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**Minutes of Heatherside Ward Residents AGM
22nd March 2023 - Heatherside Community Centre**

Present

Committee members - Kirsty North, Ben Leyton, Caroline Hibberd, Katherine Sargent

Heatherside Borough Councillors - John Skipper

Heatherside County Councillor - Edward Hawkins

Approximately 50 local residents

Apologies received from Kim Leyton - HWRA Events officer, Graham Tapper - SHBC Councillor

Agenda Items

1) Welcome and Introductions

Kirsty welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Committee. She explained the long gap between this meeting and our last was due to the difficulty we have in finding an available venue for larger meetings. The twin rooms in the Heatherside Community Centre which we have used in the past are unsuitable for gatherings of larger numbers. However we were fortunate that there was a gap in hall bookings which we were able to take advantage of for the AGM.

2) Chair's Report 2021-2023

Kirsty North spoke briefly about the events we have held over the past 18 months since the last AGM. There have been two successful Christmas events where we have provided the community with a Christmas tree in the Heather Ridge Arcade and held a Christmas light switch on event.

We also held a well attended quiz night and had a second one planned last Autumn. We unfortunately had to cancel this event however as ticket sales were too low to make it a viable event.

Other events this past year have included the Easter egg collection for local charities, the Pumpkin Path event for families at Halloween and the North Pole Post which sees children receiving letters from Santa.

Last summer we facilitated a meeting between local residents and the communication company Toob to discuss issues such as the proposed erection of Telegraph poles on roads within Heatherside. This meeting was very well attended.

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We have continued to operate the Heatherside Book Shed which is located at the front of Heather Ridge School. The shed is open at weekends and during school holidays and is very popular with local residents as a place to drop off and pick up books and jigsaws.

Kirsty thanked all the volunteers who have helped with the various activities and events over the past 18 months, particularly the Elves who make the North Pole Post possible, the two ladies who look after the bookshed and our Christmas tree team.

3) Treasurer's Report 2021/2022

Caroline Hibberd, the HWRA Treasurer, gave a brief report on the accounts for 2021/2022. The full details of the accounts can be seen at **APPENDIX A** at the end of the minutes.

For the year end 2022 we made a slight loss. This was mainly due to buying a large quantity of additional lights for the Christmas tree out of money donated in the previous year. This included the money that was donated to HWRA by film companies who used locations on Heatherside for filming for Coca Cola adverts and Matilda. At the year end we had slightly less than £4000 in the bank of which £3300 is available to do with as we like. The remaining money is £545 left over from the Heatherside Pillar fund and can be used for maintenance, repairs etc and £125 left over from the Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) High Streets Community Clear Up fund which can only be used for projects of a similar type.

Since the 2022 year end we have purchased the following:

Lights for the Pumpkin Path - £120

Christmas Tree - £570

Public Liability Insurance - £129

Christmas 2022 was the first occasion where we had to purchase the Christmas tree for Heather Ridge Arcade. Previously trees had been donated to us but this is no longer possible. This is quite a large outlay for HWRA however we set up a Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hwra> which enabled anyone who would like to support us to donate money to us online. This has raised £280 so far.

We have also received cash donations of £494. This includes just over £400 raised by Heather Ridge School for us from collections at the end of the children's christmas shows.

We have recently had £140 donated to us by a local author Nick McCormick from the sales of his book 'Reflections - A Heatherside Miscellany'

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We are very grateful to everyone who has donated to us over the last year and a half. The support is very much appreciated and allows us to keep going, to pay for hall hire and for events we run for the community.

The accounts were agreed by those present and signed off by Kirsty North and Caroline Hibberd. If you have any questions about the accounts or suggestions for projects which some of our funds could be spent on then please email us at heathersidewra@gmail.com.

4) Election of a committee

Each year we are required to elect a committee. The association is required by constitution to have four committee members normally made up of Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We also have an additional post of Events and Publicity Officer

Kirsty asked if any of the residents present would like to stand in any of the positions but there were no offers from the audience. The current committee all indicated that they would be prepared to stand again for another year.

The following were elected for the next year.

Chair - Kirsty North (nominated by Caroline Hibberd and seconded by Andy Ward)

Vice Chair - Ben Leyton (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Andy Ward)

Treasurer - Caroline Hibberd (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Katherine Sargent)

Secretary - Katherine Sargent (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Caroline Hibberd)

Events and Publicity - Kim Leyton (nominated by Kirsty North and seconded by Caroline Hibberd)

5) Planned HWRA and Heatherside Events

Our next planned event is an election hustings on Friday 21st April in the Community Centre. We will invite all those standing in the Borough Councillor elections to attend and answer questions from Heatherside residents. In the past when we have held events of this type they have been very well attended. More information on this will be sent out nearer the time.

Ben Leyton updated that from Monday 27th our annual Easter Egg collection will be open for donations. These can be made in the boxes outside Evelyn's Funerals during normal working hours. The donated eggs will be given to local charities and organisations such as Portesbery School to benefit less fortunate members of the local community. The Easter Bunny may also be making an appearance over the Easter period.

In the past we have held a number of well attended quiz nights. These have the dual benefit of providing an entertaining night out and also being an easy way to raise funds for the

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Association. Our last event had to be cancelled due to low ticket sales. Kirsty asked the assembled residents if they would be interested if we ran another quiz night. Quite a lot of people indicated they would support this so we will look into booking another date in the next few months.

Kirsty asked if anyone had any other ideas for events. A resident asked if anything was planned for the Coronation. Kirsty said HWRA have no plans to do anything and that as well as individual street parties SHBC have an event for the community over the Coronation weekend which was open to all.

We are always interested to hear from anyone who has any ideas for other events they would like to see organised and we would be willing to support groups of volunteers who want to come together to arrange community events.

6) Heatherside Pillar Memorial Plaque

HWRA have been approached by local groups including the Scouts and Girl Guides organisations to ask if it would be possible for some kind of memorial to those who fought and died in conflicts around the world to be placed on or close to the Heatherside Pillar. In previous years members of these groups have gathered and placed poppy wreaths at the base of the pillar on Remembrance Sunday but they feel it would be nice to have something specific to mark the sacrifices made.

There was a discussion about this proposal with many people being very supportive of the idea. While Heatherside is mostly a relatively new community there are many people who have relatives who served in the military or who have served themselves and it was agreed that it would be nice to have somewhere for Heatherside as a community to pay our respects.

Len Williams, who was the key person involved in the erection of the Heatherside Pillar suggested that some of the money HWRA have left over in the fund from this project could be used to either pay for a plaque to attach to the pillar or for some kind of small memorial near the base. Amanda from Evelyn's Funerals said that she has some contacts who would be able to produce a memorial plaque for us of this type. These ideas were widely supported by the meeting attendees.

Another resident suggested that we should also contact the Royal British Legion about this idea as they keep a register of all the war memorials.

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Kirsty mentioned that last year a request had been made for crochet or knitted poppies to adorn the Heatherside Pillar but that none had been forthcoming. This idea may be revisited later this year.

Katherine Sargent agreed to speak again with those who had proposed the memorial to see how this project can be moved forward.

7) Heather Ridge Arcade and Planters

There have been a lot of comments to HWRA and on social media about the removal of the trees in the Heather Ridge Arcade in November and possible replacement planting. The trees were removed by SCC as they were overgrown and their roots were pushing up the paving slabs causing the area to become uneven and dangerous. Replacement wooden planters were installed in their place and representatives from HWRA and the local businesses in the Arcade met with Edward Hawkins and Graham Tapper to discuss the most suitable type of plants to replace the trees.

It was felt that new trees would inevitably lead to a recurrence of the upheave of the paving. In addition trees block out the light and also cause a slip hazard when the leaves fall off in autumn. Therefore it was suggested that a range of plants and shrubs would be a more suitable replacement. Graham Tapper agreed to talk to local residents about the types of plant that would be suitable for such a setting. That is, fairly hardy and requiring little regular attention, not too big or bushy and also providing a pleasant scene where birds and insects etc would be attracted. A plan was produced, which can be seen at **APPENDIX B** at the end of the notes, and forwarded to SCC who agreed to the planting scheme.

Unfortunately despite this being agreed some time ago no planting has occurred so far. It was acknowledged however that an element of this may be that the conditions over the winter period were unsuitable for planting and that perhaps SCC were waiting for spring. This has caused quite a lot of disappointment among residents with some suggesting that now spring has arrived a Go Fund Me page or similar should be set up to purchase the required plants with residents working together to plant them. HWRA cautioned against this as it was felt there was every chance that any plants installed by residents could be ripped out and thrown away should SCC go ahead with the planting.

Edward Hawkins explained that he has been chasing constantly to find out when the work would be completed and has been assured that SCC do have the plants and intend to start the work in the next week. Kirsty North asked whether the planters would be properly lined to

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prevent rot and whether additional soil would be added as the current soil levels seemed quite low.

As a note, between the meeting taking place and these minutes being published the work to install the plants has now taken place

8) Anti Social Behaviour on Heatherside

HWRA have been contacted by residents complaining of anti-social behaviour around the estate in the evenings. There have also been a lot of reports on the local Facebook groups. The issues include banging loudly/kicking on front doors, egg throwing and vandalism of structures such as bus stops, there are also some indications of drug dealing. Some residents feel the poorly lit nature of some areas such as the walkways to properties mean that it is easier for those committing the anti-social behaviour to hide and run away etc. This is making some residents feel unsafe while other residents are being disturbed late into the night.

John Skipper explained that he has been talking to the Community Safety and Enforcement teams at SHBC to see if they can help reduce the number of incidents. The Police have also been involved but are very stretched as there are few officers to cover this and other local areas. Some meeting attendees remarked that they haven't seen a police officer on the beat on Heatherside for months.

John intends to hold a meeting where residents can meet with local police officers, SHBC officers etc to try and better understand the issues and see if an action plan can be made to start improving the situation. He will let residents know the details of the meeting via the noticeboards, Facebook and via HWRA.

There was a brief discussion about the other forms of antisocial behaviour on the estate. Issues raised included drivers parking cars on the corners of pavements and across drop kerbs which makes it almost impossible for disabled people to use them. In some areas yellow lines have become faded and impossible to see and many people complain of anti-social and dangerous parking around schools at drop off and pick up time.

9) Councillor Updates

Borough Councillor - John Skipper

John gave an update on behalf of all the Borough Councillors on a range of issues

Wellingtonia Avenue

SHBC have the five Wellingtonia trees missing from the avenue on order. Once they arrive they will be planted in the locations of the missing trees. Phil Green the Heatherside Tree Warden asked whether the failure of SHBC to replace the trees so far was illegal. He pointed out that ordinary residents failing to replace protected trees are liable to prosecution by the very same organisation who have ignored the missing trees for several years.

Residents attending the meeting asked whether it was possible for more wood chips to be put down on the path which runs down the centre of the avenue? The ground is currently very wet and boggy in places as the load of wood chips previously applied to the path have begun to break down and rot. Historically the situation has been complicated here because the pathway is the responsibility of SCC while the rest of the avenue is owned by SHBC. John agreed he would speak to SHBC Greenspaces about getting some new wood chips applied. SCC are unlikely to object to SHBC doing this.

A question about grass cutting here was also asked, a resident was concerned that SCC taking over grass cutting in certain areas might have a detrimental effect here, as in some areas the number of cuts per year is changing. However Wellingtonia Avenue is currently cut only twice a year and this will be the same under the new arrangements.

Noticeboards

John mentioned the two notice boards which are now installed and available for use in Heather Ridge Arcade near McColls. One is for official communications and information from SHBC and other bodies and the other one is available for use by the community and organisations such as HWRA to share information about meetings and events etc. There is also a small black postbox where letters etc to Councillors can be posted. This is checked fairly regularly by John.

Benches

John has organised the installation of seven new benches on green areas in Heatherside. 5 of these are inside the earth bunds around the recreation ground and along Wellingtonia Avenue. The other two are in Cheylesmore Park and replaced two benches which were broken and worn out. These benches can have memorial plaques attached to remember deceased Heatherside residents. Katherine Sargent and Caroline Hibberd suggested that maybe one could be dedicated to David Ivison and Ian Cullen, former councillors who both served the residents of Heatherside for many years. If anyone has any suggestions for memorial plaques please contact John Skipper.

Amber Hill Play Area

Following a public consultation the existing play area at Amber Hill has been removed and a new range of play equipment is in the process of being installed. This should soon be ready for the public to use.

Winter Bulb Planting

John is very pleased that the community bulb planting event he organised in November was successful and that daffodil are now flowering on the bund at the Wellingtonia end of the recreation ground. He explained that he plans to hold similar events each year and work along the bunds until there are flowers the whole way along each spring. This project was warmly received by the residents at the meeting.

Community Orchard

John has ordered 100 trees from the Woodland Trust who have been giving them away to try and encourage tree planting. 80 of these trees are to be planted inside the bunds on the recreation ground and 20 will be planted on the greenspace at Cheylesmore Park. The trees are mostly flowering fruit trees which will provide shade, colour and attract bees and other wildlife as well as providing fruit for the community. John also hopes to plant some willow trees in the area which floods near the exercise and play equipment in the hopes that they may soak up some of the water. These trees will be able to be dedicated as memorial trees.

John explained that the trees would be planted for us by SHBC Greenspaces staff but that their other commitments meant that this would be happening in the spring rather than in the autumn which would be preferable. This raised concerns among the audience that many of the trees would perish should this summer be as hot and dry as last year. The location of the trees on the field would also make watering difficult.

Kirsty North asked Phil Green, the Heatherside Tree Warden, what the survival rate for trees planted in the spring was likely to be against trees planted at the optimum time in the autumn. He explained that in perfect conditions up to 80% of trees are likely to survive but we would potentially lose them all if the summer was hot and dry and they were planted in spring.

It was suggested that perhaps the community could have a tree planting day in the autumn similar to the bulb planting day and Phil Green was asked whether he would talk to the Surrey Heath Tree Wardens about the possibility of help and support from them to get the trees planted.

Cheylesmore Bund

Sometime ago a survey was carried out to see if Cheylesmore Park residents would like an earth bund, similar to the one around the Heatherside recreation ground, installed on the green in Cheylesmore Park. The survey indicated that one would be welcomed and this will be installed in the next few weeks.

Heather Ridge Arcade

The covered area of Heather Ridge Arcade near to Sainsbury's is in a poor state and is continuing to degrade making the area potentially dangerous. The land owners intend to make this area safe by doing work here in the next few weeks. This will involve the demolition of the office unit, which was until recently occupied by JA Ray Associates, and work being carried out here and elsewhere on the first floor to fix leaks and other issues. Kirsty North asked whether this work might cause disruption to the disabled access ramp to the shops but John clarified that this access and access to the notice boards would be maintained.

Bus Shelters

John explained that the bus shelters around Heatherside are owned by a variety of different organisations including SHBC, SCC and Clear Channel. This means it is sometimes a slow process to get repairs made when the shelters are damaged or vandalised. However he hopes that most of them with outstanding issues are now in the process of being repaired.

John was asked when the interactive timetable feature would be enabled on those shelters which have it. He said he would investigate what needed to be done to get these up and running.

John was also asked whether QR codes, similar to those recently installed on litter bins, could be added to the bus shelters so that damage or vandalism could be easily reported to the relevant authority. Apparently this information is already on the shelters but is small and easy to miss.

Toob

John reported that the proposed telegraph poles which Toob intended to install on Martindale Avenue and in other locations had not gone ahead. This was directly as a result of residents complaining and pushing back against these plans. Unfortunately there may be other communication companies who wish to install poles in the future so residents need to stay alert.

Residents highlighted that there are still a lot of paint markings and so on in areas where Toob infrastructure has been installed and in areas where poles had been proposed. Katherine

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Sargent said she would email Toob on behalf of HWRA to ask them to come back and remove the unsightly remarks from the pavements and roads.

Disabled Parking at Sainsbury's

Over the past few months residents have reported issues with people parking in the disabled spaces in the car park near to Sainsbury's, but failing to display a valid disabled badge. This means that car park users with genuine disabilities have been unable to park. John has taken this up with SHBC and as a result new signs are to be put up to make it clearer that the spaces can only be used by those with disabilities. In addition there will be more regular patrols by the enforcement team to ensure users are complying with the restrictions.

Caroline Hibberd asked whether John could find out about the possibility of getting the white and yellow lines in the car park repainted. These are very faded, particularly in areas where the car park is prone to flooding after heavy rain.

Esso Pipeline works

John said he had been monitoring the works being carried out by the contractors for the replacement Esso Pipeline. This work has seen many trees removed along The Maultway ranges fence and also across Pine Ridge Golf Course and in the Fuel Allotments. There have also been long stretches locally where roadworks have meant traffic lights and delays.

John explained that Esso do have a local environmental plan for the areas they are operating in which will see them making good the ground in some areas and replanting trees. However, the area along The Maultway where trees have been removed belongs to the MoD and they can choose to manage the land how they want. The fires on the Ranges last summer highlighted the importance of having a firebreak in the strip of trees between this land and Heatherside so they may choose to not replant trees in this area.

Work seems to be mostly finished locally and the clear up process seems to be underway now on the golf course and along The Maultway. A resident asked whether the contractors can be forced to make repairs to the road at the junction of Old Bisley Road and The Maultway where the road was dug up to replace the pipe. Unfortunately because this is a scheme which was approved nationally rather than by local authorities it is very difficult to force the contractors to do anything.

Heatherside Play Area

John has spoken to SHBC about the poor quality offering in the play area at Heatherside. Unfortunately because this play equipment was installed relatively recently, compared to Amber Hill for example, which was nearly 30 years old, it is very unlikely that SHBC would fund a

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complete replacement. However we can look to get new equipment added or existing equipment upgraded. John explained that with the upcoming election this would be something which will need to be investigated further by whoever gets elected in May.

Litter and Dog Poo Bins

A number of litter and dog poo bins have been replaced or relocated over the last year. All litter and dog bins now have a sticker with a QR code on. This means if a bin is full or damaged then it can be easily reported to the contractor for emptying or repair. Various comments were made about particular bins which seem to be constantly overflowing and that in addition to residents reporting problems it would be helpful if the contractors could increase the frequency with which high use bins are emptied.

County Councillor - Edward Hawkins

Edward gave an update on a range of Borough and County issues. He has provided a full report which can be seen at **APPENDIX C** at the end of the minutes.

Council Tax

Next Year's Council Tax bills have now been issued. Edward explained that SCC recognised the pressures on household budgets and were determined to keep any increase to a minimum. The increase was restricted to 0.9% for the revenue account and 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept. This year's budget includes £439m for adult social care, £255m to protect children, local education and families, £37m to improve public health, and £39m per year to keep residents safe and respond to emergencies.

Damage to the Bus Shelter opposite Heather Ridge Arcade

While SCC Officers consider that the damage to the shelter opposite the Heather Ridge Arcade was caused by a car hitting it, Edward believes that this was an act of vandalism. Edward explained that the team that deals with shelters is looking to identify the required funding for a replacement shelter. It was mentioned by attendees at the meeting that it appeared repair works were actually already underway.

Surrey Fire and Rescue

Edward reported that 37 new full time firefighters were welcomed to the Fire Service at the beginning of the year. The Community Survey which has been carried out had over 1,000 responses with Instagram polls used to encourage participation from 18 to 24 year olds. Recent campaigns have included:

Come Home Safe which was aimed at young males and gained almost 86,000 hits on social media.

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Safe Drive Stay Alive which is an annual campaign and which was attended by 9,308 young people.

Biker Down to support motorcycle users.

Looked After Children

Edward explained that Surrey County Council is responsible for just over 1,000 children including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, the number of which has almost doubled over the past few years. He mentioned that it is sadly not unusual for children to just be dumped at the local motorway services. The responsibility for these children runs from when they are very young to circa 25 depending if they are in education. There are support mechanisms after that age.

While two new Children's homes are being built for delivery in June 2023, the preference is always to place the children in loving homes if possible. The SCC Cabinet recently approved increased payments to Surrey County Council foster carers to bring allowances and fees more in line with other local authorities and agencies. This is in recognition of the highly skilled and vital role foster carers play in supporting children across the county.

Edward reminded the attendees that SCC are always looking for new foster carers in Surrey and asked that people spread the word about this if they can. For more information they can contact Edward directly or find out information on the SCC website.

Active Surrey

Edward reported that planning is underway for the SCC Easter Holiday Activity and Food programme which will offer 13,000 places to young people on free school meals. This will enable them to access free holiday camps including a hot meal at 143 venues across all Districts and Boroughs throughout the county.

Local Area Coordinators (LACs) have been active in Old Dean and St Michaels wards where they are working with over 100 residents in need of support. Positive impacts of this long-term approach are starting to emerge and this means people are being helped to become healthier, happier and more connected members of their community.

Libraries

Libraries saw a 22% increase in visits in December and January against the same period last year. This includes use of the warm hub welcome offer to support residents through the cost-of-living crisis. The library service is now investigating how SCC can provide more support for residents.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

Edward reported that there will be a further year of Household Support Fund (£10.6m coming to Surrey in April) and that SCC will continue to work with partners to distribute this and reach some of their most vulnerable residents. The demand on charities is increasing and in response to this, the County Council has sought to add an inflationary uplift to contracts and grants wherever possible.

Trading Standards

Edward gave an update on the latest news from Trading Standards. They have been working to protect young people from unsafe vapes. The sales of these have risen rapidly, with marketing targeting younger people and many products do not comply with safety legislation. Trading Standards have dealt with over 70 complaints about illegal sales to young people, carried out 9 under-age sale test purchasing operations resulting in 6 illegal sales, and seized over 5,500 non-compliant vapes.

Roads

Edward acknowledged that the roads in the local area and around are currently in a very bad state. This is frustrating as SCC were starting to get on top of matters. It is not just Surrey Heath that is suffering, the same situation applies to adjoining counties and elsewhere in the country. Because of this the Chancellor is giving a pothole fund of £200m over the next 12 months to Counties. Contained in this year's SCC capital budget is £188m to be spent on roads. Edward explained that while this figure is for a 4 to 5 year period, he and other SCC Councillors are pushing for a greater spend now rather than later in the hopes that further money can be awarded from the Government over the next few years. Edward has a series of meetings scheduled with Highways Officers to review their recommendations on forthcoming works and he has been in contact with the roads research section of SCC to try and find out why the road surface does not seem to last.

Edward updated that since January SCC have repaired 14,135 potholes of which, 555 have been large patch repairs. This is a new technique where rather than one hole being filled while other smaller ones are ignored, instead a large patch is resurfaced. Unfortunately, the recent rain will exacerbate the issues and where there are weak spots, it is likely that more potholes will appear. In response, Highways are mobilising a further 10 pothole repair gangs from this week who will be in addition to the current 27 gangs operating across the network. These resources will be dedicated to fixing potholes awaiting repair and tackle new ones as they appear. SCC will continue to review what more is possible to try and address the situation and respond, as necessary.

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There was a brief discussion around particularly bad pothole locations around Heatherside. This included The Maultway, the roundabout adjacent to The Wheatsheaf, the Ravenswood Roundabout and the junction of the Old Bisley and the Maultway. Residents are encouraged to report any potholes on line on the SCC website at

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem/road-or-cycle-lane-issues>

Tomlinscote

Edward has had a number of parents contact him saying that despite Heatherside being in the Tomlinscote catchment area their children weren't offered a place there this year. The school's Admission Policies say fifth priority is given to children resident within the catchment area. After places have been allocated to first, second, third and fourth priorities, and if places are then still available, further places will be offered to children living within the catchment area. Tomlinscote School operates a fixed catchment area, and a map showing the extent of the area is provided. The plan is posted on their website and it clearly shows Heatherside.

Tomlinscote is part of the Prospect Trust. This means that they can dictate their own admissions policy. Edward has taken advice on this and explained that many schools are their own admissions authority although Surrey County Council runs the operational co-ordinated admissions arrangements for all schools in the county. This means SCC has no influence over the school.

Edward explained that If parents wish to, they can appeal against the decision, but that is something that the parent has to do for themselves as applicant; a councillor cannot do that on their behalf or influence an appeal outcome in any way. The SCC contact centre has a dedicated phone line and there is guidance online as to how to make an appeal.

Your Fund Surrey

The small community projects fund was launched on 20 th February. Each Member has £50k to spend on community projects in their division by 2025. Edward will be publicising the availability of the fund on social media and will be reviewing responses with Officers over the next few months. He indicated that he was minded to help Heatherside Community Centre in the first instance on up-grading works.

10) Next Meeting Date

Before the Covid lockdowns HWRA arranged meetings for residents around 4 times a year. We feel that the reduced number of pressing issues these days means that it would be more appropriate to hold meetings only twice a year and then add in extra meetings if particular issues arise. We have done this in the past when the protection of Heatherside Recreation

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ground was discussed back in the summer of 2020 and last summer when we held a meeting with Toob. We also have the election hustings coming up in April. Kirsty asked whether most attendees would be happy with two meetings a year and most people were in favour. With this in mind, we intend to hold our next meeting at a date to be confirmed at the end of September/beginning of October.

11) AOB

Additional Book Shed

Kirsty explained that money was being made available to organisations such as HWRA for community facilities through the SCC Small Communities Project Fund. She explained that the bookshed facility we look after is very popular and wondered whether we should apply through the fund for money to purchase an additional shed subject to Heather Ridge School allowing us to place it on their land. This would enable us to hold a larger stock of books and maybe also accept board games.

More details of this scheme can be seen here

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding/community-projects-fund/small> and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who has any ideas for projects we could use this scheme to fund.

Community Centre and Scout Hut Lease

A resident at the meeting asked what was happening concerning the lease of the Community Centre and Scout Hut to the rear. At present they are owned by SHBC and leased out but the current lease is expiring. Edward Hawkins is involved with the Community Centre and Caroline Hibberd was until recently and they confirmed that the existing arrangements would continue until the new lease was signed. Caroline explained currently no rent is charged but the new leases will have to include rent at a commercial rate. However this can be offset with a grant. The Scouts have already been informed and are aware of the situation.

Construction Traffic

Katherine Sargent again raised the issue of Deepcut (Mindenhurst) construction traffic using prohibited roads while accessing the construction sites. She has reported lorries using Old Bisley Road dozens of times over the last few years to both SHBC officers and Councillors, SCC Councillors and Skanska who have overall responsibility for the development. There have also been issues with Esso Pipeline traffic using this road despite assurances to HWRA when they attended our meetings that this route would not be used by these vehicles.

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Katherine's main concern is the safety of road users and schoolchildren, particularly those crossing the road to get to Tomlinscote School. There have been several occasions where lorries have been driven at speed and aggressively on the roads around the schools. Katherine is frustrated that, despite the SHBC Enforcement Team speaking to Skanska, the situation keeps happening over and over every few weeks whenever new contractors start on site. She asked the Councillors whether anything more can be done to enforce the planning conditions. Edward explained that unfortunately it is hard to do more than is currently being done.

Caroline Hibberd reported that now that Skanska have erected signs saying No Construction Traffic she has seen lorries turning up Upper Chobham Road, which is also a school access route, and turning down Cumberland Road through the centre of the Heatherside estate to reach The Maultway. This is quite concerning as these roads are not suitable for large construction vehicles.

APPENDIX A - Treasurer's Report 2021/2022

HEATHERSIDE WARD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	YEAR 2022 £	YEAR 2021 £
Income		
Donations	0	1,127
Christmas Tree Donations	127	0
Quiz Night	170	0
Total Income	297	1,127
Expenditure		
Christmas Tree and Lights	360	33
Community Centre Hire & Meetings	133	0
Public liability Insurance	129	129
Community competitions	0	17
Book Shed	0	34
General and Stationery	64	10
Total Expenditure	686	223
Excess Income over Expenditure	-389	904
Funds Brought Forward	4,383	3,479
Funds Carried Forward	3,994	4,383
Represented by:		
Bank account	3,994	4,383
Fund Balances:		
General	3,324	3,293
Community Pillar (designated)	545	545
SHBC - High Streets Community Clear Up (restricted)	125	125

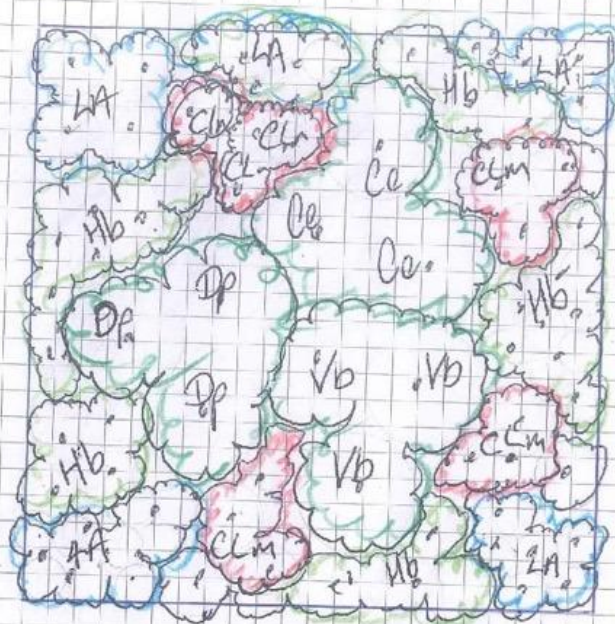
Declaration

The Committee declare that they have approved the Income and Expenditure Account above
Signed on behalf of the Association's Committee:

Signature:	K North	C Hibberd
Full name:	Kirsty North	Caroline Hibberd
Position:	Chair	Treasurer
Date:	22-Mar-23	

APPENDIX B - Heather Ridge Arcade planters proposed planting scheme

Heatherside Planting



- x3 Dp = Daphne genkwa 'Somerset'
- x3 Vb = Viburnum tinus
- x3 Ce = Ceanothus
- x12 Cm = Crocosmia 'Lucifer' montbretia
- x17 Hb = Hebe mellea
- x17 LA = Lavandula angustifolia Munstead

APPENDIX C - Update from County Councillor Edward Hawkins

Council Tax; We have all received next Year's Council Tax bills. At SCC, we recognised the pressures on household budgets and were determined to keep any increase in to a minimum. It is for that reason we restricted the increase 0.9% to the revenue account and 2% for the Adult Social Care Precept. This year's budget includes £439m for adult social care, £255m to protect children, local education and families, £37m to improve public health, and £39m per year to keep residents safe and respond to emergencies.

Bus Shelter: Officers consider that the damage to the shelter opposite the Precinct was caused by a car hitting it. No matter how it is described, I consider that it was vandalism. I have remained in contact with them over repairs to the existing one or a replacement. The team that deals with shelters is looking to identify the required funding for a replacement shelter.

Surrey Fire and Rescue: 37 new full time firefighters were welcomed to the service at the beginning of the year. The Community Survey had over 1,000 responses with Instagram polls used to encourage participation from 18 to 24 year olds. Recent campaigns include Come Home Safe, aimed at young males – gaining almost 86,000 hits on social media; the annual Safe

Drive Stay Alive performance, attended by 9,308 young people, and Biker Down to support motorcycle users.

Looked After Children: Surrey County Council is responsible for just over 1,000 children including Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, the number of which has almost doubled over the past few years. The responsibility runs from when the children are very young to circa 25 depending if they are in education. There are support mechanisms after that age. Two new homes are being built for delivery in June 2023, but the preference is to place the children in loving homes. The Cabinet recently approved increased payments to Surrey County Council foster carers to bring allowances and fees more in line with other local authorities and agencies. This is in recognition of the highly skilled and vital role our foster carers play in supporting children across the county. We are always looking for new foster carers in Surrey, so please help us spread the word. For more information go on line or contact me.

Active Surrey: Planning is underway for the Easter Holiday Activity and Food programme which will offer 13,000 places to young people on free school meals to enable them access free holiday camps including a hot meal at 143 venues across all Districts and Boroughs throughout the county. Local Area Coordinators (LACs): They have been active in Old Dean and St Michaels where I believe they are working with over 100 residents in need of support. We are starting to see positive impacts of this long-term approach, which helps people become healthier, happier and more connected members of their community.

Libraries: They saw a 22% increase in visits in December and January against the same period last year. This includes use of the warm hub welcome offer to support residents through the

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cost-of-living crisis. The service is now investigating how we can provide more support for residents.

Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise: There will be a further year of Household Support Fund (£10.6m coming to Surrey in April) and we will continue to work with partners to distribute this and reach some of our most vulnerable residents. The demand on charities is increasing and in response to this, the County Council has sought to add an inflationary uplift to contracts and grants wherever possible.

Trading Standards: They have been working to protect young people from unsafe vapes; sales have risen rapidly, with marketing targeting younger people and many products do not comply with safety legislation. The service has dealt with over 70 complaints about illegal sales to young people, carried out 9 under-age sale test purchasing operations resulting in 6 illegal sales, and seized over 5,500 non-compliant vapes.

Roads

We cannot get away from the fact that they are in a bad state which is frustrating as we were getting on top of matters. It is not just Surrey Heath that is suffering. The same situation applies to adjoining counties and elsewhere in the country which is why the Chancellor is giving a pothole fund of £200m over the next 12 months to Counties. Contained in this year's SCC capital budget is £188m to be spent on our roads. Whilst the figure is for a 4 to 5 year period many of us are pushing a greater spend now rather than later. I have a series of meetings scheduled with Highways Officers to review their recommendations on forthcoming works and I have been in contact with the roads research section of SCC to try and find out why the road surface does not seem to last.

By way of an up-date, since January we have repaired 14,135 potholes of which, 555 have been large patch repairs. Unfortunately, the recent rain will exacerbate the issues we are experiencing and where there are weak spots, we are likely to see more potholes appear. In response, Highways are mobilising a further 10 pothole repair gangs from this week who will be in addition to the current 27 gangs operating across the network. These resources will be dedicated to fixing potholes awaiting repair and tackle new ones as they appear. We will obviously continue to review what more is possible to try and address the situation and respond, as necessary.

Precinct: I acknowledge that there has been much frustration over the works to the Precinct not being completed. The first phase being the removal of the trees helped improve the openness of the area as well as improve the light to the flats above the shops. The new planters and the levelling of the area surrounding them was also carried out at the same time. The missing element was the plants suggested by the residents via local Councillors. After much pushing by me, I am told that planting is scheduled for next Wednesday.

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Tomlinscote: I have had a number of parents contact me saying that Heatherside is no longer in their catchment area. The schools Admission Policies say; Fifth Priority: Children resident within the catchment area. After places have been allocated to first, second, third and fourth priorities, and if places are then still available, further places will be offered to children living within the catchment area. Tomlinscote School operates a fixed catchment area, and a map showing the extent of the area is provided. The plan posted on their website and it clearly shows Heatherside.

Tomlinscote is part of the Prospect Trust. This means that they can dictate their own admissions policy. I have taken advice on this. Many schools are their own admissions authority although Surrey County Council runs the operational co-ordinated admissions arrangements for all schools in the county. SCC has no influence over the school.

If parents wish to, they can appeal against the decision, but that is something that the parent has to do for themselves as applicant; a Councillor cannot do that on their behalf or influence an appeal outcome in any way. SCC contact centre has a dedicated phone line and there is guidance online as to how to make an appeal.

Your Fund Surrey: The small community projects fund was launched on 20 th February. Each Member has £50k to spend on community projects in their division by 2025. I will be publicising the availability of the fund on social media and will be reviewing responses with Officers over the next few months. I am minded to help Heatherside Community Centre in the first instance on up-grading works.

Edward Hawkins (edward.hawkins@surreycc.gov.uk)