered use of medication
- The explosive growth of talking therapies
- Exercise and physical activity
- ... and the need for social support for service users, their families and carers

After John's talk Jane Freebody, co-ordinator of the Warneford 200 project, talked about the plans being developed to celebrate the Warneford Hospital's 200th birthday in 2026. Numerous activities are being planned that will include all of Oxfordshire, including an exhibition of the hospital's history, a special Warneford walk on the hospital grounds, a theatre production, arts and crafts and a schools' programme. More information will be available as the plans become more concrete and funding is secured for the celebrations.

4. Andrea Siret, Head of Community Engagement and Social Responsibility for Brookes, reported on the team's initiatives, covering:

Student community wardens

Andrea outlined the wardens' responsibilities, including home visits to student houses and regular street clean-ups. The team was represented by local student warden, Casey. There are 12 student

wardens this year, and DRARA residents were strongly encouraged to get in touch if there are specific issues or parts of the area that we would like the wardens to focus on.

Oxford City Council's Out of Hours Wednesday Night Noise Awareness Service

Andrea encouraged DRARA residents to contact the team directly with any issues on 07483 010709, between the hours of 9pm and 3am. The team is being more pro-active this year than previously and has responded to 28 separate calls, intervening 26 different situations over the last four weeks of the Brookes semester. In this same period the team has also received 22 complaints, up from 16 last year around this same time.

Communications

The Community Engagement Team has continued to strengthen their communications, including:

- Welcome letter sent to all DRARA residents – permanent and student. The leaflet includes information on the Out of Hours service
- Emails to resident associations and councillors
- Emails out to students
- Visits to student properties
- Holding a sports training conference for sports teams to remind them of their responsibilities as representatives of their clubs and of the university
- Contact with landlords and letting agents

Andrea emphasized her team's close co-operation with the Council and the Police.

Complaints process

Andrea outlined the stages of the formal complaints process and reported on complaints so far this year. The total so far is 72, which is down significantly on previous years.

Complaints are broken down into categories, with by far the largest category being noise, followed by waste management and anti-social behaviour.

She concluded by welcoming all communications between residents and Brookes. A full list of contacts was included in the printed reports to DRARA made available at the meeting.

In the general discussion that followed, Andrea and her team were thanked for their work, which in some cases has had positive results, but there was still a particular concern raised about **rubbish management**. It was pointed out that students continue to be confused about what bins to use on which days, despite the efforts made by the community liaison team and by DRARA. Dave Waller mentioned that there is a Binfluencers WhatsApp group set up by one of the DRARA residents which informs group members about what bins go out each week and what items to put in each bin.

5. Councillor Jemima Hunt and Alex Powell reported on councillor activities for the area

Jemima mentioned her disappointment that the bollards on Divinity Road have been replaced by ANPR cameras, and has continued to have meetings with the County Council cabinet member for transportation, Andrew Gant, together with members of the DRARA Traffic Action Group. While traffic has increased now the bollards have gone, the situation is far better than it was two to three years ago prior to the LTN.

Both Jemima and Alex have been involved in discussions about protecting South Park after last year's fireworks event, which caused significant damage throughout the park. As a result of lobbying from the local community, including Save South Park, the council is limiting traffic within the park to the lower parts, using more extensive protection for the ground, and there will be no bonfire. There is also, for the first time, a cancellation policy in place in case ground is too wet. Alex noted that he had

been in touch with Alex Hollingworth, the City Councillor cabinet member with responsibility for parks to get a better understanding of what circumstances would trigger a cancellation but has not received a detailed answer yet.

The TOAD (The Oxford Artisan Distillery) site has been put out to tender now that TOAD has moved out. The tender specifications include the need to provide public toilets and other amenities for the local community. The final decision on who will manage the site will be taken by the council cabinet.

Comments from residents included:

- Last year's damage to the park has not yet been fully repaired. We were told that grass would be planted but it appears this has not happened in key areas of the park.
- Could the council look at improving the path across the top of South Park and the path that goes between Cheney School and Cheney playing fields. This would not only benefit the local community but also the very many students that use this path.

6. Report on the DRARA year

Cindy covered the committee's priorities during 2023/24:

- a) DRARA Finances (see attached finance accounts): DRARA finances are looking much healthier this year compared to last year's, although we still have less in our bank account than two years ago. The bank balance is £1456.59. We still need to raise additional funds to cover the cost of purchasing a DRARA projector and new screen which were used for Film in the Street. The projector also was used for this AGM meeting. Thanks to Alison Williams and James Rowland for their support on managing DRARA finances
- b) Membership Subscription collections – our membership drive has just started for this year. Many thanks to Dave Waller, our membership secretary and all the subscription collectors in the area.
- c) LTNs - DRARA members and committee have been monitoring the changes to the LTN in the area with the introduction of the ANPR cameras on Divinity Road. We have done a physical traffic count at the Divinity Road and Southfield Road barriers to see many unauthorised vehicles are passing through and have met with council officers twice. There are five Telraams (traffic counting units) in the DRARA area that supply data on how many of four types of transport are operating through our streets (cars, two-wheeled vehicles, pedestrians and heavy goods vehicles). We plan to do a fuller physical traffic count in the next month and will run a community speed watch to gather evidence on vehicle speeds on our roads.
- d) Anti-social Behaviour – Our main challenges continue to be noise, drug dealing and rubbish. Most of the anti-social behaviour in the area comes from either student households or from other houses of multiple occupation (HMOs), especially Homeless Oxfordshire managed houses. DRARA committee and members have been working with the Oxford Brookes team, as well as with the police, council and Homeless Oxfordshire to try and address these ongoing issues.
- e) South Park – DRARA committee and DRARA members have been actively engaging on trying to get the damage done to South Park last year during the 5 November fireworks event repaired and making sure that the park is protected from further damage caused by future events. We have been engaging with the council and Friends of South Park with some success. There is still unrepaired damage in the park, but this year's fireworks event will be scaled back, with all traffic contained to the lower part of the park, and there is a cancellation policy in place in the event of conditions being too wet to go ahead with an event.

- f) Warneford Park plans – DRARA committee members have been involved in early consultations with the Warneford Hospital about its plans for redeveloping its site. The ‘First Monday’ talk on Monday 4 November will be about the Warneford Park plans.
- g) DRARA Defibrillator – the DRARA committee is also working on purchasing and installing a neighbourhood defibrillator, probably to be installed on the wall outside the Sinnet Court offices. Mike Hobbs has been leading on this and we are currently waiting to hear whether the full amount needed will be provided by a private philanthropist.
- h) Cindy thanked all those active in creating events such as the Quiz, Litter Picking and Freecycle days, Tea Party, Open Gardens, Film in the Street, Apple Day and First Mondays. Three more events will be held before the end of 2024 – another Freecycle and litter picking weekend (19/20 October), Christmas Fayre (8 December) and DRARA’s own ‘Light up December’ in the weeks running up to Christmas.

7. The DRARA committee – new members needed and re-election of members

Cindy thanked outgoing committee members stepping down at this meeting: Deborah Tricker, Tom Knollys, Linda Forrest, as well as committee members who have left during the year, Lydia Mathews and Susan Lisk. She also welcomed Pat Tope, who has joined as Secretary, and Julie Martin, who is involved with the Environment Action Group. Mike Hobbs is joining the committee as of this AGM.

Jane Bingham also asked for a volunteer to design the DRARA newsletter.

It was proposed that all the existing committee members who are staying on were re-elected, and Mike Hobbs join the committee to lead on Traffic issues. Proposed by Maggie Hartford. Seconded by Linda Forrest. Approved by all present at the meeting.

Committee members for 2023-24 are currently as follows:

Cindy Carlson	Chair
Pat Tope	Secretary
Alison Williams	Treasurer
Vacant	Events
Vacant	Planning
Mike Hobbs	Traffic
Margaret Wolf	Communications and emails
Jane Bingham	Newsletter
Maggie Hartford	Environmental Action
Karen Metcalfe	University Liaison
Vacant	Anti-social behaviour and Licensing
Julie Martin	
Ex officio members	Vacant

As with last year, Cindy reported that more committee members are needed. There are currently three vacancies. The committee would especially value someone with good website skills. The committee is open to offers of job shares and job flexibility. We will also be looking to a new Friends of South Park committee member to join the DRARA committee as an ex-officio member.

8. Membership Fees

Membership fees have remained at £5 (£2 pounds for students and unemployed households) for several years. As the cost of many areas of DRARA’s work has increased quite a bit in that time, including paying for insurance for our events, purchasing equipment for our events and publishing our newsletters. The DRARA Committee has been discussing whether to put membership fees up and proposed a number of options:

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Status quo – we maintain the current £5.00 and rely on donations from residents to cover the costs of DRARA activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum changes needed to the current membership collection materials • No changes needed to standing orders we receive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
2. Raise the membership fee to £8.00 or £10.00 a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More likely to cover the full annual costs of DRARA activities, except for exceptional expenses • Spreads the costs of DRARA activities across a wider group of residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership collections could be trickier as it's easier for people to find a £5 note on the doorstep and less likely to have change • Would require effort to change the standing orders
3. Raise the membership fee to £10.00 a year except for those paying by standing order, who would only need to pay £7.00 a year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as for Option 2, except that it could incentivise more people to pay by standing order. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as Option 2, with added complexity of maintaining a two-tier system of payment.

DRARA members were asked what their views were on membership fees. A few people agreed that the fees should go up, though there was general hesitation about putting them as high as £10. A number of people felt incentivising members to pay by Standard Order by offering a lower fee would be a good idea, although it was also suggested that it would probably be the better-off members of the community who could take the most advantage of the standing-order discount. An additional option was suggested – that the percentage of funds raised during DRARA events that goes to DRARA could be increased from the current 10% to 15% or 20%. A further suggestion was that DRARA ask members to donate additional funds for specific items, such as paying for the projector and screen. Cindy thanked everyone for their suggestions, which will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

9. Any Other Business

No AOB was raised

Attachments:

DRARA Committee Reports, including financial report

Report from Oxford Brookes University on Community Engagement

Warneford Hospital presentations



CHAIR'S ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT – CINDY CARLSON

Over the last year we have welcomed many new families to our area as well as a new student intake across our streets. The DRARA committee has been very busy on a number of fronts, as detailed in the various reports linked to this report.

This last year we collected £1450 (cash 45% – less than last year; and standing orders 55% – an increase on last year) in membership subscriptions from 254 households in the area (44% of the total). These funds are primarily used to support our events, printing our newsletters, our website and other communication-related costs. Thanks to all of you who have paid membership fees and who have donated to the various events that give DRARA 10% of the total takings. It really helps! We currently have £1431 in the DRARA account (plus money for Warneford Meadow and the defibrillator). We do need to keep a steady income stream coming in, especially as printing our twice-yearly newsletter and other communications are getting increasingly expensive.

Speaking of membership fees, our stalwart membership subscription collectors are starting their rounds of the neighbourhood to collect subscriptions. Many thanks to those who pay their subscription through standing orders. And a very big thanks to Dave Waller, who co-ordinates membership work, and the membership collectors who take the time to go out and talk to their neighbours and collect subscriptions.

The very dynamic events team (see members listed below) continue to provide us with wonderful events. I hope as many of you as possible have enjoyed the many varied events that have occurred over the last year – from December's Christmas Fayre in the church (a last-minute and successful shift!), the very creative Light Up December windows to February's devilish quiz night, the May Tea Party, and June Open Gardens as well as our September Film in the Street and October Apple Day in Warneford Meadow.

Thanks to some of our more tech-savvy members we now have a 'DRARA Community' WhatsApp group that allows all of us to see all the different WhatsApp groups we have in the area, including the ever-popular Share and Freecycle group (287 members to date) and the ever-helpful Binfluencer group (118 members). Not sure what my favourite question or offer has been this year, perhaps the various costume needs, including bits of hair, or perhaps the advice for how to cross London! We also have sub-street support WhatsApp groups for close neighbours to join. The other special-interest groups, including Energy, Gardening, and the newly created Events group, all of which are also very active and very informative. If you aren't already a member of a group and would like to be, please let us know so we can send you the appropriate link to the umbrella DRARA Community! (see the bottom of this report for all the different groups).

The dominant traffic issues this year remain challenges with illegal e-bikes and motorbikes speeding through our streets. These have caused a few accidents and in general have been a menace to pedal cyclists and pedestrians alike. The Traffic Action Group (TAG) has been in touch with the council to come up with workable solutions, though none are easily forthcoming due to limited capacities to enforce road use rules. The TAG has organised a number of community

speed watch exercises to get more data on how fast cars and motorbikes are travelling on the streets. These have succeeded in slowing down some of the speeding e-bikes/motorbikes and cars when they see the speed camera but given the larger problem with types of unauthorised vehicles passing through the LTN barrier the group plans to place greater emphasis on monitoring these breaches.

We know that many of us are also finding parking challenging during term time and we continue to work with the council and Brookes on finding ways to reduce the number of student cars coming into the area, as these seem to be increasing year on year.

Anti-social behaviour remains a challenge in the area, though mercifully not a constant issue. We have continued to work with Homeless Oxfordshire to ensure they are adhering to their duty of care to the residents in the homes they manage, and also lobbying for their houses are kept in reasonable condition by private landlords. Oxford Brookes has also reinstated its Wednesday night call service for residents to use if house parties are getting too rowdy or going on too late, or very late-night noise on the streets goes on for too long.

We also continue to work on ensuring that good 'bin etiquette' is followed, and have encouraged especially our new student neighbours to join the 'Binfluencer' WhatsApp group so that they get weekly reminders on what bins to put out, and what goes into them.

Littering remains a major blight on our streets as well, and a huge thanks goes to the Environment Action Group and local residents who organise and participate in litter picks in the area.

Our Planning Group continues to respond to planning applications that affect our area. Over the last few months in particular we have responded, as DRARA, to the draft Local Plan for Oxford and the Warneford Park planning application, while also encouraging residents to provide their own responses to both of these important planning initiatives. Our position on these larger planning applications has been to raise concerns on the potential increases in traffic, as well as the lack of planned housing needed to reduce the number of people who need to commute into Oxford.

We now have a community defibrillator, installed on the wall outside of Sinnet Court, and many residents attended 'first responder' training sessions run by the South Central Ambulance service, and a smaller group had additional training in basic life-saving skills. Huge thanks to Mike Hobbs who was the driver behind making all of this happen as well as to the many of you who donated funds for the purchase and installation of the defibrillator. Other actions supported by DRARA committee and membership have included keeping the planters on Divinity and Southfield Road watered and tidied up and looking after our neighbourhood trees and chicane gardens.

We continue to link up with other adjacent groups in our area, especially with the Friends of South Park and Friends of Warneford Meadow. We have also developed links to the Morrell Avenue Area Residents' Association (MAARA), and to other East Oxford and Headington groups that have the same concerns and work on similar issues that we do.

We've had more changes in the DRARA committee this last year. Karen Metcalfe, who has been our committee University Liaison member, has stepped down. She has been on the committee for nine years and has done a great job advocating for the needs of residents in our area with the Brookes community engagement team. Mike Hobbs has temporarily picked up the

University Liaison role, and we're looking for a new committee member who could take this on. Nick Welch, a former DRARA Chair, has rejoined the committee to support monitoring of, and responding to, planning applications together with Julie Martin, and linking with a revitalised 'Friends of Warneford Meadow' committee. Our stalwart Treasurer, Alison Williams will be stepping down from the committee this coming year. She has also been in the role for nine years and we are grateful for all she has done. While we will miss those who are leaving, we are proposing Holly Garrard to join the committee to take on Events co-ordination. We still have vacancies on the committee and encourage those who want to play a larger role in supporting the community to join us – you would be most welcome. Please see one of the committee members or send a message to secretary@drara.org.uk if you would like to talk about joining the committee.

As ever, the DRARA committee wants to thank everyone who contributes so much to our area. The subscription 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. Below is the long list of those who have been involved in making our area the fantastic place it is to live in (with apologies if anyone has inadvertently been left off these lists).

Committee memberships and supporters

The DRARA Committee

- Cindy Carlson, Chair
- Pat Tope, Secretary
- Alison Williams, Treasurer
- Margaret Wolf, Emails/Communications
- Maggie Hartford, Environment
- Mike Hobbs, Traffic
- *Karen Metcalfe, University Liaison (stepping down)*
- Jane Bingham, Newsletter
- Julie Martin, Planning
- Nick Welch, Planning and Warneford Meadow
- Holly Garrard, Events (new)
- New member vacancy x 1

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 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

The Subscriptions Team

Organised and led by David Waller

- Brigitte Blakey
- Maggie Budden
- Cindy Carlson
- Geraldine Coggins
- Catriona Davidson
- Ann Edmunds
- Pauline Edwards
- Linda Forrest

- 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

- Pat Tope
- Anna Eden
- Andy Roscoe
- Catriona Davidson
- Deborah Tricker
- George Wormald
- Holly Garrard
- 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 Pomes

- 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 and led by Mike Hobbs

- Cindy Carlson
- Clare Ridley
- Deb Tricker
- George Wormald
- Geraldine Coggins
- Graham Kendall
- James Doyle
- 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

TREASURER'S REPORT – ALISON WILLIAMS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. INCOME:

Subscriptions: £1,405

During the year, income from membership subscriptions decreased by £48, or approximately 3%. This could be due to when subscriptions arrive in our account either side of the financial year-end, which is a busy time of year for subs payments. Subscriptions are DRARA's main source of general funds and are needed primarily to cover the costs of newsletters, website expenses and event insurance.

DRARA events: £3,234

Please see the box below for income raised, expenses, donations made, and beneficiaries. For all but Film in the Street, our events were charitable, with 90% going to different charities as outlined in the last column.

DRARA events 2024-2025		Inc	Exp	Donations	Balance	Donation recipients
08/12/2024	Xmas Fair cakes	223.06	-	(*)	223.06	(*Further funds were raised and given direct to the beneficiary charities.)
21/01/2025	Quiz Night	570.00	-	513.00	57.00	Restore £513.
11/05/2025	Street Tea Party	650.00	18.00	585.00	47.00	Oxford Breast Buddies £200; Oxford Mutual Aid £385.
08/05/2025	Open Gardens	1,435.31	-	1,291.79	143.52	OMaid £306; Children Heard & Seen £156.92; Restore £462.92; Oxfordshire Mind £365.95.
14/09/2025	Film in the Street	356.06	202.60	-	153.46	
		3,234.43	220.60	2,389.79	624.04	

Newsletter sponsorship: £356

Local estate agents, Scott Fraser, sponsored our autumn newsletter for £355.90, covering the cost of design and printing. This is the second recent sponsorship by Scott Fraser and we are very grateful for their contribution.

Other income: £67

Net contributions from participants for refreshments at the AGM.

Friends of Warneford Meadow: £286

When Friends of Warneford Meadow closed in 2022, the closing bank balance was transferred to DRARA for use in Warneford Meadow related projects.

Defibrillator: £2,215

A very successful campaign during this year resulted in DRARA having a Defibrillator installed in our area, and funds were included to run training courses.

TOTAL INCOME FOR THE YEAR: £7,277

2. EXPENDITURE:

Expenditure for the year was as follows.

General funds:

Newsletters	512	(Autumn 2023, Summer 2024)
Insurance	303	(for events)
Website and Zoom costs	509	(hosting/domains; Zoom Pro; Google WkSpace)
Events	220	Film in the Street
Charitable donations	2,390	(see details in box above)
Other	401	(stationery, subs forms, AGM costs, Ox Civ Soc)

Friends of Warneford Meadow: 0

Defibrillator: 1,511

TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR: £5,846

3. BALANCE:

We ended the year with a **balance of £2,888** – £1,898 in the General Fund, £286 in the Friends of Warneford Meadow Fund, and £704 in the Defibrillator Fund.

There was a surplus for the year of £1,431, significantly more than the 2023/24 surplus of £433.

DIVINITY ROAD AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (DRARA)
FINANCIAL STATEMENT: YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

	2025		2024	
Receipts and Payments	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
General funds:				
Subscriptions	1,405.00		1,453.00	
Events	3,234.43		2,987.13	
Newsletter sponsorship	355.90		350.00	
Other	66.90		20.03	
SUBTOTAL:	<u>5,062.23</u>		<u>4,810.16</u>	
Friends of Warneford Meadow	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Defibrillator	<u>2,215.00</u>			
		7,277.23		4,810.16
Payments				
General funds:				
Newsletter	511.80		561.90	
Insurance	303.00		303.00	
Sundries	0.00		0.00	
Website/drara.org.uk	508.78		466.66	
Events	220.60		538.60	
Charitable donations	2,389.79		2,316.19	
Other	400.64		190.50	
SUBTOTAL:	<u>4,334.61</u>		<u>4,376.85</u>	
Friends of Warneford Meadow	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
Defibrillator	<u>1,511.34</u>			
		(5,845.95)		(4,376.85)
Surplus for the year		<u>1,431.28</u>		<u>433.31</u>
Balance sheet				
Cash at bank		2,833.59		1,052.31
Petty Cash		54.28		54.28
Income paid after year-end/General		0.00		350.00
		<u>2,887.87</u>		<u>1,456.59</u>
Represented by:				
Historical surplus brought forward		1,456.59		1,023.28
Surplus for the year		1,431.28		433.31
		<u>2,887.87</u>		<u>1,456.59</u>
By Fund:				
General fund		1,898.36		1,170.74
Friends of Warneford Meadow		285.85		285.85
Defibrillator		703.66		
		<u>2,887.87</u>		<u>1,456.59</u>

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



James Rowland

10 October 2025

TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP REPORT – MIKE HOBBS

Members of DRARA's Traffic Action Group have been active over the past year.

Community SpeedWatch (CSW)

CSW volunteers have continued to undertake speed-monitoring sessions in Divinity, Southfield and Hill Top Roads. Few vehicles have been recorded exceeding the 20mph limit, though many slow down when they see hi-vis jackets and a speed 'gun', but a significant number of prohibited and apparently unauthorised vehicles have been observed coincidentally to pass through the Divinity Road ANPR gate and Southfield Road bollard barrier. A number of motor scooters have been observed riding up dangerously onto the pavements to 'get round' the barriers. Some volunteers have questioned the value of CSW sessions, though we remind ourselves that CSW's purpose is deterrence of speeding rather than catching offenders.

Traffic counts

A further count of motorised traffic, cycle and pedestrian movements in our roads was undertaken in November 2024, and the figures compared with the previous count in April 2024, before the Divinity Road ANPR gate was opened. As expected, the number of taxis driven up and down Divinity Road had increased dramatically – numbering 300-350 in the 7-hour monitoring period. The numbers of vans increased 2-3 fold across all roads; the number of motor scooters reduced in Divinity Road but was more than offset by the increase (>100%) in Southfield Road. The number of cyclists was stable in Divinity Road and increased significantly (>20%) in Southfield Road (totalling approximately 850 across both roads), and pedestrian numbers (total approximately 1650) were slightly reduced in both roads.

It is encouraging that the numbers of people cycling and walking to school, university, work etc has remained high, and cyclist numbers increased. But of great concern in relation to the principles of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood are the high numbers of taxis and apparently unauthorised vehicles using Divinity Road, and the still-growing number of motor scooters – and now motorbikes too – plying up and down Southfield Road. That these present a danger to cyclists and pedestrians was shown recently when a woman and her two children were knocked off their cargo bike by a motor-scooter delivery rider. These are issues which we will address further with the Council and, if we can, with the police.

East Oxford collaboration

Recently we have liaised with the Morrell Avenue and Iffley Fields Residents' Associations (MAARA, IFRA), Cyclox, Oxford Pedestrians Association and Oxon's Coalition for Healthy Streets & Active Travel (CoHSAT) to identify the challenges we face in common and to determine how to address them. These include **speeding, LTN breaches as above, parking and riding on pavements**. We have also had input from Headington in relation to the east-west traffic corridor, but to date have not been able to recruit an informed voice from the Robin Hood Residents' Association (Howard Street / Magdalen Road area).

Strategic action

1. Meeting with Transport Councillors and Highways Officers: Following productive meetings in October 2024, January and May 2025, we have requested a further meeting with Cllr Andrew Gant and his colleagues to discuss the issues highlighted above – and, most importantly, what the Council could and should do to address these anti-social

behaviours. Speed cameras have been requested on Morrell Avenue and Warneford Lane, additional ANPR cameras in Southfield Road and Divinity Road (the latter to monitor pavement riding around the existing ANPR 'gate') and enhanced parking regulation. The government is reviewing restrictions on pavement parking nationally. Councillors and our MP have demanded more effective local enforcement action by TVP.

2. Meeting with MP, County and City Councillors: We have been gratified by the willingness of Anneliese Dodds MP, County Councillor Emily Kerr, and City Councillors Jemima Hunt and Alex Powell to discuss traffic and related issues, and for several of them to join us at the LTN barriers to observe the antisocial traffic behaviours which plague our streets. We maintain a dialogue with them.
3. Direct action: There has been a call for direct citizen action in our own streets to tackle:
 - pavement parking – action: to leaflet cars with a polite request not to park on the pavement or outside the marked parking bay.
 - speeding – action: maintain occasional CSW monitoring, but request authorisation by TVP for additional sites on Divinity and Southfield Roads where speeding is perhaps more common.
 - breaches of LTN restrictions at the Divinity Road ANPR gate and Southfield Road bollard barrier – actions: (1) display placards to remind drivers and riders that these are no through roads for unauthorised / prohibited motor vehicles; (2) to report the number plates of offenders to the Council (for information) and Thames Valley Police (to request warnings for offenders); and (3) to issue explanatory leaflets to drivers/riders when we can. This will be undertaken tactfully and respectfully, again in a spirit of deterrence.

TAG would welcome feedback on these proposals, support, and ideas for other action.

EVENTS GROUP REPORT – PAT TOPE

Despite being without an Events co-ordinator for the last year, we have managed to put on a number of excellent community events thanks to the efforts of a variety of co-ordinators and a dedicated band of volunteers.

Led by Rebecca Philipson, we ran a very successful **Christmas Fayre** in December – bad weather meant that we had to look for an inside venue but the church of SS Mary and John welcomed the fair at very short notice. There was a range of stalls from local craftspeople plus a tea and cake stall and it all felt very festive.

Following this we had our traditional **Light Up December** where a new lit-up decorated window was revealed on each day of December. Thanks to Anna Eden for co-ordinating this – and Margaret Wolf for the brilliantly designed emails (and jokes) leading us to each new window.

In January, we held our **annual winter DRARA quiz** in Cheney School Hall. Co-ordinated by George Wormald with the Quizlings, this is a highlight of the year. Despite the IT malfunctioning, a large number of teams attempted to answer fiendish questions and a great evening was had by all.

In the March the Environment group organised the twice-yearly weekend: **a street litter pick on the Saturday followed by a Community Recycle Day on Sunday**, where neighbours put out an amazing variety of things for others to browse and take away. Another similar event occurred this October.

This year we had a very successful **Street Tea Party** in Minster Road. Lots of neighbours worked together to make this happen. The weather was great, and the tea and cake stall coordinated by Roz Thomas was fantastic, giving residents – old and new – the chance to meet.

Rebecca Philipson organised the **Annual Open Gardens Day**, where some gardens in all of the streets in DRARA were open for viewing. It was another excellent chance to meet neighbours – especially at the tea and cake stall – and to see the wonderful array of plants and gardens in our area.

In September we held the annual **Film on the Street**, where part of Divinity Road was closed to traffic, enabling us to enjoy the fabulous Horns of Plenty, child play without traffic and then a showing of *Yesterday*. Thanks to Trish Attwooll, Mary Ashdown, Andy Roscoe and Sue Brownill for making this happen.

In October Sietske Boeles organised **Apple Day** in Warneford orchard. The weather turned sunny after the previous day's storm, and residents old and young enjoyed sampling homemade apple cakes, picking apples in the orchard and watching them be turned into juice to take away.

All of these events raised money for charities, mostly local. The next planned events will be **Light Up December** in the weeks before Christmas and the **Christmas Craft Fayre** on Sunday 7 December 1.45-3.45 in SS Mary and John church. We hope many of you will volunteer to create a cheerful window for 1 to 24 December and hope to see many of you at the Christmas Fayre on the 7th!

UNIVERSITY LIAISON REPORT – MIKE HOBBS

Julie Martin and Mike Hobbs met in May with Andrea Siret and Emma Trundle (Community Engagement Team, Brookes University) to discuss matters of shared interest, and Mike attended Brookes' regular liaison meeting with residents' associations and local councillors in June. We received the Community Engagement Team's end of year report in June.

The substantive matters addressed were:

1. Noise and disturbance:

DRARA welcomed the visible efforts made on behalf of residents by the Community Engagement Team (CET) and Brookes' student wardens to prevent and address noise and other antisocial behaviour by Brookes' students. Their proactive emails and visits to students living in private rented houses, and the related Wednesday night patrols by City Council officers, had maintained the progressive reduction in local complaints of the last few years. Brookes received 71 complaints in the 2024-25 academic year (September to May) from DRARA's streets, in which Bartlemas Road (17) was over-represented. We are grateful for the CET's and Council's commitment to continue their work on behalf of our community in the new academic year.

2. Bins and litter:

The problems associated with overflowing and inappropriately filled bins at private-let student houses, most notably at the beginning and end of the rental year, were discussed at both meetings. Brookes provides students with information about the Council's bin collections, encourages sign-up to weekly Council reminders, and requests landlords to amplify information. Brookes' Community Engagement Team and the Council's Community Response Team (with ODS) visit all student households to reinforce this information in week 2 (term 1) and week 1

(term 2). Brookes welcomes neighbours' encouragement of students to remember to put bins out and what goes in each bin. DRARA residents are encouraged to report to CET when concerns arise.

CET will use every opportunity to repeat and reinforce messaging to students about disposing of waste, including as they prepare to leave accommodation in June/July. Responsibility for clearing houses and disposal of waste rests with students, landlord and letting agent. In case of problems, neighbours are advised to establish contact details for the letting agent or landlord

3. Student parking permits:

Julie and Mike explained how the number of students with cars adds to pressures on parking spaces in our streets to the detriment of permanent residents and raised the possibility of Brookes disallowing students from bringing cars to Oxford. Residents with small children, disabilities, infirmities etc are particularly compromised if they cannot park close to their own houses. Problems are especially acute on lower Southfield, lower Divinity and Bartlemas Roads because of the number of student HMOs and the pressures are exacerbated by the LTN because residents cannot use the whole DV parking area. Inconsiderate parking e.g. on pavements and inefficient use of parking bays, is an added concern.

It is recognised that some students require their own transport for external placements e.g. in teaching and NHS. Students living in Brookes university halls are not permitted to have cars in Oxford. There are Council restrictions on the number of parking permits allocated to a specific address (two) and on the density of HMOs licensed, but it is recognised that some student households have 'gamed' the system by using visitor permits to cover additional cars – this should not be possible now with the introduction of digital permits.

DRARA has established that, in Cambridge, both the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University have policies prohibiting undergraduates (with a few obvious exemptions) from bringing cars to the city. The University of Oxford and constituent colleges have similar policies, which appear to be effective. We suggested that Brookes look at emulating these policies. Brookes maintains however that they cannot prevent students in private rented accommodation from bringing their own cars to Oxford. Brendan Casey (Registrar & Chief Operating Officer, Brookes) was adamant that a policy to prohibit students keeping cars in Oxford would be futile because it could not be enforced and has referred to information that in Cambridge the policies were ineffective.

Brookes has committed, though, to the following:

- To increase progressively the proportion of students living in halls of residence
- To continue to advise students about the problems created by car ownership and to request private landlords to do so too
- To provide clearer information about the reasons for and restrictions associated with LTNs
- To raise the possibility of students applying for use of Co-Wheels cars instead of bringing their own cars to Oxford

NEWSLETTER REPORT – JANE BINGHAM

This year we are again producing two issues of the DRARA newsletter, in Spring and Autumn. The decision to reduce the number of issues from three to two was made in 2024, due to pressure of costs. This year, the Autumn issue is due to be distributed in mid-November, following the AGM.

Sadly, the sponsorship of our newsletter by Scott Fraser Estate Agents has not been continued this year, but we are hoping that they may agree to a different method of supporting DRARA. We are grateful for their generous support in the past. The newsletter is delivered to every household 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
- report on local issues, such as planning and traffic management
- report on community concerns, such as anti-social behaviour
- provide local interest stories, such as our 'meet the neighbour' profiles.

The wider aims of the newsletter are to:

- foster pride in our neighbourhood
- 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. We have found a useful stopgap, but it would be great to have the design input of someone with connections to our area. It is 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.

PLANNING REPORT – NICK WELCH AND JULIE MARTIN

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 licencing applications, monitors the decisions, and responds on behalf of DRARA to applications when it is considered necessary or appropriate.

Local Plan 2042 Preferred Options consultation. Our response commented on a range of draft policies in the Plan, in particular criticising the continuing allocation of brownfield sites in the city for new employment rather than for new housing (especially affordable housing). This is likely to further worsen the problems associated with commuting into Oxford.

We also commented on possible new site allocations for housing on greenfield land close to DRARA, notably at Oriel sportsground and the former East Oxford Bowls Club, flagging up the many conservation issues and constraints on these sites. We are liaising with our city councillors in relation to the plan.

There will be a further round of consultation on the Plan in late autumn.

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 any formal approval). There have been relatively few significant applications recently, apart from one for tree works at Cheney School (Headington Hill Conservation Area) where we urged the preparation of a long-term plan for management and renewal, as many of the trees are now at or beyond maturity.

Planning Applications

As of 30/9/25, 17 planning applications were listed within the DRARA area. Only two of these related to formalising the planning status of HMOs, 13 were for what can best be described as minor works or those requiring confirmation that they fell within existing permitted developments. Of the four remaining applications, two were for more significant house building or the development of flats; both these applications were withdrawn.

The remaining two applications are on the boundaries of our area but are very significant. These are the Warneford Park application and the Cheney Depot. Both applications were outlined in a DRARA email update.

The Cheney Depot is the old TOAD distillery. The application is seeking to have the continuation of the existing planning consent for the use of the site as a distillery, with a full application for its development expected later this year.

The Warneford Park application has been the subject of considerable discussion, especially about the traffic implications. In summary, DRARA's submission was neutral, welcomed the development of much-needed, new in-patient provision but highlighted traffic concerns, the potential for environmental and hydrological problems for the Warneford Meadow and expressed concern that the overall development proposals led to a very densely developed site. The Friends of the Warneford Meadow have submitted a detailed response outlining their concerns regarding environmental, ecological and hydrological issues, and concerns over the visual impact of the proposed developments.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP REPORT – MAGGIE HARTFORD

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 Open Gardens 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.