**One Norbiton**

**MONDAY,6TH MARCH 2023 AT 12.30pm**

**Venue: The Community Hub**

**Chairmans report, 2022/3**

One Norbiton is now over a decade old. Since last year, our main activity has been to support CREst and its Tuesday group.

Nevertheless, last year has been very stressful and our troubles are not over yet. Within the wake of the pandemic, even this week many of us, myself included, have contracted a Covid variant. Both Jill and I have had (and are still having) stressful personal times with her mother and my wife being in very poor health. As if this was not enough, we are all now also coping with the upheaval of CRE Regeneration.

In 2021, when I reached 80yrs old I felt I should retire but this would have been an awkward time for One Norbiton. So, I have stayed on. It has been tricky to maintain two organisations whose activities largely overlap. Unfortunately, there have not been many alternative applicants wanting to do my job. We have therefore talked about proposing to our members that we investigated ways of formally combining of our two charitable organisations. The key requirement is to preserve effective representation of the interests of the CRE residents and the other citizens of Norbiton.

Our original hope was that we could do all this this by being members of the Community Board and as you may recall we devoted a lot of our time, alongside the RBK councillors RBK officers and a few selected members from the CRE to set this Board up. Unfortunately, there have always been conflicts of interest and historical lack of trust. This flared up with RBK and Countryside’s decision, (without any apology), to cut our community hall space and transfer the Tuesday club from Piper Hall to a refurbished Queen Mary’s Hall in Cambridge Gardens estate. Therefore, both Jill and I resigned from the Community Board. Our hope now is to re-institute the former Three chairs group with CRERA so that residents can have an alternative representative forum.

The achievements of Jill and the Team of volunteers to keep the Tuesday Club going throughout Pandemics and Venue Changes has been truly heroic

I am grateful that you have remained so supportive during this difficult year. As you will see from Geraldine’s report our financial position is still solvent and I suppose it is fair to say that simply to have kept going in these circumstances is a form of success. We welcome any ideas from members on how we should progress in the future.