Bedgrove Residents and Community Association
Annual General Meeting
Held online on
9 June 2020, 7.30pm

1. **Present:** Chris Barnett, Jo Cheek, Mark Broad, Mark Winn, Phil Droy, Trish Pullen, Cath Marriot, Sabia Chogley, Jay Sasso, Kate and Jonathan Brooks, Pat Randall, Margaret Huggett.

2. **Apologies**: Tom Hunter-Watts, Jenny Sugden

3. **Opening remarks**: Chris opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the only AGM in the history of the BRCA to be held online. This is due to exceptional circumstances. The meeting was not quorate (i.e. less than 20 members) but it was agreed that in these unprecedented times decisions could be passed by a majority of those present.

4. **Chair's report:** Chris reported on a successful year for BRCA.

- **The Day in the Park** was a big success with the weather remaining kind to us on the day. He thanked all committee members who had worked hard to achieve such a good day.

- **Acquisition of a Public Access Defibrillator which has been installed in Jansel Square** was another success. There will need to be a programme of maintenance and named persons to ensure this happens. Chris to pass on all details of the company providing this.

- **Volunteer group**: Chris thanked all those who volunteered to do shopping, collect prescriptions, etc for housebound residents.

- **Congratulations** to all Bedgrove residents who put up decorations, etc to celebrate 75 years since VE day. One couple resident in Pevensey Close, played old wartime songs on a trumpet and cornet, much to the delight of one resident in her nineties. Anyone with photos of the day is welcome to send them to Mark Broad for inclusion on the BRCA website

- Chris confirmed he is stepping down as Chair of the Committee after 13 years as he has moved away from the estate (although still in Aylesbury). He gave thanks to all committee members past and present and the Councillors. He is happy to be leaving the Committee in such a good position. He will still be around for advice and has also pledged help on next year's Day on the Park.

5 Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts:

The full report on the accounts can be found on the BRCA website: http://bedgrove.org.uk/agm/ **Treasurer Jo Cheek** reported that we have limited income streams since abolishing membership fees and delivering a free newsletter to every household on Bedgrove. What income we do receive comes from: Advertising, Donations, Bank interest and Vale lottery (now Bucks Lottery)

6 Councillor's report:

- **Mark Winn** reported that elections to the new Buckinghamshire Council have been postponed to May 2021. He reported that some work had been completed on resurfacing Tring Road (not strictly Bedgrove but affecting Bedgrove residents) Further work due in the autumn when reinforcing slabs will be put in place to help with vibrations caused by heavy traffic.
- **Bedgrove Volunteers:** Mark thanked committee members for their volunteer work helping elderly, ill, shielding residents with medications, shopping, etc. and "Happy Chatters" calling people who are lonely and worried. There were initially 190 members but some have had to go back to work now. He thanked, particularly Cath Marriot and Jo Cheek who worked on the finances of the scheme. PPE and hand sanitiser is kept at Jo's house. From March 23rd there have been 590 calls to the helpline. Some calls have been made by relatives from as far away as Wales and Plymouth asking volunteers to check on their elderly relatives. Mark said this scheme had also highlighted people who are depressed and lonely due to bereavement, depression, etc who may need ongoing support. Mark emphasised the all the volunteers are brilliant and he cannot thank them enough and it is a great example of what BRCA is all about

5 **Proposed changes to BRCA constitution** to reflect boundary changes: Jo reminded the Committee that BRCA was founded in 1963 and included the area on which all Janes houses was built (Bedgrove Farm Estate) and the boundary of this estate is the area BRCA covers and includes ~2,000 houses. Expanding this boundary will mean changing the Constitution and seeking approval from the Charity Commission (BRCA is a registered charity) It was agreed the Committee would begin this process. The new wording for the Constitution can be found on http://bedgrove.org.uk/agm/

6 **Newsletter**: Jo currently edits the newsletter but would welcome someone who would like to take this on. She would also welcome contributions for the newsletter. We currently send out 2 issues per year, delivered by volunteer Street Stewards, to every household in April and October. This year, however, because of lockdown it would not have been possible to deliver them so we have put a copy on the website. Not ideal, but the best we could do. Jo thanked **Jenny Sugden** who oversees the Street Stewards but who was unable to be at this meeting. Also – **big thanks to the Street Stewards themselves**

7 Election of Committee Officers: the following were duly elected:

- **Chair: Mark Broad** proposed by Chris Barnett. Seconded by Jo Cheek
- **Vice Chair: Phil Droy** propsed by Chris Barnett, seconded by Jo Cheek

- **Treasurer: Jo Cheek** proposed by Mark Broad, Seconded by Kate Brooks
- **Secretary**: **Trish Pullen** proposed Phil Droy. Seconded by Jo Cheek
- **Commiitte members: Sabia Chogley**, **Cath Marriot** and **Jay Sasso**

8 AOB:

- **Day in the Park 2021 -** Phil asked for volunteers for Day in the Park. Committee as planning should begin from the next Committee meeting
- **Kate Brooks** asked if The Volunteer Group set up for Lockdown would continue. **Mark Winn** answered it most definitely would. The Council have been talking about it with emphasis on Mental health, etc. Volunteers would need to be trained and hopefully money for this will be available from the Government.

The Committee jointly thanked Chris for all his hard work as Chair over the last 13 years and wished him well for the future. Subsequently a card and gift were presented to Chris by members of the Committee (in the car park near his home!)