

Proposed changes to the constitution

Firstly, some background:

The BRCA is a registered charity which was set up in 1963 when the estate was newly built but had no facilities. Its first aim was to give residents a voice in the development of their estate both with Janes, the developer, and the council. It was also the starting point for many sporting and special interest groups which were formed as spin-offs from the Association, and which promoted a sense of community.

Subscription to the Association started off at 5 shillings (or 25p), and over the years rose to £3.00 for which subscribers received our magazine.

Then, in 2015, we decided that it was getting more and more difficult to collect subs door to door and also we felt that the Association should be for the benefit of all residents. So, we do not currently collect subs but deliver a newsletter to all households.

The Association continues to act as a voice for the residents (eg liaising with councillors over local issues) and to promote community spirit (eg. we organise The Day on the Park and also paid for the defibrillator installed at Jansel Square).

The area currently covered by the Association is around 2000 houses which includes all those to the south side of Bedgrove and Camborne Ave towards the park - plus, to the north of those roads as far as Lancaster Rd and Queens Mead.

At the end of last year the committee discussed expanding the Association's area but there would be some difficulties to overcome and we hadn't got any further with the idea.

However, when coronavirus sent us into lockdown the community rallied together to help residents in need. With the help of our councillor, Mark Winn, a volunteer group was very quickly formed and, shortly after, it was agreed that it would become a sub-committee of the Residents Association. This enabled the group to get council funding and have access to our website.

But, this then presents us with problems with our constitution that we are proposing to amend:

1. the area covered by the volunteer group is larger than that covered by the Residents Association
2. the volunteer group is an initiative that benefits inhabitants and is worthy of continuing, but is probably not covered by our existing objectives

A document is on our website showing the existing wording of our objectives and the proposed changes. So, in a nutshell, we propose to expand the area we cover from 2000 to around 3000 houses including those in the roads from Turnfurlong Lane to King Edward Ave and bordered by the Tring and Wendover Roads, and also to promote activities such as the current volunteer group.

If these are agreed at this AGM then the next step is to put it forward to the Charities Commission to see if we can get approval and the changes made.