

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP  
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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

7pm Tuesday 21st March at Nether Edge Bowling Club

Present: Ken Lambert, Rosalie Wyatt, Howard Fry, Ruth Bernard, Matt Pringle, Ken Phillip, Nicky Neil, Richard Taylor, John Scholey, David Price, Graham Neil, Howard Trott, Margaret Blenkinsopp, Martin Harvey, Vicky Phillips, Pat Waugh, Kevin Bonnett, Mary Williams, Kevin Hickey, Mary Williams, Liz Fisher, Andrew Tylecote, Helen Ryall, Jack Massey, David Levine, John Austin, Chris Venables, Stephen Houfe, Huw Evans, Denise Harrison, Anne Ashforth, Marion Gerson.

*This exceeds the minimum of 25 members needed for the meeting to be quorate.*

Apologies: Mark Doel, Helen Willows, Pat Rogers

The minutes of the last AGM on 30th March 2022 were formally agreed.

### **1. Chair's Report**

Ken Lambert introduced the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, saying that it had been a busy and productive year for NENG, which now tended to be federal in structure, supporting new initiatives as well as a wide range of existing sub-groups.

The dominant issue over the year had been the closure of Archer Lane as part of the Active Neighbourhood project. This had been implemented by the council without adequate consultation and had had a divisive effect on our community, particularly those suffering increased congestion and pollution as a result of displaced traffic. Views on the effectiveness of the measure were divided within NENG itself, so they were obliged to maintain a neutral stance, but the apparent lack of evidence to support the proposal or measure its effectiveness were deplored.

The numerous NENG volunteers, whose hard work over the year had contributed to the community were thanked.

Best wishes and love were sent to David Pierce, our former Chair, who is seriously unwell.

### **2. Financial Report**

Richard Taylor presented profit and loss account for the November 2021 - October 2022 financial year, noting that the group remained financially healthy, both supporting many enterprises by the sub-groups and earning enough to make substantial donations to local charities and food banks.

Terry Scully, NENG's new Finance Officer (contact: [nengtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nengtreasurer@gmail.com)) was thanked for drawing up the accounts, as were David O'Connell, the former Acting Treasurer, Howard Fry, and Tayab Fayaz, accountant and bookkeeper, for their work in previous years.

### **3. Reports by sub-groups**

#### **1. Farmer's Market**

Marion Gerson confirmed that the market continued to flourish and was well-supported by stallholders, the community and visiting public alike. There are always more applications for stalls than there was space to accommodate them, but part of its mission is to foster small, local, start-up businesses, which it continues to do at each market.

#### **2. Festival**

Vicky Phillips said plans were progressing for the '23 Festival to be both bold and inclusive, as last year, with even more events centred on Common Ground. The Ceilidh was especially successful, as was Party in the Park, which could form part of the 50th celebrations. Special thanks to the Scouts for their support and to Maggie Little, who is retiring after many years.

The festival will run from 16th - 24th Sept '23. Extra help would be appreciated.

#### **3. History Group**

Kath Fry said the group had now bounced back after Covid, with a new web site and new information boards in the village centre and others ready to go at the old work house and on Kenwood Road. More talks and publications are planned, but the group desperately needs more active volunteers.

#### **4. EDGE Editorial Board**

Kevin Hickey thanked Stephen Houfe for transforming the layout of EDGE and the many contributors and guest editors. Around 1000 copies are produced and delivered each month, thanks to a well-coordinated team of distributors. Good wishes and thanks were also sent to David Pierce who had been instrumental in founding the magazine

#### **5. Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood**

Howard Trott confirmed FoBEW meets at 10am opposite the top gate to the park on 3rd Thursday of each month, working to a detailed schedule, supported by rangers from Parks and Countryside. Volunteers are always welcome

#### **6. Frog Walk pocket park**

Chris Venables said the team of 4 -5 volunteers meets regularly throughout summer to maintain the park. New information boards have been put up and the park is much-praised by passers-by.

#### **7. Friends of Chelsea Park**

Helen Ryall reported that the refurbished playground is now virtually complete and hugely popular,. It now includes 'Talking Flowers' sponsored by the Brownies. A small amount remains in the kitty so a site meeting will be held to decide what's left to be done. Thanks are due to Amie Rowland and Bob Parkin of Parks and Countryside

#### **8. Open Gardens**

Howard Fry encouraged gardeners of all sorts and sizes to try 'opening up' by dropping him a line to join the list Sunday for 25th June.

#### **9. Art Group**

Richard Taylor confirmed the group is not tutored but meets at NEBC every Tuesday afternoon from 1 - 3pm (or occasionally for visits or in gardens) following optional themes .

### **4. NENG 50th Anniversary celebrations**

1. Ruth Bernard said a group has been set up to plan celebrations for this summer. Events will include:
  1. Publication of a book detailing the last 50 years' of NENG's achievements / threats & delights, taken from EDGE archives and personal memories.
  2. The formation of two new Pocket Parks, at the junctions of Machon Bank Rd with Violet Bank and Kenbourne Road with Rundle Road. Negotiations are underway with SCC and Amey to gain the necessary consents, then fundraising will commence. Please contact Howard Fry [nengpocketparks@gmail.com](mailto:nengpocketparks@gmail.com) for volunteering and more information.
  3. Volunteer's party or supper - probably at Common Ground.
  4. An art competition on a Nether Edge theme, to be judged at the September market.

### **5. Election of officers**

1. The following were returned as officers: Chair: Ken Lambert, Vice Chair: Ruth Bernard, Treasurer: Richard Taylor, Secretary; Howard Fry
2. NENG Trustees and directors: Ken Lambert, Richard Taylor, Marion Gerson, Howard Fry

### **6. Issues raised in an Open Forum after the main meeting**

- A regular 'Grumpy Corner' in Edge
- Publish a Market Beneficiaries list
- Tackle graffiti and litter (including a dedicated graffiti alert mobile phone line with snatch team?)
- Market to do more to encourage new stalls / start-ups from local Asian community.
- Consider dedicated Asian section centred on Common Ground?
- NENG to focus more on transport issues, particularly local bus services.