

Draft Minutes of the Romsey Action AGM held on 2nd October 2012 at Romsey Mill

Attendance and apologies: The meeting was very well attended with the Jordan Room completely full. Apologies were received from: Lulu Agate, Caroline Biggs, Matthew Boucher, Dadhi Chudali, Neil Harmer, Diane Hicks, Zoe Mogahadas, Leah Moors, Catherine Smart, Pat White, and Caro Wilson

Recruitment: Sheila Jeffery, our treasurer, did a roaring trade signing people up for membership and distributing our smart new membership cards. Romsey Action now has 46 signed up members, over 106 contacts on the mailing list, and the recruitment drive continues. The aim is 200 plus by the next AGM.

Previous minutes: the minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2012, effectively an EGM to kick start Romsey Action, were circulated and approved.

Matters arising: there was a query about where we are at with the street lighting/new lamp-posts issue. Fortunately our county councillor, Kilian Burke, was present and able to tell the complicated story of the wranglings that have gone on for months between the county council and the suppliers. We should now very soon have one set of handsome lamp-posts sensibly sited along our stretch of Mill Road. Well, that is, maybe in late November 2012 or February 2013.

Chair's report: Eryl Griffiths summarised Romsey Actions activities in 2012 as outlined in the attached text which has also been distributed along Mill Road in the pre-AGM publicity (blue leaflet).

Treasurer's report: Sheila Jeffery summarised our current financial situation as per the attached figures. She also explained that we are in the process of seeking further funding from the city council and other sponsors.

Election of officers: the current committee members: Margaret Collins, Eryl Griffiths, Sheila Jeffery, Neil Harmer, Colin Wiles, Steve Wynne had all declared themselves willing to serve for another year and were re-elected nem con. Other members were invited to join the committee and Simon Middleton agreed to do so with special responsibility for managing the website. Our thanks were expressed to Phil Anderson who also served on the committee before relocating to Oban.

Brainstorm of activities for 2012/13: It was agreed that the emailing of information about events and campaigns in and related to Romsey was useful and should continue.

We resolved to work with the Mill Road Winter Fair committee to support the whole event but in particular to ensure that Romsey has a footfall and a range of activities to match or even exceed Petersfield's on the great day, Saturday 1st December 2012.

We talked about hosting events that would appeal to all age groups and to all ethnic groups in the ward, perhaps aiming at three such events a year. Ed Jenkins suggested a sober quiz (as opposed to a pub quiz), an evening of games. Bringing in music, perhaps in the form of a tea dance or singing by different groups was also a popular suggestion.

Sprucing the place up was also discussed, problems with trailing cables on house fronts and pavements plus weeds and litter in general. One of our city councillors, Paul Saunders, reminded people to google <http://www.fixmystreet.com> to get a lot of these sorts of problems speedily dealt with. Broken glass and graffiti should be dealt with in 24 hours. Other problems should not take longer than a week to fix, if they do, contact Paul on <http://romseylibdems.mycouncillor.org.uk>

It may be possible to organise competitions such as best Romsey shop front on Mill Road, best front garden, or loveliest street in the ward to motivate people to beautify the place. We should try to work with traders to discourage shutters and other forms of unpleasantness that the rest of us have to look at whilst premises are closed. Carrot and stick might be the way forward here.

Two possibilities for more funding are the S106 £400.00 available for the four eastern wards of the city and the Community Right to Bid scheme. We should be putting in suggestions to both.

Street drinking and other anti-social behaviour issues were raised; it appears that street drinking has got worse again. Eryl agreed to circulate once more the e-cops details so that people who wish to sign up to receive the regular official information about crime and police action in Romsey can do so. People were reminded to use the 101 phone number to inform the authorities of problems not urgent or serious enough to merit a 999 call.

Traffic issues which remain of concern are the non-observation of the 20 mile speed limit by motorists and its non-enforcement by the police. Cyclists riding without lights, on pavements, not respecting crossings or traffic lights are also frequently annoying and dangerous.

Kilian reminded the meeting that the city council's East Area Committee Meetings take place monthly and set policy priorities. These meetings are open to the public. Google East Area Committee Cambridge for full details. These meetings deal with a lot of business and are very long. However, you can sign up to receive agenda and can attend only for the items that interest you.

It was noted that the Mosque has received planning permission but that building has not yet started. Romsey Action will continue to monitor the situation.

Colin Wiles informed the meeting that Romsey Action had sent in a response to the recent consultation on the Local Plan which, when finalised, would set the framework for the development of Cambridge over the next decade. A new draft of the Local Plan is expected in the New Year. Developers had won the recent planning appeal concerning the large site on Cromwell Road but tighter framing in the new Local Plan may help us to do better in future. Romsey Action is not opposed to development in general but wants a high standard of good-looking building of mixed size and cost dwellings, including affordable housing and independent shops, reasonable density and plenty of green space, proper provision for access, parking, cycles and so forth. We also strive to keep interesting local features/facilities such as the Royal Standard pub.

It was noted with disappointment how little consultation there had been before the erection of a fence on Coldhams' Common and Romsey Action will take this up with those concerned.

Steve Turvill of Limoncello spoke of the campaign he is heading for the opening of the Romsey Lakes, more details about this and a petition to sign are available at his shop. This matter is included in the Local Plan now under consideration by the city council. If it looks as though it will go ahead, Romsey Action will host a meeting for further information and discussion including all interested parties, for example The Friends of Cherry Hinton Brook.

Ceri Littlechild: is the new Mill Road Co-ordinator. She introduced herself to us. She is in post for 3 years and will be putting together a partnership group representing all interests in the area in order to develop an action plan for improvements along Mill Road. She explained that her work would mainly focus on Mill Road itself but that she thought her remit would also include some of the nearby businesses located on the side streets. She will be helping us raise funds as well. You can contact her on millroadcoordinator@gmail.com. Our thanks to her for attending the meeting.

Andrew Bush: local estate agent and sponsor of the Mill Road Winter Fair gave a fascinating talk about his involvement with Romsey and how the housing situation in the area has and is evolving. Our warmest thanks to him.

Andrew, Ceri, Steve, Colin, Paul, and Kilian have all been asked to provide a summary of their remarks for our website at www.romseyaction.org

Thanks as well to Tansy Tucker for the reappearance of the Romsey Action banner.

And as always our heartfelt thanks to Romsey Mill for their hospitality.

Tea and biscuits: at 9pm the formal proceedings were over and there was time to socialise with old and new friends and neighbours

Date and place of next meeting: Mid-October 2013 (to avoid the political party conference season) and probably in Romsey Mill again. You will be informed via the mailing list and leaflets in the Mill Road shops.

AOB:

Ceri Littlechild, Mill Road Co-ordinator

Andrew Bush, Estate Agent and Sponsor of MRWF: