



CHAIR'S Annual Report 2017

One Norbiton AGM

PIPER HALL 28TH FEB 2017 6.30-8.00

This is One Norbiton's 6th year as a Community Group and our 5th year as a company. In those long off days of 2011 very few of us really imagined we would have survived so long and my first duty as your Chair is to thank you all for staying the course.

In these unusual times, Localism rarely gets a mention in the news. Instead many of us have felt dismayed by the seemingly inexorable rise of that same self-centered, old-fashioned nationalism that caused so much war and waste in the last century.

Localism's emphasis is on fostering warm personal relations and neighbourly support and safety in the place where people actually live. Decency and mutual concern for others is something that we want our children and grandchildren to inherit and whether its opponents are remote bureaucrats or difficult neighbours, we will continue to fight for it.

One Norbiton has always maintained equal respect for each faith and each political belief provided they tolerate each other. And part of our mission is to increase mutual understanding so that every Norbiton citizen feels supported in getting a fair hearing.

Apart from these broad sentiments we have set ourselves some specific goals and this year regrettably we have not enough support to achieve as much as we would have liked. In particular, we have failed to enlarge and properly establish our Office in Madingley. We also failed in our bid to be awarded a part of the recently commissioned contract to run part of the Resident Participation service for RBK.

However, we have supported some of the most needy in our Ward. We have been allocating most of our free hours of Hall use to the 'Moving on Together' team. This group has served hot food and helped as many as 120 people who are suffering from addiction and or homelessness in Norbiton during the very cold days of this winter. We are also now testing out a self-help for addiction phone App on volunteers

who attend this group.

This is a good example of volunteers and Statutory services working well together. Indeed, we strongly believe that Localism must continue to try to learn more about how we can better foster harmonious relationships between Volunteers and paid workers. I will be running through how we propose doing this when I outline our revised Area Plan which I hope you will all approve

Apart from our new initiative for the homeless, all our usual activities have continued to progress The Police and Safety Group run by Elaine and Chaired by Ed has continued to be the best attended of all our original sub-groups. Jill has continued to provide a local Food bank service and maintain our Credit Union outlet with help from Ed. Our new Director Phil and Val, his fellow St John's church member, has been providing a valuable service for debt management. However, this year we have so far had difficulty in re-establishing our youth service. Helen Terry has approached us with a new initiative to fill this gap and we are very keen to support her.

It just remains for me to thank you all again for staying together for so long in many cases despite bereavements illness and advancing years. Indeed we jokingly have suggested that having a health or other problem was one of the essential qualifications for being a Localism volunteer. The other being strategic patience in the face of interminable bureaucratic delay.