

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Arbury Road East Residents' Association

An 'in person' meeting held at the Arbury Road Baptists Church

7.30, Wednesday, May 4th, 2022

Introduction and Welcome

Ros Lund gave a brief history of ARERA, the area we serve, what we aim to do, who is on the committee (Ros Lund as Chair, Lucy as Vice Chair, Simon as treasurer, Vince and Ian as Secretaries, Matt as cycling rep).

Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM (10 May 2020)

Minutes are now on the website. Printed copies were circulated among the attendees. Ros returned to this point at the end of the meeting (when people had had an opportunity to review the minutes) and asked whether there were any objections to the minutes as they stand. There weren't any objections and Ros signed off the minutes as correct

Report of Activities

Ian Cooper went through a slideshow of the activities that ARERA had been involved with over the last year:

- **Pedestrian and cyclist safety**
 - AR is a very popular cycle route and a 'hole' in the cycle provision for Cambridge
 - We advised our members on completing the LCWIP survey for walking and cycling
 - Extensive negotiations undertaken with City and County Councillors about actions required to improve safety
 - Walks undertaken with local councillors (including for Kings Hedges and with special responsibility for cycling) to identify problems experienced on Arbury Road East
 - Questions submitted to meetings of the Executive Board of Greater Cambridge Partnership and to County Council's Highways and Transport Committee about closing the 'missing gap' to improve Arbury Road as 'Designated Priority Cycle Route'.
 - Questions circulated to all candidates for local election, their responses will be read out under agenda item 'Statements supplied by Candidates for City Council election'
 - The dangers of the road for cyclists and pedestrians were exemplified with pictures
- **Speeding**
 - A 'Traffic calmed area'... But where are the measures? (20mph road marks have worn away!)
 - Why were bollards removed and residents not consulted? (Especially following a death caused by a speeding moped in Feb 2019)
 - Speed bumps not a solution - they increase pollution, noise, and particulate brake dust, also CO2 released on manufacture and installation
 - Speed bumps do not reduce congestion
 - Data from a County Council Speed Camera which was installed on Arbury Road clearly shows that for a two-week measured period maximum traffic speed is consistently twice the speed limit e.g., 40mph instead of the 20mph limit. There are also at least five instances of traffic exceeding **60mph** on Arbury Road
 - 48.6% of vehicles exceed the 20-mph speed limit
 - Arbury Road has 2 schools, shops, vets, and other community buildings and the 20mph designation is meant to reflect the nature of the community/residential area
 - ARERA submitted questions to North Cambridge Area Meeting about police response to speeding and night-time motorbike noise

- ARERA have been successful in getting Arbury Road on the 'recommended local areas of concern' list for the next reporting period of the Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods Agenda
- ARERA has pushed for a 7.5 ton restriction to be put in place to prevent large lorries from using the eastern end of Arbury Road
- **Congestion, pollution, and climate change**
 - Google maps regularly shows Arbury Road East as red meaning heavy traffic
 - **Modal filter debate on Cambridge 105 Radio**
Earlier this month, Cambridge 105 Radio hosted an interview programme with several members of the local community expressing views both for and against a modal filter. In the programme, Councillor Scutt (representative for Arbury) stated her "number one" solution for Arbury Road (and climate change) would be to apply for more trees (but strangely not to reduce emissions?). Even if this made sense - where would these trees go and what effect would a few saplings have? Our cycling officer wrote to her asking her these questions...

A rough calculation shows that as a minimum, 5000 fully mature oak trees would be required between the North Academy and Milton Road to absorb the carbon dioxide emitted by the level of Co2e emitted in this 600m stretch.
 - **Our shops need a lay-by**
As you are probably aware, our row of excellent independent shops on Arbury Road (near the Milton Road junction) are in desperate need of a lay-by for deliveries and their customers alike. Shops on Milton Road have lay-bys, but the problem here has been ignored by the council for years. Our local shops have continued serving the community throughout the pandemic and deserve better. Please write to the council and your councillors on their behalf supporting a lay by
- **Parking**
 - Residents Parking Schemes are currently being proposed again – covering the Hurst Park Estate and Arbury Road
Discussions have been held with local city and county councillors
Until recently, details of the proposed schemes and their timeline have proved difficult to uncover
Consultations have now begun.
What do Arbury Road residents think about a scheme being introduced here?
- **Modal filter**
 - Local map showing how modal filter on Arbury Road could provide protection to neighbouring areas by stopping through traffic through those areas too
 - The results of the Greater Cambridge Partnership's consultation on traffic interventions in support of 'active travel' across the city are overdue. Informally, we have been told that there is a 36%/48% split 'for and against' some form of intervention on Arbury Road.
We have also been told that an intervention is 'likely', probably in the form of CCTV cameras, prohibiting some forms of access.
- **Road hierarchy review**
 - Called the 'biggest shake up of Cambridge Road network for 40 years' the road hierarchy review is being undertaken by the Greater Cambridge Partnership "to create a major shift away from car use and ban through trips "on many parts of the network".

We are pushing for the status of Arbury Road to be changed from blue to pink. Blue is the same as Hills Road (A1307), Kings Hedges Road and Gilbert Road but they are all far wider and safer than Arbury Road.

We have been trying to re-establish AR in everyone's minds as predominantly *residential* road rather than for through traffic.

We have undertaken extensive traffic surveys on Kings Hedges, Arbury and Gilbert Road and have submitted evidence to the County Council, City Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership showing that Arbury Road carries a disproportionate amount of the through traffic coming into Cambridge.

Consultation on the review will be undertaken this summer

- **Histon and Milton Road improvement works**

We have kept up the pressure on the GCP and the senior engineer for the project asking them to protect Arbury Road by enforcing their diversion route (Histon Road and A14).

We have raised ideas about improving the junction with Milton Road

Questions submitted to meetings of the Executive Board of Greater Cambridge Partnership and to County Council's Highways and Transport Committee about diversion signage for traffic during the works

Questions submitted to meetings of the Executive Board of Greater Cambridge Partnership and to the Milton Road Liaison Forum about how traffic will be managed during work to reduce rat running on Kings Hedges, Arbury, Hurst Park and Gilbert Roads.

No questions in response to the presentation

Treasurer's Report

Simon gave out printed copies of the ARERA bank balance as the start and end of the year

Simon, please add it here

Simon gave out printed copies of the ARERA treasurers report

Simon, please add it here

Activity for the next year

Ongoing activity in the following areas:

- Residents parking
- Monitoring displaced traffic on Arbury Road due to Milton Road works
- Monitoring Road Hierarchy Review
- Monitoring speeding and noise on the road
- Press for pollution monitoring

Statements supplied by Candidates for City Council election

Submitted councillor statements were read out verbatim

Q&A

We had questions from Ray Butler, Jacqueline Stepien, Eleni Vardulaki but there was very little further discussion on these as the update on activities had addressed the questions adequately (plus emails before the meeting)

Questions from the floor:

- Please can information on residents parking be added to the website?
- It was requested that the committee should recommend whether to support residents parking. The feeling on the night was that we should, or we will just get displaced cars from the restricted areas

Note of outgoing committee members

Vince Poole stays on the committee but will no longer be joint Secretary

The resignations of George and Maggie during 2021-22 was also noted.

Thanks were given to outgoing members for their contributions to ARERA

Election of new committee members

Ros says that the Committee are willing to continue in their posts with the exception of Vince who will no longer be joint Secretary

Graham is a new 'co-opted' committee member

Tom was a 'co-opted' committee member but has since declined the position

Although the constitution says that nominations should be received a week in advance, none have been submitted, so Ros made a request to the floor for further volunteers to join the committee

Osman Shener volunteered as web advisor.

There were no further volunteers

The existing committee and co-opted members had been nominated in advance.

Voting took place for both the existing members of the committee and the new members and all were duly accepted to the roles

Full list here of who is now on the committee:

Ros Lund, Chair
Lucy Edgeley, Vice Chair
Simon, Treasurer
Ian, Secretary
Matt Danish, Cycling

Vincent Poole
Graham Edgeley

Paying of Subs

Reiteration of Simons request on the Treasurers report. Slips were given out with the bank details for the paying of subs- £5 is recommended but please pay more if you can. Bank Details are also on the website.

Ros thanked everyone for coming